



**WA FOREST ALLIANCE**

## **Lack of native forest logs is confirmation that the transition of the timber industry is well overdue**

The Forest Industries Federation's call for industry assistance highlights the fact that the native forest logging industry is unsustainable, and WA Forest Alliance (WAFA) is calling on the McGowan Government to invest in the farmed wood sector and complete the transition of the timber industry out of native forests.

"The legacy of decades of unsustainable logging practices, combined with climate change and dieback factors, means that the quality and quantity of native forest logs has declined dramatically," said Jess Beckerling, convener of the WA Forest Alliance (WAFA).

"The good news is that the timber industry in WA has already very nearly completed its transition – with 92% of our local wood supply already coming from plantations – and what we're talking about here is the very tail end of the native forest logging sector.

"Native forest logging provides just 8% of WA's timber these days and has been in steady decline for decades.

"The reality of climate change and the impacts of decades of unsustainable logging practices have to be acknowledged, and we need to complete the transition of the industry to a sustainable base.

"WAFA welcomes Minister Kelly's recognition of the impacts of climate change on the forests. Rainfall decline in the South West has already had profound impacts on ecosystem function and resilience, and this long-term drying is projected to get worse from here.

"It is critical that we protect what's left of the South West forests for climate and biodiversity, and to give them the best possible chance of adapting to the changing climate.

"WAFA calls on Minister Kelly to support the development of a farmed wood sector for the South West and Great Southern to grow a minimum of 40 000 ha of high value hard wood timber trees integrated into existing farms. Done strategically, this program would grow WA's timber locally, improve water quality and have multiple on-farm benefits, while creating 860 – 940 new jobs in the timber industry.

"Ending native forest logging and developing the farmed wood sector is going to be a huge success story for WA. We will protect what is left of the forests for climate and biodiversity, grow our own timber locally, improve water quality in agricultural areas and support sustainable activities and businesses in the forests," said Ms Beckerling.

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