

Media release | 14/05/20

Update – 5.15pm

Embarrassing Cave-in to Forest Protesters by WA Government

The WA Government has learned nothing in its dealings with activists, following its decision today to cave-in to unjustified demands to halt sustainable timber harvesting operations near Bridgetown.

That's according to the state's peak timber industry body, the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA).

This political interference in WA forest operations is shambolic, according to FIFWA Deputy Executive Officer, Matt Granger.

“This regrowth forest coupe has already been assessed by scientists as not containing old growth, and has been on the published Forest Products Commission (FPC) Harvest Plan since 2018,” Mr Granger said.

“So thanks to today's interference by the WA Government, there are contracting crews which have been stood down from their scheduled work,” he said.

“This action is not justified. It's a massive breach of process, and feeds future disruptive behaviour by these activists,” he explained.

“This reads as the State Government having no confidence in its own professional staff, and shifting costs and delays onto the timber industry,” Mr Granger said.

“It also suggests the Government doesn't care about regional jobs, especially as we are trying to climb out of the COVID-19 hole!” he said.

Please direct all media enquiries to FIFWA Deputy Executive Officer 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. In 2001 WA became the first state to abolish harvesting old-growth forests.

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Forest Protestors at it Again – Disrupting jobs & communities with their lies & confected outrage

Forest protestors are testing the patience of regional communities and threatening jobs in a sustainable industry according to the state’s peak timber industry body, the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA).

A State forest block west of Bridgetown is the focus of the latest protest attention explained FIFWA Deputy Executive Officer, Matt Granger.

“This regrowth forest coupe has been assessed by scientists as not containing old growth, and has been on the published Forest Products Commission (FPC) Harvest Plan since 2018,” Mr Granger said.

“So members of the community have had around two years to have input into this harvest plan,” he said.

“Why do they wait until contractors are going about their lawful business? It’s their tactic of maximising disruption and mayhem, with no valid scientific or ecological evidence,” Mr Granger said.

“And to be taking this action when our economy and communities are dealing with the COVID-19 crisis is an absolute disgrace!” he said.

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