

Tabled Document No 2



11 OCT 2016

By:

Time/Date:

Greg Hunt MP

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

04 OCT 2016

MC16-006411

Senator Jacqui Lambie  
Senator for Tasmania  
Box 256  
BURNIE TAS 7320

Dear Senator Lambie

I refer to your letter of 17 August 2016 concerning the joint research project between Norske Skog and Circa to produce novel bio-based chemicals.

I applaud the collaborative approach that Norske Skog and Circa are taking to commercialise a novel bio-based chemical and wish them success in this venture. I thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

The project may be able to access support through the Australian Government's \$200 million Regional Jobs and Investment Package. The Package aims to grow sustainable, quality employment in regional Australia. Following a local planning process, regional Tasmania will have access to \$25 million across three streams: business innovation grants; local infrastructure projects; and skills and training programs. Further information regarding the package is available at [www.regional.gov.au](http://www.regional.gov.au). I encourage you and the project's proponents to widely engage with the community to secure support for the venture as a priority.

I understand that Norske Skog has already received significant support from the Government, particularly through a recent \$28 million grant for their project to convert one of their paper machines to produce catalogue paper. I am also heartened to hear of the company's plans for further innovation through the joint Norske Skog and Circa project to develop potentially valuable bio-based chemicals in Tasmania. It is this kind of collaboration for the commercialisation of niche, high value innovations that could provide significant benefits to Tasmania and the broader Australian economy.

More broadly, the Government has played an active role in providing support for economic development and growth in Tasmania. Announced in 2013, the \$106 million Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Package worked to boost the state's economy. Also, in May this year, the grantees of the \$24 million joint Australian-Tasmanian Government Tasmanian Jobs and Investment Fund were announced, which are expected to generate 774 new jobs and a \$92.6 million investment for Tasmania.

I look forward to meeting with you and Senator Ruston to discuss on 11 October 2016 to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

1) WHO ARE THEY?

2) 31,007 - PER JOB.

3) FULL TIME OR PART TIME

4) DID ANY OF THE GRANT RECS  
GIVE ANY BENEFICIAL DONATIONS?

HOW DID YOU CALCULATE  
\$92.6m?

TFA  
JOB  
PACKAGE