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Progress towards Bushfire Centre of Excellence

The news that WA's Bushfire Centre of Excellence is closer to realisation has been welcomed by the state's timber industry. The Government has today announced the centre will be established at a site in the Shire of Murray.

The Bushfire Centre of Excellence is an important initiative for regional communities and the timber industry, according to Acting CEO of the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA), Matt Granger.

"The current fire risk around the state, and the recent Lewana Fire in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, underscore the threat and reality of wild fires," Mr Granger said.

"Thankfully, no lives or homes were lost in the Lewana Fire, but it was a major setback to the softwood plantation industry," he said.

"This is why a world-class hub for bushfire science and research, along with training and technical expertise, is so important," Mr Granger said.

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.

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