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## Shameful publicity stunt disrupts sustainable forestry operations

THE forestry industry has condemned the actions of protestors who illegally disrupted operations at Helms forest, near Nannup.

The employees of a family-owned logging contractor were forced to stop operations for about three hours this morning, due to illegal road closures caused by protestors. They were able to resume partial operations before police arrived and ordered the protestors to move on.

According to the timber industry's peak body, the Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA), the protest was simply a shameful publicity stunt.

FIFWA Executive Director Melissa Haslam said the actions of protestors was an unfair and unnecessary way of seeking attention, disrupting legal and sustainable logging operations.

"It shows a complete lack of regard for a family-owned business that contributes to the local economy and supports the local community," Ms Haslam said.

"It is obvious that this is a publicity stunt leading up to the State election.

"Helms is a sustainably managed regrowth coupe. It has been harvested before and will be selectively harvested now, then completely regenerated as it has in the past.

"We are a sustainable industry. Of the 2.25 million hectares of native forest, 1.4 million hectares is already in reserves. Only one per cent of the forest is harvested each year and all of it is regenerated."

The Helms timber operation covers 741 hectares, of which 299 hectares is excluded from harvesting as it has been flagged for conservation. The remaining 442 hectares will be harvested for valuable timber products, from an expected yield of 10,000 tonnes of jarrah sawlogs.

The harvested logs will be delivered to nearby Parkside Nannup mill, further stimulating the local economy, before being used to create high-value products such as flooring and furniture components. To ensure there is no waste, the entirety of the resource is used, with lesser-quality or residue logs being used for other products.

*Image Helms-Pre Harvest forest:* An area of Helms forest near Nannup, prior to harvest.

*Image Helms-Post Harvest forest:* A different area of Helms forest near Nannup, after timber has been harvested.

### Media enquiries

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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.