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## **FIFWA calls for an Urgent Recovery Package – to Stimulate WA Housing construction**

“CoVid -19 is a wrecking ball for the house construction industry, and this will impact multiple sectors of the WA economy, including the local timber manufacturing industry. FIFWA executive director Melissa Haslam said today.

“Our timber producers locally manufacture and supply most of the timber for house frames, roofs, cabinetry, doors, timber floors and decks. New housing starts are declining rapidly and predicted to plummet significantly in the next 6 months

**FIFWA is forecasting a decline for locally sawn and manufactured timber of more than 50% in the next 6 months.** This is a disaster for the **6,000** West Australians who are directly and indirectly employed by our industry. Many of the industry’s employees are located throughout major towns of the southwest and provide a significant contribution to their local economies.

FIFWA is joining the growing voice calling for much needed housing construction stimulus.

“We are appealing to our Premier to adopt an urgent recovery package for the housing sector by increasing the first home owner’s grant and other stimulus for any new homes built, as well as immediately bringing forward new social housing projects and eliminating delays in planning and approval regimes.

Anything that stimulates the housing sector will save many thousands of local jobs. Ms Haslam concluded.

**Please direct all media enquiries to FIFWA Executive director Melissa Haslam on 0439917665 or email: [m.haslam@fifwa.asn.au](mailto:m.haslam@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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