



Monday, 11 May 2020

AFPA WELCOMES \$15 MILLION IN FORESTRY POST BUSHFIRE TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has welcomed the inclusion of \$15 million in freight support for burnt timber, as part of the National Bushfire Industry Recovery Package announced today, but urges more is needed to help the industry recover.

In announcing the industry assistance the Assistant Minister responsible for Forestry Senator Jonathon Duniam said that it will help ensure the industry can source the timber it needs for operations and to support jobs. Senator Duniam also stated:

“There is more work to be done to ensure this critical sector has a strong future, and we are committed to supporting the industry to find opportunities that ensure it is well positioned for long-term recovery.”

The Chief Executive of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Ross Hampton has welcomed the initial measure and applauded Senator Duniam for his efforts in supporting Australia’s renewable forest product industries as they continue recovery from catastrophic bushfires.

“With this announcement the Morrison Government has signalled that renewable forest product industries and regional communities are priorities. Clearly the products we manufacture, and the associated jobs, are essential as the economy reels from the shock of the pandemic lockdowns,” Mr Hampton said.

“The bushfires have had a devastating impact on all sectors of our industry; from forest growers to harvest contractors to hardwood and softwood timber and paper products processing and manufacturing. In many areas forest and fibre industries are the major economic driver and many thousands of regional workers rely on them thriving for their long-term future.”

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