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## Media Release

15 June 2021

### **AFPA NSW highlights opportunities for wood-based alternatives in NSW Plastics Action Plan**

The Australian Forest Products Association NSW (AFPA NSW) has welcomed the NSW Government's Plastics Action Plan.

AFPA NSW CEO Sue Grau said NSW forest industries already play a significant role in the circular economy and stand ready to play a greater role in replacing plastics.

"Our industry is key for developing paper, cardboard and bioproduct alternatives for conventional plastics, boosting recycling and reducing waste, as well as lowering carbon emissions," Ms Grau said.

"Wood and paper products can be used as replacements for single-use plastic items and other materials that have higher emissions intensity. This will contribute to a successful transition from fossil fuels.

"These innovations are happening right now in Australia and around the world: [Woolworths](#) offers paper bags made in Australia as an alternative to single-use plastic bags, Nestle is replacing plastic [bottles](#) and [packaging](#) with wood fibre bioplastics, and [biochemicals](#) made from wood residues are replacing fossil fuel-based chemicals in pharmaceuticals, agrichemicals and industrial solvents."

Ms Grau said the NSW Government's Action Plan has the potential to unlock new wood-based bioproduct industries and she looked forward to briefing the Government on these opportunities.

"The Berejiklian Government understands how vital forest industries are to the state's economy, adding \$7 billion annually and employing over 21,000 people.

"As an industry, we need to promote environmental benefits of using more forest products and we look forward to engaging with the Government to support the growth of our sustainable industry," Ms Grau concluded.

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For media enquiries contact Joe Prevedello on 0491 205 633.