

EWPA MEDIA RELEASE

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Sad day for sustainable native forest management

The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) joins the many voices condemning the baffling and unexpected move today by the Victorian government to significantly bring forward the end of sustainable native forest harvesting in that State.

EWPA's Chief Executive Officer, Gavin Matthew said, "This ill-formed decision to walk away from the existing 2030 phase-out undermines industry confidence in sovereign security, and blatantly ignores the essential role sustainably managed native forests play in supplying much-needed timber to our renewable industries while supporting valued jobs and regional communities. It is especially disappointing, considering Australia's existing challenges, including the increasing cost of living, and ongoing need for renewable products, emission reductions, and quality regional jobs."

"Sustainably managed native forest industries produce a range of innovative and renewable wood products, that reduce emissions, store carbon, are used in new homes and many other essential applications. This kind of baseless decision undermines any long-term certainty needed by industry or workers to make essential investment or employment decisions. This is a sad day for sustainable native forest management and a sad day for Victoria," Mr Matthew declared.

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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/>