

PGP STEEPLAND HARVESTING PROGRAMME.

SUMMARY Q2 2013-14

This programme will realise substantial productivity gains for forestry through developing innovative harvesting technologies on steep country. Direct economic benefits of over \$100 million by 2020 are envisaged, as well as enhanced worker safety. This report is for the second quarter of the 2013/14 year which has seen the continuation of good progress across all project milestones.

The main achievements in this Programme during the period 1 October to 31 December 2013 have been:

- completion of documentation of the field trials of the first commercial model of the ClimbMAX steep slope harvester;
- completion of development of the HarvestNav on-board navigation application,
- completion of the tele-operation control system to simulation stage, and the prototype mobility system for the novel biped felling machine;
- commercial launch of the CutoverCam hauler vision system;
- sale of the first commercial unit of the Alpine Grapple system for improved grapple carriage control;
- completion of the development plan and further concept design work for the Innovative Yarding System.

Despite changes to research funding with the introduction of a Forest Growers' Levy, the increasing recognition of the PGP Steep Slope Harvesting programme and its contribution to improving health and safety of harvesting operations has resulted in continued industry funding for the programme being confirmed, on a voluntary basis outside of the levy funding. This programme which is developing mechanised felling technology on steep slopes, tele-operation and remote control of machinery and equipment, and increasing use of innovative grapple yarding systems will provide forest owners and contractors with solutions to improve productivity and reduce the exposure of workers to hazards on steep terrain.