

Media release - 03/04/2018

## Timber industry welcomes boost for farm forestry

A new WA Government incentive scheme to expand the softwood plantation estate has been welcomed by timber industry peak body, the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA).

The FPC Farm Forestry Assist program, announced by Forestry Minister, Dave Kelly, offers eligible landholders \$500 per hectare to establish new plantations of radiata or maritime pine trees. Landholders can also opt to receive free high quality radiata pine seedlings instead of the \$500 per hectare grant.

This initiative will help address a shortfall in plantation investment according to FIFWA Acting CEO, Matt Granger.

“The FPC Farm Forestry Assist program demonstrates that the Government recognises the serious decline in plantation investment,” Mr Granger said.

“Plantations support vibrant processing activities that contribute to the overall \$1.4 billion value of the timber industry and 6,000 jobs in WA,” he said.

“Softwood plantations are the critical resource for businesses which produce sawn timber, LVL and particle board for housing and commercial construction, and treated pine for posts and power poles,” Mr Granger said.

“Demand for wood and fibre products is growing strongly, and FIFWA has been highlighting the need to grow the plantation estate. 2016 FIFWA paper, *Western Australia – Plantations, the Missing Piece of the Puzzle*, called for a policy to facilitate farm forestry, so it is good to see action on this front,” he said.

For more details on the FPC Farm Forestry Assist program - <http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au/farm-forestry/farm-forestry-assist>

FIFWA’s – WA – Plantations – The Missing Piece of the Puzzle - <http://forestindustries.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/FIFWA-WA-Plantations-Missing-Piece-of-the-Puzzle-2016.pdf>

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### 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.