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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Tasmanian forest industry shows confidence

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to protecting and building the forestry sector, recognising it is vital employer in many regional communities.

While we are all faced with the extraordinary challenge of COVID-19, as the Resources Minister, I am extremely proud of the way the forestry industry has proactively adapted to working in unprecedented circumstances.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of businesses and employees, and the ongoing demand for timber exports, the forestry sector will be a key leader in the recovery and rebuilding phase for the Tasmanian economy, driving investment and providing thousands of jobs, many in regional areas.

I am encouraged by the findings of the Safety in the Tasmanian Forestry industry through COVID-19 survey, distributed by the COVID-19 Communications Working Group, which showcased the preparedness and flexibility of a workforce keen to get on with the job and work with new regulations to ensure the industry continues to operate throughout the pandemic.

Key findings from the survey include:

- 98 per cent of respondents were confident to somewhat confident, their organisation could operate safely and efficiently through this pandemic.
- 86 per cent found it easy or somewhat easy to implement social distancing and safe hygiene work practices – allowing business to continue.
- 82 per cent are confident they can work safely through this period.

These results show that the forestry industry is the perfect example of people and businesses making adjustments so they can continue to work safely during this time, in a way that limits contact with other people.

The Government also recognises that Tasmanian businesses and communities need extra support during this time, which is why we announced our second round support package, which sits alongside the Federal Government package.

For specific information on business support grants and loans, please refer to the Business Tasmania website www.business.tas.gov.au or call them direct on 1800 440 026. Federal information can be accessed at www.business.gov.au [Aurora](#) and [TasWater](#) have also implemented assistance schemes and information is available on their websites.

I encourage everyone to look out for each other, be considerate and be kind. Stay at home unless you need to go out for work, essential supplies, exercise or you're caring for someone.