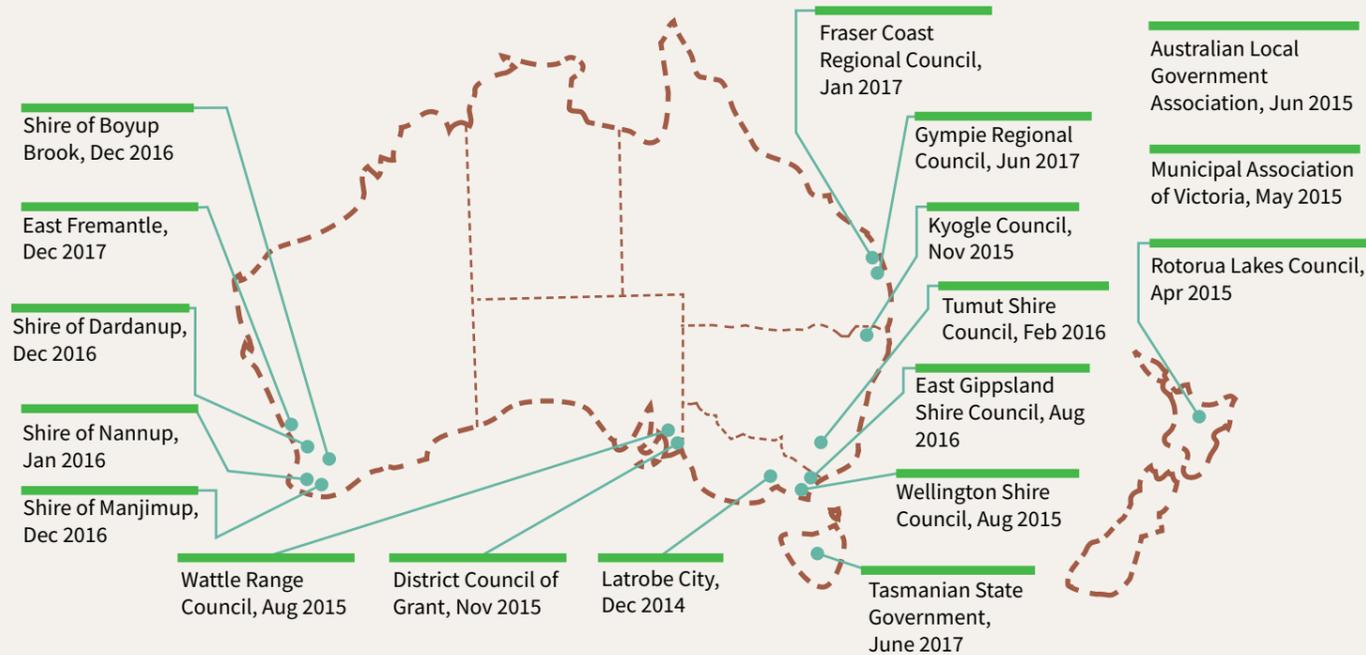


## ✓ Wood encouragement policy

Local councils in WA are establishing policies to encourage the use of natural, timber-based products in construction – including Boyup Brook, Dardanup, Fremantle, Manjimup and Nannup. Tasmania is the first state in Australia to adopt a state-wide Wood Encouragement Policy (WEP). The adoption of similar policies around the world is growing steadily, including Canada, Japan, France, Finland, Netherlands and the UK.



## 🕒 Historical connection

WA's timber industry has a proud history, over 180 years and counting - with Captain James Stirling praising the quality of jarrah used to repair the "Success" in 1830; the first mill operating from Mt Eliza at the base of our current Kings Park in 1833; and the first export of WA timber to Adelaide in 1850. Much of the state was opened up and settled via railway lines built with jarrah and karri, eventually connecting WA with the rest of Australia. The contract for 1.5 million sleepers for the Trans-Australian railway saw dozens of WA mill towns form, creating communities with strong bonds that exist even today.



Workers on the Trans-Australian Railway, about 1915. The construction of the 1 693 km line took about five years. National Museum of Australia.



The 50 000 ha Lane Pool reserve is the largest park in the northern jarrah forest. Once a busy and productive timber production area, it has been regenerated into one of WA's most popular national parks.



## Water quality

WA forests provide reliable, low-cost, high-quality water supplies for public consumption and industrial use. Sustainable forest management practices improve stream flow and increase forest resilience to drought events. Forests also mitigate dryland and river salinity by reducing groundwater recharge and improving surface water quality. The timber industry collaborated with the Department of Water in their ground-breaking project that reversed salinity in the Denmark River, winning the environmental sustainability category of the Australian Business Awards in 2013 and the Australian Water Associations National Research Innovation Award in 2014.



## Fire protection

One of the biggest threats to WA's forests is uncontrolled wildfire. The timber industry formally co-operates with state agencies, providing staff and equipment to carry out fire suppression for public and private land on a voluntary basis, in addition to their own, independent wildfire control. WA's timber industry also supports research into long-term wildfire mitigation strategies, such as a recent mechanical fuel reduction trial near Collie, through the National Bushfire Mitigation Programme.



## Multiple-use forests

Multiple-use forests means that forests are managed for more than one use. Beyond timber, forests provide ecosystem services that benefit us all. 2018 has seen a marri mega-bloom, benefiting WA's thriving apiculture business. Around 75% of WA's honey comes from beehives kept under licence in state forest. The industry also sponsors mountain bike events in the many award-winning trails established in both native and plantation forests. Bush walking, horse riding, four wheel driving, and even adventure motorcycling activities like enduro and motocross are popular activities in state forest and encouraged by the timber industry.



## Innovation and Technology

WA's timber industry is world-scale, always innovating and using new technology to make the most of timber resources and ensure nothing is wasted. Auswest Timbers recently invested in CT scanning and automated trim solutions technology, a first in the hardwood industry for WA. In the future, residues and by-products may be used to manufacture Nano Crystalline Cellulose, a product that can be used to make plastics, food materials, paper, medical supplies, cosmetics and even car parts. Now, there are significant opportunities for the timber industry to expand their involvement in the bioenergy and biofuel markets as WA strives to meet the Federal 2020 renewable energy target.