



## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

### **WAFMA – Press Release “Native Forestry Ban”**

*9th September 2021*

“WAFMA (Western Australian Furniture Manufacturers Association Inc.) strongly supports informed forest management decisions, to ensure manufacturing will remain strong and viable, as well as continuing sustainably into our state’s future.

WAFMA is aware of the uncertainty overshadowing our industry by the State Government's decision to ban all logging of native forests by 2024. We share concerns with other related industries about the lack of consultation and clarity regarding this decision, and question whether this best serves the West Australian people and their environment? WAFMA members use Australian native hardwoods to manufacture quality furniture for which pine is not an adequate substitute. This action by the state government will result in our members being forced to import hardwoods, where we rely on foreign governments' judgment to environmentally manage their forests. The logistics of importing replacement timbers will increase the carbon footprint of our industry.

We ask the State Government to consider the wider impact of this decision and whether all consequences have been carefully explored. Like the wider public, WAFMA wishes to see our government making sound environmental decisions to protect our future. At this time and with the information that we have available, we do not feel this proposed action adequately addresses the environmental, social and economic impact, and the knock-on effect of what this policy will mean. The state government came to power on a platform of employment and opportunities, this decision is in contrast to this promise.

We also agree with one of our major suppliers, Austim and the statement from Managing Director Mike Rowney, “I believe it will force local manufacturers currently using world class, local and sustainably sourced hardwood timber to look towards overseas markets for alternatives with arguably lower environmental and sustainability standards.

The responsible WA Government body FPC proudly points out in its glossy annual reports (endorsed by the responsible minister) that current hardwood logging in WA meets the strictest environmental standards and is clearly considered by both internal and external experts to be sustainable. How can this suddenly change overnight?”

Links worth mentioning: [www.newjarrah.com.au/know-your-jarrah/sustainability/](http://www.newjarrah.com.au/know-your-jarrah/sustainability/)

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The Western Australian Furniture Manufacturers Association Inc. is an incorporated non-profit organisation representing the interests of the W.A. furniture manufacturing industry supply chain.

[www.wafma.com.au](http://www.wafma.com.au)