

Media Release

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



Wednesday, 5 February 2025

East Gippsland Agricultural Start-Up Given A Boost

The Allan Labor Government is helping to create more jobs in former forestry towns, increasing employment and delivering a boost to the local economy.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced \$50,000 for Four Peaks Pastoral Pty Ltd to expand their business and employ former forestry workers as part of Round 1 of the Forestry Transition Fund.

The business utilises the local skilled workforce to provide farmers and producers around Omeo, Swifts Creek and surrounding district with agricultural services.

Business owner Stewart Moroney started the business after seeing a need for workers with unique skill sets to supplement the agricultural workforce in peak periods.

Four Peaks provides a range of agricultural services, including fencing, shearing, pest control and harvest support.

The grant will enable Four Peaks to purchase equipment including tool kits, portable livestock handling equipment and a vehicle mounted spray system.

The business will employ full time farm support workers with general skill sets for the initial start-up phase, with a preference to employ workers previously employed in the native timber industry.

Round 2 of the Forestry Transition Fund is now open. Proposal must supports job creation and business development in communities impacted by the end of native timber harvesting.

A \$20,000 employment incentive payment for the employment of ex-native timber workers is also available.

Applications for Round 2 will close on 31 October 2025, For more information visit deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry or call 1800 318 182.

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"Four Peaks is a great example of where an enterprising community member has seen a need for skilled labour and found a way to fill that gap, while also providing employment opportunities for ex-native timber workers."

Quote attributable to member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh

"The Forestry Transition Fund has already supported many exciting projects throughout Gippsland, and I look forward to seeing more coming through round 2 of the grant program."

Quotes attributable to Four Peaks Pastoral Pty Ltd Owner Stewart Moroney

"The Transition Fund Round 1 grant has accelerated the business by at least two years in terms of growth. It's been incredible."

"The grant has allowed us to purchase plant and equipment so we're able to create employment opportunities for the local region."

Media contact: Liam Miles 0492 504 682 | liam.miles@minstaff.vic.gov.au