

MESSAGE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "SUNDAY MAIL" ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FIFTH ALL-AUSTRALIAN TIMBER
CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN ADELAIDE APRIL 1-5,
1963

I am delighted at being afforded the opportunity to welcome the 600 delegates to the Fifth All Australian Timber Congress. Especially do I welcome the specialists from Canada, England, the United States and New Zealand. With our own Australian delegates I am sure that the ensuing discussions will prove of benefit to our own young nation.

The agenda which I have perused appears to contain such stimulating matter and I congratulate the convenors of the Congress on their efforts to improve the growing, manufacturing and marketing of wood products in Australia.

Wood, of course, is securely established in many of its traditional uses, but in others it faces determined competition from alternative materials. I know that the Congress will face this challenge squarely and the theme it has adopted for its discussions - "New Horizons for Timber" is a most appropriate one.

The timber industry in Australia plays a valuable part in our economy. On the latest figures available to me, the wholesale value of wood products manufactured in Australia in 1960-61 was £203 million. Imports of wood products, however, cost an additional £90 million from our resources of foreign exchange.

The Fifth All Australian Timber Congress has a big task ahead of it and I wish it every success on this important occasion.

R. G. MENZIES
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.

CANBERRA,
26th March, 1963.