

Media Release

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Gippsland to benefit from forestry innovation grants

The Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) has welcomed today's announcement from Federal Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam and Victorian Minister Mary-Anne Thomas of nearly \$1.9 million awarded across six projects under the first round of the Gippsland National Institute of Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) Research and Development grants.

The projects will investigate fire impacts on timber, smarter use of spatial information, feral animal management, production productivity and commercialisation of timber products.

"The NIFPI model has been incredibly successful in delivering innovation across the forest industry supply chain," said Ms Deb Kerr CEO of the VFPA.

"Gippsland and the wider Australian forestry sector will benefit from the six projects, which will deliver outcomes for timber processing and forest management.

"The 2019-20 bushfires impacted commercial plantations as well as our native forests, so these projects are important to future proof and position the Victorian forest products sector from growing, through to processing and beyond.

"Thousands of people are proudly employed in Victoria's forest industries, and these projects will keep them at the forefront of innovation going forward.

"Disappointingly, none of the funded projects are supporting Victoria's sustainable native hardwood timber industry and I look forward to this being corrected in Round 2," concluded Ms Kerr.

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