

Press Release 12 / 02 / 01

Minister Meets Forestry Cadets

Hon. Wilson Tuckey MP and Mr. Gary Nairn MP Federal member for Eden-Monaro, met with the staff and Cadets of Willmott Forests at its Glengarry Plantation property located close to Bombala NSW, Monday 12th February 2001.



Hon. Wilson Tuckey MP, Mr. Gary Nairn MP, Willmott Forests Staff & Cadets at the Glengarry Plantation.

The Forest Cadet Program, an initiative developed by Willmott Forests, has been responsible for the employment of 8 cadets to date, with an additional 2 cadet positions due to be filled shortly. Mr. Tuckey & Mr. Nairn have both played an integral role in providing start up funding for the Forest Cadet Program under the Eden Regional Adjustment Package (ERAP).



Hon. Wilson Tuckey discussing key issues of the programme with David Smith, Senior Executive Forestry Operations Willmott Forests.

Today they were able to meet some of the cadets that had gained employment and training under the Eden Regional Adjustment Package (ERAP).

Under the Forest Cadet Program, local community school leavers and those without forestry experience are offered full-time employment whilst they receive recognised accredited training in forestry related activities. After 2 - 3 years the cadets will have the academic qualifications required to enrol in the Advanced Diploma of Forestry through the Australian School of Forestry - University of Melbourne.

Willmott Forests' Senior Executive - Forestry Operations, Mr David Smith, said, *"that if they were keen enough the cadets could eventually complete a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. That's the potential for the people that are being employed by Willmott Forests today"*.

In addition to this program, the Willmott Forests Regional Office and Training Centre in Delegate, NSW is close to completion with the centre due to be formally opened in April 2001 by the Premier of NSW, Robert Carr.

The redevelopment and construction of the old Delegate Hospital Site has given Willmott Forests a new base from which to house its Forestry operations

and continue regional expansion. On the Centre's adjoining land, a new depot will be constructed housing all forestry equipment and supplies.

The site also provides Willmott Forests, a recognised CFA Industry Fire Brigade in its own right, and the community with a strategically positioned fire fighting team offering protection to the community and the company's assets.



Building progress at the new Willmott Forests Regional Office & Training Centre.

With a number of the Willmott Forests full time staff and families moving to Delegate, the outlook on community growth and activity should be positive.

External Research provided to the Commonwealth and NSW State Government indicates that an employment multiplier of approximately 1.3 - 1.8 could be expected from the relocation, and indicates that job growth for Delegate could reach as high as 54 over the coming 2 years.