

REPORT

SUSTAINABLE FOREST INDUSTRIES ROUNDTABLE POLL Quantitative Research Study

Fieldwork Dates: 30th – 31st August 2023 | **Sample Size:** n=1,000

Statewide West Australia 18 years+

Platform: IVR SYSTEM [INTERACTIVE VOICE]

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KEY FINDINGS

UTTING POLL – 72% OF WA WANT LOGGING BAN SCRAPPED

Strong support for sustainable timber industry

In a stark rebuttal of the WA government's forest policy a poll of 1000 WA voters conducted on the 30/31 August revealed that Western Australians want the sustainable harvesting of native forests to continue.

The use of native timber from sustainably harvested native forests for furniture, decking, flooring and firewood was strongly supported across the State in stark contrast to government claims (72 approve vs 12% disapprove).

Then Premier McGowan announced a ban on native forest logging in 2021 without any consultation - even surprising Government departments and agencies- and now a significant majority (52% to 21%) want the government policy scrapped.

Its performance on forestry issues has been rated poorly with only 18% approving (55% disapprove) of its job it is doing managing forests and forest industries.

Other findings

QUESTION	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
<i>Regrowth timber for furniture, decking, flooring, heritage and firewood?</i>	72%	17%	12%
<i>Replace WA timber with tropical wood?</i>	11%	77%	12%
<i>Should firewood be sourced from WA forests?</i>	60%	26%	14%
<i>Should wood from WA minesite clearance be supplied to local businesses in preference?</i>	82%	18%	0%

Voters also strongly believe (82 approve vs 18% disapprove) that the roughly 1000 ha of jarrah forest that is cleared for bauxite mining activities on the Darling. Scarp should be reserved for smaller, local businesses providing wood for furniture, decking, flooring and firewood, rather than being burnt for charcoal used by large industrial processors. SFIR has repeatedly asked the Minister to reserve this wood, but she has ignored this plea.

The Minister for Forestry, Jackie Jarvis is following the path of her failed predecessor Dave Kelly in pretending that the mess they created doesn't exist. It's time that she made the effort to engage with the industry that she is meant to be representing and develop a plan for its future. The poll results show that Western Australians want it to continue.

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PRIMARY VOTE

Which political party do you currently intend to vote for in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY if a WA State election were held today?

	%
Liberal	39
Labor	33
National	6
Greens	11
Other	11

PREFERRED VOTE 2PP

	%
Liberal	55
Labor	45

FURNITURE: MAKING TIMBER AVAILABLE

Logging of old-growth forests has been banned in Western since 2001. In 2021, the State government banned the sustainable harvesting of regrowth forests which led to many family and small businesses losing their timber supply resulting in job losses and many businesses closing. Knowing this, do you approve or disapprove of making timber available for furniture-making, especially for bespoke jarrah furniture?

	%
Approve	56
Disapprove	29
Unsure	15

WOOD FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Should local businesses continue to receive their wood requirements from sustainably harvested WA regrowth forests for uses such as furniture, decking, flooring, heritage restoration and firewood?

	%
Yes	72
No	17
Unsure	12

USE OF OVERSEAS TIMBER

The ban has resulted in more imports of timber from unregulated and unsustainable harvesting of foreign rainforests. Do you approve or disapprove of these countries providing timber in the absence of WA timber?

	%
Approve	11
Disapprove	77
Unsure	12

FIREWOOD AVAILABILITY

Due to the ban on sustainable harvesting of regrowth forests, the supply of firewood has decreased. Some regions without access to reticulated gas have lost their means to cook or heat homes. Do you support or oppose the availability of firewood for these purposes?

	%
Support	60
Oppose	26
Unsure	14

RESERVING MINESITE CLEARANCE WOOD FOR SMALLER LOCAL USERS

Each year under long-term government agreements, approximately 1000 hectares of our jarrah forest is cleared by mining companies to extract bauxite to make alumina. Would you approve or disapprove of reserving the timber salvaged for domestic uses such as furniture, decking, flooring, and firewood rather than for current industrial uses where it is burnt for charcoal?

	%
Approve	82
Disapprove	18

PERFORMANCE: SUSTAINABLE FOREST INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE

The sustainable Forest Industries Roundtable represents hundreds of family and West Australian small businesses promoting the sustainable use of wood. Do you approve or disapprove of their goals and the job the Sustainable Forest Industries roundtable is doing?

	%
Approve	60
Disapprove	12
Unsure	28

SCRAPPING BAN ON SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING

As you will be aware, the aboriginal cultural heritage act was scrapped by the WA Labor government because it was not fit for purpose. People have been calling for the scrapping of the ban on sustainable harvesting of forests, should the government scrap this change as well?

	%
Scrap	52
Don't Scrap	21
Unsure	28

PERFORMANCE OF WA GOVERNMENT

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Western Australian government is doing managing WA forests, and related industries?

	%
Approve	18
Disapprove	55
Unsure	27