



National Association of  
Forest Industries



## Media Release

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### Forest industry pledges assistance to rebuild communities devastated by bushfires

“Our thoughts go out to the Victorian communities that have been devastated by the weekend’s bushfires and our hopes are with those that are still under threat,” said Allan Hansard, CEO of National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI).

“This is an unprecedented tragedy resulting in an unprecedented loss of life and property. It’s important at this time of tragedy that Australian’s band together to work through the crisis. This is a time for constraint; this is no time to be laying blame, or pointing the finger, particularly when the fires are still burning and Victorians are still to realise the full extent of the loss of life and homes,” Mr Hansard said.

“The areas which bore the brunt of the fires are at the heart of the Victorian timber industry and we are only now just learning of the damage and grief which has been inflicted over the weekend and which continues to threaten these local communities,” said Philip Dalidakis CEO of Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI).

“During these challenging times we also recognise and praise the efforts of fire-fighters, emergency workers and volunteers, many of whom bravely helped others while not knowing if their own homes were safe, epitomising the true spirit of Australian resilience and mateship,” said Mr Dalidakis.

“Many timber workers now face a very uncertain future as their livelihood and, in many cases, their homes have gone up in smoke. It’s important at this time that affected timber workers, and all residents of affected areas, know that they will be supported to rebuild their communities,” said Timber Communities Australia (TCA) CEO Jim Adams.

“NAFI, VAFI and TCA will co-ordinating efforts of the forest industry to provide support and assistance to those affected by these devastating bushfires. Many of these towns are timber communities, and many of the residents who lost their homes are timber workers. We’ll be working closely with the government and emergency services to ensure these fire-ravaged communities are rebuilt,” said Mr Adams.

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