

PGP STEEPLAND HARVESTING PROGRAMME.

SUMMARY Q1 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 first quarter of the 2013/14 year and sees the commencement of all of the project milestones for the year. The main achievements during the period 1 July to 30 September 2013 have been in the Mechanisation on Steep Terrain programme area, the sale and delivery of the third ClimbMAX steep slope harvester; and completion of the development of the tele-operation control system for the application to a hydraulic excavator arm (to simulation stage). The Increased Productivity of Cable Extraction programme has seen the commercial launch of the CutoverCam, a hauler vision system to improve the safety and productivity of hauler operations by providing the hauler operator with improved visibility. Field demonstrations have also been held of the first commercial unit of the Alpine Grapple system for improved grapple carriage control. In the Innovative Yarding System project, the design of the innovative Hill Country Harvester mobility platform received a positive evaluation from an independent consultant engineer.

The key focus on health and safety in the forest industry, and in particular fatalities in harvesting operations, is resulting in an increased interest in this development programme. Reducing the exposure of workers to hazards on steep terrain through mechanisation of tree falling breaking out, and tree extraction is now the stated goal of a number of forest companies. The outputs from this programme, and other innovations that have been catalysed as a result of this programme, are providing forest owners and contractors with solutions to improve operational safety.