

Media release | 02/07/2019

New era begins for WA Forestry Industry

A new era for the Western Australian forestry industry has been heralded with today's launch of the *Djarlma Plan* by Forestry Minister, Dave Kelly.

Djarlma is a Noongar concept reflecting the interconnected relationship of people with forests and woodlands.

The *Djarlma Plan* is an opportunity for the forestry industry to maximise its contribution to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the state according to the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA).

This plan charts how the forestry industry can play a stronger role in ensuring WA's forests, woodlands and plantations are healthy, providing a range of renewable resources and able to provide community benefits, now and for future generations, according to FIFWA Acting CEO, Matt Granger.

"There are four linked strategic priorities in this plan to help revitalise the state's forestry industry," Mr Granger said.

"They are – healthy forests and woodlands; wood product & ecosystem values; industry for the future; and community benefits," he explained.

"We are now positioned to develop and implement actions to support these strategic priorities to achieve whole-of-government, industry and community goals," Mr Granger said.

"It is especially pleasing that the *Wood Encouragement Policy for Western Australia* has been announced as one of the first initiatives under the *Djarlma Plan*," he said.

"Several WA local governments have adopted Wood Encouragement Policies, and now it has been adopted at the State level, it gives even more impetus to use responsibly sourced timber in design and construction projects. Wood is a desirable, sustainable, renewable resource which stores carbon – it is the ultimate renewable," 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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