

# Media Release

**The Hon Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Thursday, 7 November 2024

## NEW ROUND OF FORESTRY TRANSITION FUND GRANTS OPEN

The Allan Labor Government is supporting job creation and business development in former native timber industry communities with applications now open for round 2 of the Forestry Transition Fund grants program.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced that eligible businesses and industry groups in or around the towns and communities directly impacted by the end of native timber harvesting can apply for grants up to \$1 million to expand, diversify or start new businesses.

Chambers of commerce, peak bodies and business networks, local councils and incorporated not-for-profits that operate as businesses are also eligible to apply for the grants.

A \$20,000 Transitioning Timber Worker Employment Incentive Payment is also available for each transitioning native timber worker that a project employs.

There were 30 applications received for round 1 of the Transition Fund with more than \$2.4 million in funding approved so far for projects, which have led to job creation and business expansion.

Newmerella-based businesses Dahlsens Steel Truss and Frame and partners Built QA received a \$500,000 Transition Fund - Round 1 grant to expand their operations and directly employ up to 16 local ex-timber workers.

Nationwide Trees at Piedmont is using its \$775,000 Transition Fund grant to construct a multi-use production and dispatch shed, helping the business to meet growing demand as well as employing an additional 10 employees.

Former Parkside Timber Mill worker John Alen, received a \$16,240 grant in round 1, enabling him to purchase tools and a trailer for his new kitchen installation business, Riverview Installations, so he could become self-employed.

Applications close on 31 October 2025, for more information visit [deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry](https://deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry) or call 1800 318 182.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

*"The range of projects stretching from joint ventures through to ex-timber workers getting a hand to start their own business, shows how the Transition Fund grants have already helped to create jobs and business development."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

*"I encourage eligible businesses to apply and take advantage of the support available to expand and diversify into new business opportunities."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh

*"There are so many innovative and competitive businesses developing in Gippsland. Round 2 of the Forestry Transition Fund is another significant investment in these businesses, jobs and thriving communities they support."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

*"Transition is long-term work, and I encourage eligible businesses to apply and access the support that's available to develop and expand into new opportunities."*

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