

Media release | 29/05/20

Humiliation for WA Government Follows Forestry Folly

The state government's latest foolhardy experiment with outsourcing forest industry governance to activists has blown up in the face of Minister Stephen Dawson.

That's the view of the state's peak timber industry body, the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA), following the release of yet another review of alleged old-growth forest within a regrowth forestry coupe.

FIFWA's Deputy Executive Officer, Matt Granger said the latest review offered no surprises.

"The unremarkable result is that the review confirmed what scientists had already concluded from previous exhaustive assessments, that there is no old-growth forest in this re-growth coupe," Mr Granger said.

"Environment Minister Steve Dawson acted with indecent haste two weeks ago to order the suspension of lawful highly-regulated timber harvesting operations, in response to ill-informed unrepresentative activists," he said.

"The government rolled-over, abandoning principles of due process and good governance, to sacrifice honest worker jobs on the altar of the insatiable greens lobby," he said.

"This disgraceful episode will only inspire radical activists to repeat their job-destroying tactics, while the timber industry is loaded up with the costs of unscheduled delays and stand downs," according to Mr Granger.

"The State Government repeatedly and publicly states it fully supports the Forest management Plan, we ask they now back up these words with actions, and stop undermining the process," Mr Granger concluded.

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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