

Media Release

Monday 8 March 2021

Essential role of women in forest industries celebrated on International Women's Day

On International Women's Day the Australian Forest Products Association recognises and celebrates the vital contribution of women in Australia's forest industries.

"The women who work in our industries do so in many roles from CEOs, chief financial officers, foresters, researchers, operations managers, contracts managers, support managers, human resources, and administration to name just a few," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"This year the theme for International Women's Day 2021 is '**Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World**'. In Australia, the forest products industries were deemed to be essential and continued to operate during the worst of the pandemic. The women in our industry were key in providing essential products and services from medical bioproducts, packaging for food, to building supplies, and biomass for heating."

"Renewable forest industries in Australia are ready to grow and play a key part in the COVID-19 economic recovery and by enabling equal opportunities for the women in our industries we will be even better placed to deliver.

In 2019 AFPA members developed a voluntary Charter on Diversity and Inclusion to encourage forest industry employers to have more supportive and inclusive workplaces.

"This includes a commitment to develop a more diverse and skilled workforce that is reflective of our communities, building a culture of inclusiveness, equal pay for equal work and promoting flexible working arrangements. AFPA is proud of the charter which is a fantastic example of the key role our renewable forest industries can play in equality," Mr Hampton concluded.

ENDS

Media Contact:

Campbell Cooney - AFPA Senior Communications Manager
(m) 0497 497 005 (e) campbell.cooney@ausfpa.com.au

