

# MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



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## Senator Ruston at AUSTimber2016

AUSTimber2016 events held in mid April led Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources with a responsibility for Forestry to spend an entire day and evening at the event.

Minister Ruston spent the day in Traralgon visiting the AUSTimber HVP expo site and the evening at the event's welcome dinner held in Morwell.

She took a walk through the two-kilometre long forest expo speaking with large and small sized business exhibitors alike.

Over the course of the event over 7000 people attended AUSTimber and visited 70 exhibitor sites catering for 100 different brands of forestry equipment and products.

For Senator Ruston this was not merely a quick meet and greet exercise as she was open to spending whatever time was necessary at each display to gain a better understanding of the industry.

That evening at the event's welcome dinner she gave a speech to the room, which held more than 450 people all of whom were in one way or another involved in the industry.

"There's never been a more exciting time to be in the Australian Forestry Industry," Minister Ruston said.

"This is an industry that's demonstrating a willingness to innovate to meet the challenges of the future—and that's fantastic'.

"Like any industry, there are challenges, but I am bullish about the future. There has been a large demonstration by all levels of the forestry sector that this is a united industry committed to growth and sustainability."

"I would certainly like to congratulate the Australian Forest Contractors' Association (AFCA) for the event that they have worked so hard to put on."

The minister went on to say that spreading the word about the industry involved education, opportunities in the forestry industry and the skills needed.

"AUSTimber is such a fantastic opportunity for the industry to showcase its passion and commitment and I am pleased to see this event continuing to grow," she said.

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