

Media Release | 30/12/2020

Suspension of WA log exports to China

CHINA has suspended the export of logs from WA, with Chinese customs authorities notifying the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) last Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

WA and New South Wales were the latest states to be suspended due to phytosanitary concerns, with log exports to China from Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia having been suspended last month.

The Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA) has been liaising with AFPA, as they work extensively with industry and DAWE on phytosanitary processes to address the Chinese Government's phytosanitary concerns and allow for the resumption of the log trade as soon as possible.

FIFWA Executive Director Melissa Haslam said the WA industry was fortunate to have an established local processing sector and the export market of logs to China was minimal.

"WA timber businesses involved in this export market were already prepared for the announcement, so the impact has been minimal and well-managed," Mrs Haslam said.

"This is a marginal market for WA, with up to about 50,000t of logs available for export to China annually.

"We are lucky to have such a strong local manufacturing sector, so we can process the majority of our logs domestically.

"At the moment we are experiencing great demand for timber locally, particularly in construction as people recognise the many benefits that come with building with timber.

"So, while this was not a critical market in WA as far as log exports go, it does serve as a timely reminder of how important it is to support our local timber industry so we can continue to sustain our own needs."

Media enquiries

Beth Johnston
0409 304 941
beth@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, with the area harvested then replanted. In 2001 WA became the first state to abolish harvesting old-growth forests.