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MORRISON/ McCORMACK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES \$40M IN BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has congratulated the Federal Government on the announcement today of 14 grants to forest industry businesses totalling \$40million dollars to aid in their recovery from the Black Summer bushfires.

Chief Executive Officer of AFPA Ross Hampton said, “After the enormous challenges of dealing with COVID through 2020, the Black Summer bushfires probably feel a lifetime back for many. The sad reality for forest industries however is the devastating effects of that fire season are really only starting to be fully felt now. Harvesting crews have been working around the clock for months as we have sought to use up as much of the fire damaged plantation timber as possible. However that opportunity is quickly running out.”

“Many of the grants the Government has announced will assist forestry businesses retool and restructure to manage the different resource profile we will confront in the coming years. Other projects will help us retrieve more value from salvaged or smaller hardwood logs.”

“This program is an emphatic indication of the Federal Government’s determination to support the forest industries of Australia and give them a chance to ‘build back better’. Our thanks go to the Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud and Assistant Minister with responsibility for Forestry, Senator Jonno Duniam. This is a great Christmas present at the close of a very challenging year and will boost spirits,” Mr Hampton concluded.

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