

Media release - 23/03/2018

Industry welcomes Minister's commitment to Regional Timber Jobs

The WA timber industry has welcomed Forestry Minister, Dave Kelly's rejection of calls by the WA Forest Alliance to shut down sustainable timber harvesting.

When asked about a Forest Alliance petition relating to native forest harvesting, Minister Kelly told Parliament this week that the Government supports the Forest Management Plan.

"I can tell the member (for Warren-Blackwood) that we are committed to the Forest Management Plan," Minister Kelly said.

"That guarantees the industry a certain level of timber and we are working to ensure that that is what is delivered," he said.

"We are committed to protecting jobs throughout the South West, including in the forest industry, and we will see the forest management plan implemented," the Minister said.

The Minister's emphatic endorsement of the Forest Management Plan, which underpins the sustainable yield of timber from regrowth forests, is crucial to secure local jobs and investment in a key part of the WA timber industry, according to the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA).

"The Minister is to be congratulated on this clear statement of support for the industry and jobs," FIFWA Acting CEO, Matt Granger said.

"The Forest Management Plan is a policy instrument which secures part of an industry worth \$1.4 billion to the State each year, and supports 6,000 jobs, predominantly in regional WA," Mr Granger said.

"Less than 1% of WA's total native forest area is harvested annually, exclusively in regrowth forests," he concluded.

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Please direct all media enquiries to FIFWA Acting CEO Matt Granger on 0407 448 648 or m.granger@fifwa.asn.au

About FIFWA

Forest Industries Federation WA (FIFWA) has been representing the interests of the Western Australian timber industry since 1895. The industry is a key driver of economic activity and jobs in Western Australia, contributing \$1.4 billion to the WA economy and creating about 6000 jobs in WA, with more than 90% of those in regional areas. The industry employs careful and comprehensive management policies to ensure WA's forests are sustainably managed. Less than 1% of the total forest area is harvested annually.