

# Media Statement

JUNE 2005

## Paulownia Timber Plantations... a Commitment to Excellence

Establishing and operating quality timber plantations for high end uses such as furniture, decorative mouldings and veneers, requires a commitment to excellence and a commercial hands-on management approach. This commitment and approach is emulated by Environmental Forest Farms Management Limited ("EFFM") who have a proven and successful track record in establishing and operating Paulownia timber plantations since 1997.

Paulownia is a quality, high-end timber with uses including furniture, cabinets, veneers, decorative mouldings and uses in the transport industry. Unlike the lower value wood chipping or paper pulping industries, Paulownia cultivation offers premium prices. This unique timber has rapid growth, is dimensionally stable, easily worked (stained, polished, glued, painted) and has excellent acoustic and insulation properties.

Creating consistency through scientific tree cloning.



A cornerstone of EFFM's commitment to excellence, is the Company's devotion to both practical and scientific research. As a registered research organisation, EFFM is currently undertaking research at three Western Australian universities being Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University and the University of Notre Dame Australia.

The current research focuses on several areas including the identification of superior genetic structures of the trees with the aim of providing future superior planting stock; Paulownia propagation techniques; and the growth and yield factors of Paulownia timber. In addition, the EFF Group has a significant research plantation of approximately 16,000 trees, which is assisting with practical research on different growing techniques. The successful results from the trial plantation are then implemented at the Kiri Park Plantations which are operated as Managed Investment Schemes for over 500 investors.

As a result of the research into Paulownia genetics, EFFM has registered the "EFF1" Clonal Line with IP Australia as a Plant Breeders' Right. Similar to a copyright, the Plant Breeders' Right allows EFFM exclusive access to the superior genetics of EFF1 which has been proven through a series of trials to have growth characteristics that are superior to other genetic Paulownia trees. EFFM uses tissue cloning from up to 18 superior trees to replicate the superior stock. This cloning leads to uniformity and superior growth rates on a consistently high basis.

In addition to tree cloning, EFFM's research into the silviculture of Paulownia for the last 8 years has consistently improved growth and management techniques. Investors in the plantations operated as Managed Investment Schemes established and operated by EFFM benefit enormously from EFFM's research which is funded and resources by the Company and the EFF Group.

Investors interested in participating in a quality Paulownia timber project, operated as a Managed Investment Scheme and with an ATO Product Ruling (PR 2004/ 95), should contact **Dr Daniel Chesson on 08 9322 4322; or e-mail: [admin@kiripark.com.au](mailto:admin@kiripark.com.au)** Investors entering the project on or before 30 June 2005, will be entitled to a tax deduction for this financial year.

**The EFF Group**

The EFF Group of Companies is one of Australia's leading Paulownia organisations with experience in the establishment, plantation management, research and propagation of Paulownia trees. The Group own and operate several Paulownia plantations in Western Australia, including four Managed Investment Projects, and three private plantations.