

# Video transcript: Supporting the Transition from Native Timber Harvesting

## About this audit

Native timber harvesting ended in Victoria on 1 January 2024. This affected over 1,000 workers and 200 businesses.

The government launched the Forestry Transition Program, with \$320 million to support those affected.

We did this audit to look at how the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is delivering the program, and if it's working as intended.

## What we concluded

The program is helping workers and businesses to adjust.

But there are issues with how the department is administering the program and tracking how well it's working.

We found 3 key reasons for this.

### Key reason 1

Businesses that received support are still operating. And most people who lost their jobs have found new work or retired. But the quality and security of new jobs is unclear.

### Key reason 2

There are gaps in the department's record keeping and oversight processes. This means it can't show it has always followed program rules when making support payments.

### Key reason 3

The department monitors the program. But the information it collects isn't enough to determine if workers and businesses need further support.

## What we recommended

We made 4 recommendations to the department about:

- measuring and verifying the program's outcomes
- improving consistency and assurance when administering grants
- capturing the program's long-term outcomes
- and using lessons to improve future support programs.

## More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to [audit.vic.gov.au](http://audit.vic.gov.au)