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Mining industry could offer career alternatives for forestry workers

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies' (AMEC) says that today's decision by the State Government to bring an end to native logging by the end of 2023 will have significant implications for many workers, their families, and their communities; and is confident the mining industry could offer a career alternative.

"This announcement will surely leave many workers uncertain about their employment and their futures. However, many of these workers may find new prospects in the State's growing mining industry," said AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

"The timber industry has many correlations with the mining industry. We both employ a highly skilled workforce, many roles are in semi or heavy industrial sites, and each have a significant transport and logistics task."

"The Western Australian mining industry is currently experiencing a labour shortage in many of these areas, skilled workers may well find new and rewarding opportunities in our industry."

"As of 8 September, Seek.com showed 3,450 jobs being advertised in WA's mining, resources and energy industry, 131 of those located in the South West and Great Southern region. Thousands of the State's FIFO workforce already call the South West home."

"In speaking with a number of member companies today, I've been extremely pleased to find that these companies are very interested to see how these forestry workers could be re-deployed in our industry."

"The Association will work with our member companies and the State Government to look at opportunities for these workers to take up roles in our industry, as the native timber industry goes through this difficult transition and the State Government develops a detailed transitional plan."

"While not all of these workers will want to work in the mining industry, this is an opportunity for forestry workers to continue to use their skills in another of Western Australia's primary industries," said Mr Pearce.

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