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### **Logging reduces fuel loads and bushfire risk**

Lyn McLaren has called for a review of logging during fire bans to reduce the chance of bushfires. “This is a ridiculous argument as all precautions are taken in the forest to prevent fires, the claim is more akin to a self-fulfilling argument to stop timber harvesting, a long standing position of the WA Greens” Forest Industries Federation W.A Executive Director Melissa Haslam said today.

“All forest harvesting crews must have onsite fire suppression equipment and have staff trained in bushfire fighting.

“The fact is when there was more timber harvesting there was fewer and less severe fires than we see now.

“The presence of contractors in the forest with their fire suppression equipment means that many ‘would be’ fires never had the chance to develop. Logging contractors once a constant vigil in the forest, has now declined with reduced timber harvesting.

“14 years ago we made a decision to put over 60% of the forest in national parks and leave them almost completely unmanaged. Our forests had never experienced this before. Fuel loads have increased to unprecedented levels greatly contributing to the severity of recent fires.

“The fact is the forest is enormous. DPaW have virtually zero chance of managing 2.4 million hectares with prescribed burns alone.

“We should be grateful for the active forest management and timber harvesting in the areas where they still exist, reducing fuel loads and local fire risk.

Timber harvesting is a part of active forest management which make our forests safer from a bushfire perspective. Lyn McLaren would have us make this situation worse just to fulfil an ideological position of the WA Greens.” Ms Haslam said.

**Melissa Haslam**  
**Executive Director**

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