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Welcome funding boost for prescribed burning

Extra state funding to boost the prescribed burning program has been welcomed by the WA timber industry.

Environment Minister, Stephen Dawson has announced that the forthcoming State Budget will include \$22 million over four years for the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program implemented by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The announcement has been welcomed by the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA). Prescribed burning is essential for protecting communities and important forestry assets, according to FIFWA Acting CEO, Matt Granger.

“Prescribed burning helps reduce fuel loads in forests and the associated risk of catastrophic wildfire,” Mr Granger said.

“This vital program helps keep communities safe, and protects both native forests and plantations, key assets for industry.

“Prescribed burning helps maintain healthy forests and this funding will enable DBCA to continue meeting the key performance indicators outlined in the current Forest Management Plan,” he said.

“Jobs and investment in forest industries are threatened when forests and forestry equipment are destroyed by wildfire,” Mr Granger said.

“Prescribed burning complements other bushfire mitigation strategies like mechanical fuel reduction, to make communities safer and protect important assets,” Mr Granger concluded.

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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