



MEDIA RELEASE

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Boral and Federal Government to fund feasibility study for second-generation biorefinery

Boral and the Federal Government have joined forces to fund a \$1.2 million feasibility study to determine the technical and financial viability of building a second generation biorefinery in regional NSW, with the potential to turn hardwood sawmill residue into renewable diesel fuel and bitumen.

The study is supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), which has agreed to grant \$500,000 towards the study, with Boral providing the additional \$700,000.

Under the study, Boral is exploring the potential conversion of up to 50,000 tonnes of sawmill residues from its Herons Creek hardwood sawmill, near Port Macquarie, in NSW, into renewable diesel and bitumen using world-first technology.

The sawmill residues are currently utilised in low value uses such as landscape supplies and boiler fuel.

Boral is a large consumer of both diesel and bitumen, using around 100 million litres of diesel a year to operate its businesses in Australia.

The Executive General Manager Boral Building Products, Wayne Manners, said the company was very pleased with the support the project had received from the Federal Government, through ARENA.

Mr Manners said that if the feasibility study was successful, the transport-grade renewable diesel and bitumen produced at the potential new biorefinery could eventually account for up to 15 per cent of Boral's annual needs.

"The application of this technology has the potential to transform the way we use low value hardwood sawmill residues into a resource that could be highly valuable not just to Boral but to the industry more generally," he said.

"We are particularly pleased that the Federal Government, through ARENA, has agreed to co-fund this important initiative.

"Over the past decade, Boral's operations have become less energy-intensive and emissions-intensive as a result of portfolio changes as well as efficiency improvements and increased use of waste energy and alternate fuels.

"Between 2012 and 2017 we reduced Boral's overall carbon footprint by around 30 per cent."

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