

PGP, Future Forest Research, Steepland Harvesting Programme Quarterly Summary Report for the Quarter ended December 2011

The second quarter of the 2011-12 financial year has seen continued good progress. All major milestones in the Business Plan remained on target. The main achievements of the programme this quarter has been to complete a prototype of the steep slope tree feller to enable test trials in early 2012.

Other projects the programme has focused on during this quarter are the development of a Grapple Control mechanism and an Innovative Yarding System, which were scheduled to commence next year.

Due to continued positive progress co-investor funding for the programme has increased.

Overall this programme continues to realise substantial productivity gains for forestry through developing innovative harvesting technologies on steep country. Direct economic benefits are envisaged, as well as enhanced worker safety. The key focus on health and safety in the forestry industry and in particular ongoing fatalities in forest harvesting has resulted in increased interest in the development of this programme.