

**EWPA MEDIA RELEASE**

**21 March 2023**

**International Day of Forests – celebrating wood’s environmental and health benefits**

Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) joins in celebrating International Day of Forests, and the essential role sustainably managed forests and forest plantations play in providing environmental and health benefits, while also supplying renewable wood products which support jobs and regional communities.

EWPA’s Chief Executive Officer, Gavin Matthew said, “Given the world’s ongoing challenges such as war, economic shocks, living cost increases, and extreme weather events, this year’s theme is both topical and important, being ‘*Healthy Forests for Healthy People*’. Sustainably managed forests provide direct health benefits but also produce an increasing range of innovative and renewable wood products, that store carbon, inspire designers, build new healthy homes, and are used in many other essential applications around the world.”

“Investing in sustainably managed forests and our renewable wood product industries provides many social, economic, and environmental benefits. Wood products are natural and provide measurable feelings of well-being and health outcomes to those that live and work in timber-based buildings. It is important policy makers recognise the significant potential in the built environment to provide essential shelter and cut emissions, by using renewable timber building solutions and low emission products,” Mr Matthew concluded.

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\* **About EWPA.** *Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) is a member association for manufacturers of a broad range of engineered and solid wood products located throughout Australasia.* <https://ewp.asn.au/>