

Media Release

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



Friday, 17 October 2025

HELPING FARMERS REALISE THE VALUE OF THEIR PLANTATIONS

The Allan Labor Government is helping landowners grow more trees on farms and extract greater value from their existing plantations through a new program starting in the north east.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the start of the Trees on Farms Utilisation (ToFU) Program, a \$4.5 million initiative that will help farm forestry plantation owners make the most of their existing plantations.

Through the program, eligible landowners can access a free professional assessment of their plantations, providing tailored insights into timber quality, market opportunities, and next steps – all with no cost or obligation.

If an assessment identifies a commercial opportunity, landowners may be eligible for funding for management activities in later stages of the program, such as thinning, to improve their plantation for enhanced timber quality and market access.

The launch includes local government areas of Moira Shire Council, Indigo Shire Council, City of Wodonga, Towong Shire Council, Greater Shepparton City Council, Benalla Rural City Council, Rural City of Wangaratta, Strathbogie Shire Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Mansfield Shire Council.

To be eligible under the program, plantings must be between 3 and 30 hectares, planted before 2020 specifically for wood production, and not already allocated or committed for sale.

Launching initially in the state's north east, the program will be extended to the rest of the state early next year.

This initiative supplements the suite of programs available through the Trees on Farms program which helps farmers plant more trees.

Applications for the program in the north east will close on 19 December 2025. For more information on the programs or to apply today visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/trees-on-farms.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"We're helping farmers to strengthen their farm business while securing a more reliable timber supply for Victoria's future."

"Strong farm businesses mean strong local communities with more jobs, more investment, and a stronger regional economy."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"This is a great opportunity for local landowners to get more value from their plantations, making it easier for farmers to see the benefits of the trees they've already planted."