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Property deal signals new era for western end of Kangaroo Island

The sale of a 100ha land parcel at Cape Borda by Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers signals the company's intention to re-establish housing and increase the population in the western districts of the island.

The land was subdivided from a tree farm property known as Lycurgus and includes a semi-derelict house and some dams.

The agreed sale price was \$200,000, with the purchasers, a local family, making an additional contribution to subdivision and freeholding costs.

KIPT managing director John Sergeant said Lycurgus, like each of the Company's existing tree farms - and each of the tree farms that the Company is in the process of acquiring through the New Forests transaction announced on October 21 - is a former farm. Many were soldier settlement blocks. Almost all have cleared house sites, power and a dam.

"The company is hopeful that, in due course, it will be possible to re-establish housing on many of these properties, partially reversing the de-population of western Kangaroo Island that has resulted both from farm consolidation and, in recent decades, from conversion to plantation forestry," Mr Sergeant said.

"As the forestry industry moves into the production phase, there will be a need for more workers and therefore, for more housing."

KIPT plans to work with state and local government to achieve the planning approvals needed to help re-establish liveable housing on its tree farms.