

## MEDIA RELEASE

19 Mar 2021

### ForestFit training program pilot launches

Leaders of New South Wales (NSW) forest contracting businesses came together this week for the launch sessions of the ForestFit training program pilot (training pilot) in Tumut (16 March) and Grafton (18 March).

Ms Stacey Gardiner, General Manager, Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) said "The training pilot is designed specifically to meet the needs of leaders of small and medium-sized harvest and haulage forest contracting businesses. The pilot captures the diversity of the forest contracting businesses, ranging from sole providers to medium sized businesses operating across different land tenures."

The training pilot combines face to face sessions and webinars delivered by subject matter experts and is designed to improve knowledge and skills across four key areas:

- Business management,
- People practices and leadership,
- Safety leadership and
- Environmental sustainability.

The training pilot kicked off this week with the face to face sessions covering business management practices. The training pilot will continue over the coming months concluding in June.

"Feedback from the first session has already demonstrated a benefit with participants reporting they have significantly increased their knowledge of business management practices, including strategies to implement into their business" said Dionne Olsen, Project Manager, ForestFit.

ForestFit is being developed with substantial support and input from industry representatives, who have informed every stage of the training program and pilot development.

AFCA is working in partnership with Department of Primary Industry (DPI) to deliver two major outcomes for the forest industry, a nationally recognised and endorsed pilot training program and certification for contracting businesses to deliver quality services in accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements.

AFCA General Manager Stacey Gardiner said "Australian forest contracting businesses are world leaders and known for their innovation, ForestFit will support consolidation of their knowledge and recognise our leaders."



She added "The feedback and input of the ForestFit participants will influence the final proposed training package when the pilot concludes in June. This ensures we are creating something beneficial for contracting businesses and the industry."

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