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\$11 million road upgrade for South West Slopes



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A3P welcomes the announcement of \$11 million in funding for an upgrade of the Gocup Road between Tumut and Gundagai, by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Mark Vaile.

The road is a key link between Tumut's major wood processing industry, which includes sawmills, a particle board plant and the Visy pulp and paper mill, and the markets and ports of Sydney and Melbourne via the Hume Highway.

The announcement was applauded by A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher who said, "Establishing and maintaining a quality transport network is vital to the future of Australia's \$4 billion plantation products and paper industry.

"Australia's plantation products and paper industry provides \$1.2 billion to the South West Slopes economy, 1,700 local jobs and indirectly a further 3,250 jobs¹.

"The industry is highly dependent on road freight. About 90% of freight for our industry is hauled by road. Transport can represent up to 40% of the cost of some wood products.

"Strategic public investment in transport infrastructure assists the plantation products and paper industry to expand our operations and increase our contribution to the Australian economy.

"The plantation products and paper industry makes a significant funding contribution to strategic road projects. We are committed to working with all levels of Government to maximise investment in the regional infrastructure.

"A3P welcomes the Australian Government's support for Australia's plantation products and paper industry – an industry that produces greenhouse positive building materials; communication, hygiene and packaging materials; and a range of environmental services from Australia's sustainable plantation resource", said Mr Fisher.

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Further information

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¹ Bureau of Rural Sciences, 2003-04