

# Forest Industry Transition

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Logging of South-West native forests to end from 2024 with \$350 million for new softwood plantations and a \$50 million Just Transition Plan.

The 2021-22 State Budget includes a \$350 million investment over 10 years in new softwood plantations across the South-West, coming at the same time as the announcement that logging of South-West native forests will be protected from 2024.

From 2024, logging from native forests will be limited to forest management activities that improve forest health and clearing for approved mining operations, such as Alcoa.

The decision to end logging of native forests in the upcoming Forest Management Plan 2024-33 will preserve at least an additional 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests and result in nearly two million hectares of native forests being protected. About 9,000 hectares of high conservation-value karri will also receive immediate protection, with other high value forest areas to be recommended for national park status.

The 33,000 hectare expansion in the softwood plantation estate is part of the \$750 million Climate Action Fund. Up to 50 million pine trees will be planted, sequestering between 7.9 and 9.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The Government estimates 140 timber industry jobs will be created and 1,980 existing jobs protected, mostly in the South-West timber industry.

The Forest Product Commission will spend \$96 million between 2021-22 to 2024-25 to acquire land to support the program.

The Government has announced that it will support affected workers, businesses and communities in the South-West with links to the forestry industry through a \$50 million Just Transition Plan. This plan will provide support to affected workers and businesses, drive further diversification of local economies and assist in identifying and securing sustainable job opportunities.

A Native Forestry Transition Group will be established, to assist in the development and implementation of the Plan, and will be comprised of local industry, union and government stakeholders.

WALGA considers that it will be essential that the impacts on local communities in the South-West as a result of the decision to end native logging are understood and addressed as part of the transition planning and the development of opportunities for further economic development in the region.