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## **New Commonwealth funding for major WA projects welcomed by timber industry**

Funding commitments for WA projects announced by the Prime Minister last week, have been welcomed by the timber industry.

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road, and the Myalup Wellington Project, both have relevance for the industry, according to Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA) Acting CEO, Matt Granger.

“Completing the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will boost safety for road users and efficiency and productivity for freight, including logs and timber products,” Mr Granger said.

“And establishing new timber plantations in the catchment of the Wellington Dam is part of the Myalup Wellington Project, which will reduce salinity levels in the dam,” he explained.

“The timber industry is a key beneficiary of both these funding announcements,” he said.

Infrastructure bottlenecks such as the unfinished Bunbury Outer Ring Road, and the role of tree plantations in improving water quality were identified in a major FIFWA report – “Western Australia: Plantations – The Missing Piece of the Puzzle” – [www.forestindustries.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/FIFWA-WA-Plantations-Missing-Piece-of-the-Puzzle-2016.pdf](http://www.forestindustries.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/FIFWA-WA-Plantations-Missing-Piece-of-the-Puzzle-2016.pdf) This report set out to elevate strategies to encourage investment in timber plantations.

“If we don’t grasp the opportunities to lift productivity in the transport supply chain, and in establishing more plantations for local timber processing, then we will become more dependent on imported timber,” Mr Granger concluded.

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



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