

## Media Release

15 June 2022

### **Former Labor Minister Joel Fitzgibbon to partner with Australia's forest industries, joining AFPA Board**

Former Cabinet Minister and long serving Labor MP, The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon, will join the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Board as an independent non-executive director, Chair of AFPA, Greg McCormack announced today.

Greg McCormack said, "I'm truly delighted to make this announcement. Joel brings to our organisation two extremely important attributes. He is a passionate supporter of forest industries right around Australia and understands intimately how we can assist the new Albanese Government deliver both greater climate change initiatives and more timber for our builders and renovators.

"Joel's vast experience in both strategic vision and policy development will provide valuable input for the AFPA Board and in dealings with all levels of the Government and the Public Service as we all try to deliver on the more than \$300 million in new initiatives Labor committed to during the election, along with key policy changes.

"As a respected figure in Australian politics, his expertise will be an invaluable addition to the depth of knowledge on the Board at a time we are engaging with the new Parliament, striving to deliver on policy commitment."

Joel Fitzgibbon said he was looking forward to commencing his role, "It's an honour to join the Board of Australia's leading forest industries body. As the former Minister and Shadow Minister for Forestry, I have met many of AFPA's members and have seen firsthand the countless benefits the industry provides to Australia's economy and the livelihoods of Australians. I am very much looking forward to working with the extremely effective AFPA Board and organisation.

"I was Co-Chair of the Federal Parliament's Friends of Forest Industries Group for the past seven years. During that time, I observed an industry which is passionate about the role it can play in climate mitigation, building our regional communities by providing meaningful and secure jobs and delivering the millions of fibre-based products we often take for granted - from timber for houses, to paper and tissue products. I look forward to working with my Board colleagues and AFPA management as we look to the future of forest industries."

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