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ISSUE 498 | February 15, 2018

New era for wood construction

COVER STORY P9



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Delegation gets ear of PM on Chinese log trading practices

JIM BOWDEN

TRADING practices of Chinese log buyers in Australia, claimed to be in breach of World Trade Organisation regulations, were the subject of a private meeting with the Prime Minister in Canberra last week by a delegation of timber sawmillers and manufacturers.

T&F enews understands that after the meeting Malcolm Turnbull directed Senator Anne Ruston, assistant minister responsible for forestry, to investigate the matter and this was confirmed this week by the senator's office.

In fact, T&F enews understands federal inquiries have already been made with state government departments asking for harvest export data from private properties, which appears to be lacking.

The delegation was accompanied by Tony Pasin, Liberal MP for Barker, SA, who instigated the meeting at Parliament House. The Minister for Trade Steven



Off to China... buying spree for Australian logs.

Ciobo was also privy to the meeting.

T&F enews understands the discussions with the PM centred on concerns by industry stakeholders that Chinese log buyers were negotiating payments two to three times above domestic prices and were subsidised by the Chinese government to do so.

This in itself – ‘subsidised trading’ – would constitute an illegal practice.

Industry watchers contacted this week said

they believed this had been standard practice by Chinese traders for at least the last two years with thousands of cubic metres of logs a year, both plantation softwoods and native hardwoods from private holdings, reported to be stockpiled at central transit yards in rural towns for container shipment to China.

“PAYMENTS NEGOTIATED THREE TIMES ABOVE DOMESTIC PRICES”

Also logging practices on some private properties was questionable.

The delegation agreed to start inquiries with their counterparts in the US and New Zealand to determine how widespread the problem had become.

“As wood manufacturers, we’re deeply concerned about the wholesale buying of timber by China and the threat to sovereignty and jobs,” said one member of the delegation interviewed this week.

“It’s about a circular economy ..., and negotiating the purchase of the domestic product at a fair price – a price that’s genuinely transparent commercially, which we don’t have.”

He said there had been a paradigm shift in the wood business; if the Chinese continued to increase their price offers for logs above the domestic price – any logs they could find – then the processing industry here

Cont P 3



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MGA TMA on mission to build membership base across sector

IT'S official ... the Timber Merchants Association (Victoria) has joined forces with Master Grocers Australia to form MGA TMA.

"We have experienced a very rapid and exciting six months of integration and building of vital member support services," the group's membership manager Ann Sanfey said from Melbourne.

Ms Sanfey brings many years of timber and hardware experience with companies such as the Danks Group, Home Timber & Hardware and, more recently, with the Independent Hardware Group (formerly Mitre 10).

"The MGA-TMA merger aims to strengthen and grow the membership of timber and hardware merchants nationally, but importantly it will assist business owners with vital 'back-of-house' services and industry advocacy," Ms Sanfey said.

"In a very short period we have achieved significant progress," management



Ann Sanfey... significant progress.

committee president Peter Alexander of Peuker & Alexander, said at the inaugural industry business luncheon in November last year.

The event, attended by members, industry leaders and stakeholders, was addressed by Acting Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Anne Ruston who spoke passionately about the timber and forestry industry.

"She shared her many experiences and frustrations with the many laws, regulations and restrictions

effecting the current timber supply shortage and logging restrictions in each of the states," Ann Sanfey said.

MGA TMA's strategic plan incorporates an immediate priority to significantly lift the profile of the sector across the industry ... "but very importantly to work with state and federal governments and their departments," Ms Sanfey said.

The group will continue to support the Frederick O'Connell Scholarship, a charity trust originally established to promote timber industry harmony in Australia and improve relationships between employers and employees within the timber industry.

Scholarships, valued up to \$5000, are awarded on the basis of good character, personality and academic achievement.

Contact Ann Sanfey on (03) 9824 4111 or email ann.sanfey@mga.asn.au

www.mga.asn.au

From P 2

was out of wood and out of business.

[The World Trading Organisation (WTO) is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations, and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible].

Terrible impact on industry

DEAR Editor:

It was very distressing to read your report on the movement of the Chinese into our Australian timber industry (T&F enews February 8), having spent so much of my life promoting it – with your support and advice from time to time.

There will be a terrible impact throughout the timber milling industry and its allied businesses if this thoughtless act continues to be allowed

Forestry no doubt

will accept funds as will landowners chasing every dollar, in an act of foolishness bringing death to sawmilling operations Queensland-wide.

By all means promote the finished product – but, please, don't sell the raw material.

There is no doubt that you and fellow media members will call for common sense

Let us hope and pray that that advice will be listened to and heeded.

CHARLES ACHILLES (retired sawmiller), Springwood, Qld.



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*Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA)

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CFMEU supports Senate decision: 'don't weaken illegal logging laws'

THE Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union has supported a decision by the Senate to block an attempt by the federal government to weaken the illegal logging import ban.

"This should be a wake-up call for the government to get serious about protecting Australian jobs from unfair and illegal trade," CFMEU national secretary Michael O'Connor said.

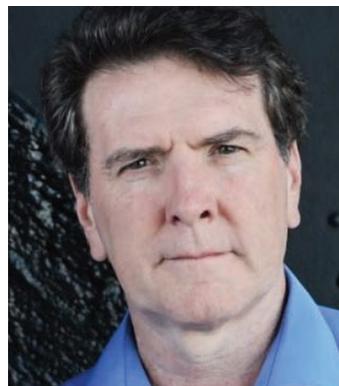
He said stringent

“CFMEU WILL CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN FOR A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

enforcement of laws to defend Australian jobs against unfair imports — including timber, paper and wood products made from illegally logged forests, dumped and unfairly subsidised manufactured products, and deadly, substandard building products — would remain a core part of the CFMEU's business going forward.

"CFMEU members and our communities will continue to campaign for a level playing field for our industries in defense of local union jobs," Mr O'Connor said.

Over the course of several months, the CFMEU has briefed and lobbied senators about the government's changes, warning that if they



Michael O'Connor... wake-up call for the government.

were not stopped it would increase the danger of illegally logged timber imports.

Labor, the Greens and Senator Derryn Hinch, who moved the disallowance motion, were joined by SA Best Federal and One Nation to defeat the elements of the government's changes.

"This decision by the Senate is a great result for our

members and workers in our industry," O'Connor said.

"Illegal logging not only causes terrible social, economic and environmental damage overseas, it also undercuts Australia's forestry and forest products industries."

The federal government on October 5 last year released a controversial plan to weaken the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act of 2012 (ILPA). If accepted, wood products from overseas certified by the Forest Stewardship Council or the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification would immediately be accepted for import, and be exempt from critical information gathering requirements to prove they were legally harvested.

Opponents of the plan say voluntary timber certification cannot replace legal compliance.

Growth year tipped for commercial buildings

ACTIVITY in the commercial construction sector is set to have the best year in more than a decade.

"With forecast growth of more than 14.5% (equal to \$5.3 billion) commercial building activity will be strong enough on its own to drag the whole industry back into positive territory for the first time in four years," Master Builders Australia national manager, economics, Matthew Pollock said.

The latest building and construction industry forecasts produced by Master Builders Australia show total commercial construction

activity is expected to contribute \$42 billion to the economy in 2017-18.

"With a small moderation expected in the value of residential construction work and another year of consolidation in the engineering sector, the timing of this surge in commercial construction couldn't be better," Mr Pollock said.

"Better yet, new commercial construction projects will provide job opportunities for workers who may be finishing up on major high-density residential projects," he said.



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FEBRUARY

23: Free native management field day – Slacks hardwood property, cnr Berries Road and Isis Hwy (approx. 16 km west of Childers). 9 am-3 pm. Updates on legislation, codes of practice, trigger maps and notification of forest practice; current timber products and what they are worth; latest growth results from 10 yo regrowth thinned trials; optimal tree stocking – selecting the best trees to retain for grazing and timber production; fire management. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd, Private Forestry Service Qld. (07) 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com

MARCH

6-7: ABARES Outlook 2018 – ‘Creating Value in an increasingly Connected World’ – National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Australia’s premier information and networking forum for the agriculture and economics sectors. Join delegates from across agricultural industries to hear from leading national and international speakers. Early bird rate if registered before Christmas. Visit www.agriculture.gov.au/abares

21: All-industry lunch – Brisbane. Celebrating United Nations International Day of

Forests. Time, venue program to be advised.

APRIL

18-20: Timber Queensland’s 2nd Biennial State Conference – Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane. ‘Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Room to Grow’. Visit www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

JUNE

18-19: FRAME 2018 conference and exhibition – Park Hyatt Melbourne. Focus on timber offsite construction, expanding local and global markets for timber buildings and the digital future ahead in design, manufacture and construction of timber frame multi-residential and mass timber commercial buildings. Contact Kevin Ezard, conference director, Frame Australia. Mob: 0419 538 638. Email: kevin@frameaustralia.com Visit www.frameaustralia.com

20-21: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Melbourne, Australia.

26-27: FIEA Woodflow 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

The objective, with 30-40% of delivered log costs being contributed by transport, is to improve efficiencies through the wood supply chain. It builds on the success of the

HarvestTECH 2017 event. Unique opportunity to learn about innovations being developed and employed to assist in harvest and transport planning, logistics and operations. Visit www.woodflow.events

JULY

12-14: Tlnaugural International Furniture Show Australia – International Convention Centre, Sydney. Presentations by Australian retailers and wholesalers and opportunity to deal directly with global furniture manufacturers from countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan. Excellent platform for Australian manufacturers to reach out to buyers from within Australia and New Zealand. Contact Australasian Furnishing Association at compliance@australianfurniture.org.au

AUGUST

8: FIEA Forest Industry Safety and Technology 2018 – Rotorua, NZ.

15: FIEA Forest Industry Safety and Technology 2018 – Melbourne, Australia.

Covering updates and developments in forest industry safety, as well as providing a space for sharing ideas on how people, culture, technologies and systems are used to improve the safety of workers.

Visit www.forestsafety.events

SEPTEMBER

2-5: IFA and AFG conference – University House, Australian National University. Titled ‘Forests for healthy cities, farms and people’. Title ‘Forests for healthy cities, farms and people’. It will be preceded by AFG’s pre-conference tour from Friday, August 31, to Sunday, September 2. Contact: (02) 6153 3044 or visit www.forestry.org.au

18-19: FIEA Woodech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ. Drymill scanning, wood machining, timber manufacturing. Includes timber scanning and optimisation, timber gluing and laminating, finger-jointing, cross cutting, timber machining, kiln drying and timber finishing technologies. Visit www.woodtech.events

11-12: FIEA WoodTech 2018 – Melbourne, Australia.

18-19: FIEA Woodech 2018 – Rotorua, NZ. Drymill scanning, wood machining, timber manufacturing. Includes timber scanning and optimisation, timber gluing and laminating, finger-jointing, cross cutting, timber machining, kiln drying and timber finishing technologies. Visit www.woodtech.events



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Vegetation review: ‘Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater’

THE upcoming review of vegetation management regulation in Queensland is an opportunity to promote the important role sustainable forestry plays in promoting healthy landscapes and protecting reef catchments, says Timber Queensland.

CEO Mick Stephens says the timber industry in Queensland has a long history of selective timber harvesting in accordance with the native forestry code of practice.

“This code requires ongoing forest cover and prescriptions to protect biodiversity values and soil and water resources, thereby helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef,” he said.

“Queensland has large areas of private and indigenous native forest that already benefit from active forest management. Selective timber harvesting allows for healthy and vigorous growing stands that are more resilient against threats from bushfires and other stresses such as drought.

Furthermore, Mr Stephens



1/ **Talking timber...**Blackall-Tambo deputy mayor Lindsay Russell, councillor Pam Pullos and staff member Alison Shaw, show Agriculture Minister Mark Furner through the operation of the Tambo sawmill.

Photo: Queensland Country Life

2/ **Mick Stephens...** real opportunities for forestry.

said, for remnant vegetation the code ‘requires that the forest structure and species composition is maintained, and that the forest is maintained as remnant vegetation or within 20 years of forestry operations the vegetation will meet the definition of remnant vegetation’.

“This clearly demonstrates the benign impact of forestry

operations and requirements to ensure ecological values are maintained into the future,” Mr Stephens said.

He said the current debate around remnant vegetation was not a forestry issue; it was an agricultural land use issue in terms of broadacre

vegetation clearing for crops and pasture.

“Unfortunately, many landowners are clearing these areas due to sovereign risk and concerns over potential future vegetation rule changes,” he said.

“However, there are some real opportunities for forestry to play a greater role as a beneficial land use for many landholders that can help diversify farm incomes.

“This can be a massive ‘win-win’ for the industry and the environment, since ecological values are maintained while providing timber resources and other agricultural benefits.

“Retained trees provide biodiversity, shade and shelter for livestock, boost carbon sequestration and protect against wind and soil erosion.

“It will therefore be important not to throw the baby out with the bathwater with any proposed changes to the vegetation laws, as forestry is a beneficial land use when it comes to delivering economic and

“ DEMONSTRATES BENIGN IMPACT OF FORESTRY OPERATIONS

Cont P 7

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From P 6

environmental benefits for landholders and the state government.”

Mr Stephens added: “In fact, one of our key goals is to promote greater awareness of the benefits of forestry practices among landholders, given its potential to protect reef catchments in both remnant and non-remnant vegetation areas.

“Timber Queensland is advocating for a decade-long \$10 million farm forestry program to deliver greater R&D and extension for private forestry management.”

Mr Stephens said he was looking forward to discussing these opportunities with the state’s new Agriculture Minister Mark Furner in the

next week or so.

The Palaszczuk government made a strong commitment in the recent election to support the timber industry and ensure a profitable and sustainable future that maximises the economic potential of the state’s native forests, he said.

“There are also important links to the national forest industries plan announced by the Prime Minister in September last year,” Mr Stephens said.

“Timber Queensland is advocating that appropriate recognition is provided in the plan to maximise the growth potential from private native forestry activities in northern Australia – in addition to growing the plantation and farm forestry estate through new plantings.”

Mark Furner committed to pushing for committee hearings in the regions likely to be most impacted by foreshadowed changes to vegetation management laws when he visited Tambo in central west Queensland last

“MAXIMISING GROWTH POTENTIAL OF PRIVATE FORESTS

week.

Along with Blackall-Tambo councillors, he engaged with a group of six landholders plus AgForce representatives who spent time explaining their perspective on tree clearing and the effect legislation changes would be likely to have.

Grazier Barry Mayne, who

operates Tarabah, station north of Tambo, which has been with the family since the 1800s, said an ability to thin a cypress pine monoculture, opening it up to sunlight and air, had been a boon for biodiversity on the property.

“The environment wins, the grazier wins, and forestry wins too, because the pine trees can start to grow again,” he said.

“I seriously hope we can keep managing it.”

While in Tambo, Mr Furner inspected the sawmill that has been operational since August last year and heard there had been a 20% boost in school enrolments and an extra teacher put on since the timber industry restarted in the region.

Nation’s renovations boom ramping up: MBA

A FORECAST boom in renovations is ramping up and is expected to average \$8.8 billion a year and top \$44 billion over the next five years.

Building and construction industry forecasts produced by Master Builders Australia show that the surge in the pipeline of alterations and

additions (renovations) work for residential builders kicked off in 2017,” national manager, economic, Matthew Pollock said.

“Last year renovation building work reached a decade high with activity topping \$8.3 billion,” he said.

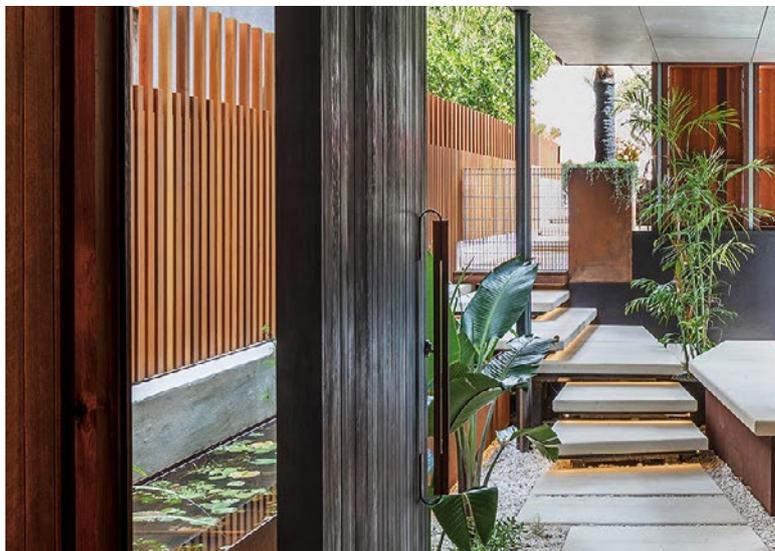
“Importantly, it has provided a much needed

lifeline for small building businesses outside of Melbourne and Sydney who have seen the new housing construction side of their businesses struggle in the last few years.

Mr Pollock said while the boom in new dwelling construction had been centred on the Sydney and

Melbourne markets, this was forecast to be reversed with the boom in renovation work.

“We expect growth to be strongest in South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland which is great news for our members in those states who have been doing it tough,” Mr Pollock added.



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IFA funds forestry leader program

Workshops structured for four state regions

DEVELOPING tomorrow's leaders – people with the knowledge and skills to collaboratively drive the future – is a long-standing goal of the Australian forest and wood products industry.

Funded by the Institute of Foresters of Australia, 'For Our Future, the Regional Forestry Collaborative Leadership Program', addresses this by offering professional-level leadership development to industry participants.

Structured around four four-day regional workshops in Mount Gambier, Tumut, Bunbury and Gympie (or surrounds), followed by a combined national five-day workshop in Melbourne, the program will be delivered by a consortium comprising the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, Leadership Victoria and leadership development trainer Polykala.

IFA expects 12 participants in each region (48 in total) to enrol in the pilot program, which will run from February to June 2018.



Participants will be expected to attend nine workshop days, plus deliver pre-work and group projects.

This significant commitment of individual and employer time reflects the value and stature of the program and its anticipated outcomes.

IFA will fund up to five registrations (\$1000 each) to the program and FWPA will be providing accommodation for participants.

Registrants will incur their own travel costs, such as flights, fuel, etc.

Selected participants will be expected to write a report to the IFA Newsletter and The Forester, which may be used



Professor Robin Chazdon... rising to the challenge of the global forest estate.

in other IFA media.

To access this funding, participants must be an IFA member, 35 years old or younger.

"You don't necessarily need to be a Young Professional member, but it is important that you have demonstrated professional experience in the forest and/or wood products industries," IFA said.

Candidates will be assessed by an IFA

“NATIONAL FIVE-DAY WORKSHOP IN MELBOURNE

scholarship committee.

Meanwhile, the Jack Westoby Lecture at ANU at 6 pm on February 26, will be given by Professor Robin Chazdon, University of Connecticut and University of the Sunshine Coast, on the subject 'Whose woods are these? Rising to the challenge of managing the global forest estate'.

Prof. Chazdon is professor emerita in the ecology and evolutionary biology department at the University of Connecticut and research professor with the Tropical Forests and People Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

She is also a fellow with the World Resources Institute Global Restoration Initiative, working to enhance decision support tools for landscape restoration and promote natural regeneration in restoration planning.

Her long-term and on-going collaborative research focuses on successional pathways, forest dynamics, drivers of land-use change, and functional ecology of trees in neo-tropical forests.

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FWPA ushers in a new era for commercial wood construction

Breakthrough for fire-protected timber to eight-storeys

QUICKER, cheaper and greener construction of retail shops, carparks, storage warehouses, laboratories, hospitals, schools and aged care facilities would be enabled under proposed changes to the draft 2019 National Construction Code.

The move would make it easier to use fire-protected timber in all buildings up to eight storeys in height and builds on the program of work undertaken by Forest and Wood Products Australia, which previously coordinated similar changes for apartments, hotels and offices into the NCC 2016.

FWPA's proposal has achieved the support of the Australian Building Codes Board's technical committee – which includes a broad range of representative industry groups such as the fire services, architects, builders, building surveyors, building designers, engineers as well as state planning and building authorities – with extensive modelling to demonstrate timber construction systems can meet the required building and fire safety standards.

“REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF TIMBER”

Timber construction systems permitted under the code would include both traditional 'stick' framing and newer 'massive' timber building systems utilising glue-laminated timber and LVL



as well as cross-laminated timber products used in buildings such as Library at the Dock in Melbourne and International House in Sydney.

FWPA national manager, codes and standards Boris Iskra, said that under the proposed changes, builders and developers wanting to use timber would no longer have to undertake time consuming and expensive 'performance solutions' to gain building approval, as long as their designs met the deemed-to-satisfy requirements.

"At FWPA, we do everything we can to remove unnecessary restrictions on the use of timber," he said. "In 2016, we were successful with introducing similar changes for apartments,

hotels and offices – and now we're on the brink of extending that to other types of buildings.

"We're proud to have successfully made the case to the authorities that timber can meet the required standards, and would urge the timber industry and progressive builders and developers to make submissions supporting the proposed changes to the code – it's a great opportunity."

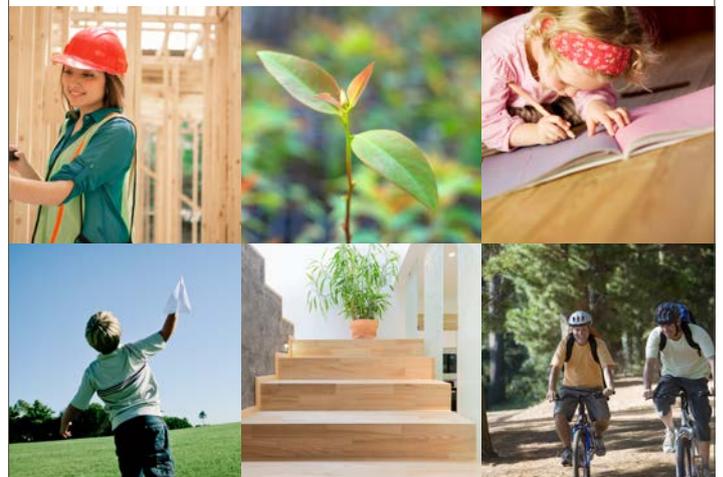
Fire protection measures under the proposed changes include fire-protective grade plasterboard; fire-resisting

Cont P 10

1/ Change for the better... proposed changes to the draft 2019 National Construction Code would make it easier to use fire-protected timber in all buildings of up to eight storeys.

2/ Boris Iskra... a great opportunity.

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From P 9

cavity barriers; and a compliant sprinkler system; as well as hydrants, hose reels and portable fire extinguishers as required.

The proposed extension of the NCC 2016 to the remaining classes of buildings would also provide a baseline on which performance solutions could be considered to enable a consistency of

“ROBUST AND RELIABLE FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

fire engineered solutions. It would also provide building design professionals, regulators and the community with a consistent, safe, viable and sustainable construction building material option.

The fire safety assessment demonstrates that structural timber building elements protected by specified non-combustible coverings can achieve at least equivalent levels of safety to that of non-combustible construction or, concrete or masonry construction, subject to the following conditions: the proposed changes apply to all classes of buildings or parts

of a building; buildings have an effective height of not more than 25 m; buildings are protected by automatic fire sprinklers complying with Specification E1.5 of the NCC; all fire-protected timber elements achieve, as a minimum, the fire-resistance levels nominated in the NCC and meet the additional covering material criteria; and cavity barriers are provided to minimise the risk of fire spread through concealed spaces and cavities.

The proposed changes would deliver buildings that provide at least an equivalent level of safety to traditional

DTS designs, specifically through the use of robust and reliable fire safety systems, such as passive fire protection (e.g. fire-grade plasterboard) and fire sprinkler systems.

Note: The draft 2019 National Construction Code can be found at www.abcb.gov.au/Consultation/Public-Comment-Draft and is open for public and industry comment until April 13.

On the cover... pushing the message on breakthrough changes proposed to the National Construction Code at the FWPA offices in Melbourne are Boris Iskra, national manager, codes and standards, and Andreea Spoiala, marketing and communications coordinator.

Global forest systems: two-day program in Canberra

THE ForestLearning a program of Forest and Wood Products Australia, in conjunction with the World Forestry Centre's Rick Zenn, invites participants to attend the

first Australian adaptation of the internationally renowned International Educators Institute (IEI) program at the Canberra National Arboretum on May 2 and 3.



Rick Zenn... sharing knowledge.

program in conjunction with VicForests' Liz Langford, and other Australian alumni of the Oregon program.

“Combining content-rich, hands-on experiences outdoors with an exchange of best practices in forest and wood education, Australia’s own International Educators Institute seeks to advance effective teaching and learning about Australian forests in the context of global systems,” ForestLearning education program manager Beth Welden said.

“User-friendly educational materials and media along with individual and small group exercises, will allow participants to capture and share their learning experience with colleagues, organisations and communities at home.”

The program offers guided tours through a variety of forest types planted within Canberra’s National Arboretum to share different perspectives on teaching and learning and sustainable forestry practices.

Contact Beth Welden on 0490 857 058 or email beth@forestlearning.edu.au

Participants are invited from professionals working in forestry, wood processing and products, education, communications, government, natural resource management, universities and schools

The program aims to advance effective communications, teaching and learning about the interrelated social, economic and environmental challenges facing the earth’s forests, and how this relates to an Australian sustainable forest and wood system.

For the first time out of the USA to deliver this program, Rick Zenn, senior fellow at the World Forestry Centre, will be facilitating a two-day

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Amendment AS4707 – C-o-C standard for forest products

Comments closing February 28

THE following amendment is proposed to address a drafting error that potentially affects some certified organisations.

Appendix 2, Implementation of the chain of custody standard by multi-site organisations. Replace: 2.6. The producer group is limited to participation of sites which are domiciled in a single state and which have no more than 100 employees (full time employees equivalent) and a turnover of maximum \$A25,000 with:

2.6 The producer group is limited to participation of sites which are domiciled in a single country and which have no more than 100 employees (full time employees equivalent) and a turnover of maximum \$A25,000.

The word 'country' appears in this clause in the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) chain of custody for forest products standard on which AS 4707 is based. That

word was inadvertently changed to state when the PEFC standard was adapted for Australia. The change may have arisen due to misunderstanding of the significance of state and country in the context of the European Union, where PEFC originates.

The purpose of this clause is to prevent large companies from grouping together to avoid individual certification. This purpose is achieved by the restrictions on numbers of employees and on turnover. The restriction on operating in a single state in Australia is therefore unnecessarily restrictive in Australia, where businesses commonly operate in more than one state.

Comments may be addressed to: info@responsiblewood.org.au or to: Responsible Wood, PO Box 786 New Farm Q 4005.

Comments will be accepted until February 28, 2018.

Growth in double certification

THERE has been a further increase in double certified forest area in absolute terms, according to the most recent data released by PEFC and FSC, the two global forest certification systems.

While the total global certified area grew between December 2016 and June

2017 by 3.7 million ha, the double certified area increased by almost 1 million ha, or 25% of the growth.

In total, 431.4 million ha of forests were certified to either PEFC or FSC in mid-2017, of which 71.1 million ha or 16.5% was double certified.



Call for proposals

Forest and Wood Products Australia R&D project funding opportunities February 2018

Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) invites the submission of research, development and extension proposals for project funding commencing from 1 May 2018 addressing FWPA program priorities. Details of FWPA operational programs and program priorities are outlined in the 2017 – 2022 FWPA strategic plan accessible at www.fwpa.com.au

FWPA project funding is offered via two streams.

1. Industry levyⁱ

For projects funded from forest and wood product industry levies, a minimum of 50% stakeholder co-investment (cash and in kind) is required. Project outcomes should be readily transferable to the wider industry base with a focus on measurable industry uptake and adoption. Strong emphasis is placed on direct industry participation and input into the project activities.

2. Voluntary matchingⁱⁱ

Under the voluntary matching program, FWPA can provide up to 1:1 matched funding against cash commitments by external investors in support of project proposals. Projects funded under this program must clearly demonstrate the concept of additionality, that the activities being funded would not have been undertaken by the collaborators in the absence of the voluntary matching program. Financial co-investments must be received from a minimum of two external non-related entities. Project objectives must align to industry and Government research priorities and the project outputs must be accessible by the broader industry. Funds contributed by research providers and State and Commonwealth R&D programs are not eligible for matching under this program.

In general FWPA project funding is provided for projects up to three years duration and up to \$200,000 per year. However in specific cases with demonstrated industry support and participation, larger budgets can be supported contingent on suitable co-investment levels by project collaborators.

Completed research proposals including confirmed project co-investments as well as letters of support and endorsement are due by Friday 23 March 2018. Proposals are to be submitted using the form available from www.fwpa.com.au/resources.html

Completed proposals should be submitted to grants@fwpa.com.au

For further information please contact:

**Program 2 - Aligning products to market needs &
Program 3 - Assisting value chain optimisation**

Chris Lafferty | Manager, Research Development and Extension
(03) 9927 3220
chris.lafferty@fwpa.com.au

Program 4 - Increasing resource availability and reducing risk

Jodie Mason | Forest Research Manager
0427 357 867
jodie.mason@fwpa.com.au

ⁱ Includes matching contributions from the Australian Government under the Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2007

ⁱⁱ Funds are sourced from Commonwealth matching payments under Section 26.3 of the FWPA Statutory Funding Agreement 2017 - 2021

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The Brazilians think we're dopey ... as they plant millions of our Aussie eucalypts

SO it's my second column – and it's exciting!

My theme this time is trees. So let's try waving a felling head around for a solid day while constantly confronted by a wall of trees. It seems that they and the plantation just go on forever.

It sometimes burns my brain. I have this recurrent dream – or nightmare – and I am not always in the grip of the grape. This night time adventure somehow taps into the haunting Johnny Cash version of Ghost Riders in the Sky. *I hear that verse: Their faces gaunt, their eyes were blurred, their shirts all soaked with sweat. He's riding hard to catch that herd, but he ain't caught 'em yet.' Cause they've got to ride forever on that range up in the sky – on horses snorting fire as they ride on hear their cry.*

Am I destined to be chasing trees with a felling head for all eternity?

I guess what's really silly about the nightmare is that I know – we all know – that trees just won't go on forever. In fact the reality really is something that should keep all of us awake at night.

New plantations are just not being established. If I owned a sawmill – rather than a few pieces of logging equipment and a couple of utes – I would really be worried about what I will do in say 15 to 20 years when softwood plantations are going to start to look very much like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard.



There's an awful lot of wood in Brazil... eucalypt plantations, a gift from Australia.

TRUNK LINES



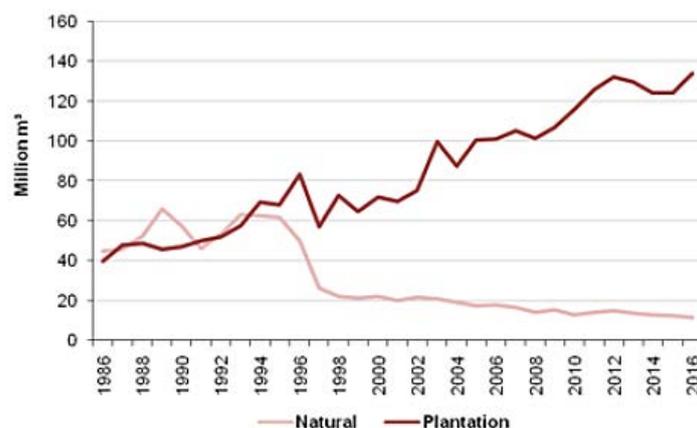
With **CHERYL FORREST**

Can someone please tell me where the wood is going

to come from to supply the new X-Lam operation just down the road from here, or the new Borg particleboard mill at Oberon or Visy's planned third paper line at the Tumut mill?

“CAN SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHERE THE WOOD IS GOING TO COME FROM?”

BRAZIL'S FORESTS



Brazil's forests: Annual volume production increasingly dominated by 7.8 million ha of mainly eucalypt plantations.

And while I am asking questions, how come Brazil's forest industry future that you thought was based on logging in the Amazon will be squarely centered on eucalypt plantations?

I am not big on graphs, and promise not to use then in the future, but take a look at this one below. It come from a discussion I had with Professor Ivan Tomaselli. He is the very impressive president of the South American forestry and engineering global consultancy STCP.

Ivan explained how Brazil has enthusiastically embraced the humble Australian gum tree and now has millions and millions of hectares of the little buggers.

He asked me why Australia isn't planting its own trees. I said we were a generous if not simple people. Eucalypts were our gift to the world, I said. It's a real pity we don't plant them at home!

So can we please get our A's into gear and get planting – pine trees or gum trees, they're all good. Otherwise my Ghost Riders in the Sky nightmare will be nothing compared to Lynda Sewell's – who now owns a sawmill – or Visy's James Pratt or Borg's Jim Snelson.

Let's stop being a laughing stock in Brazil and get those trees in the ground!

Catch you next time,

Cheryl

Editor: Keen to hear your thoughts. cancon@bigpond.net.au

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It's the leftover not the turnover

Margins getting smaller, so savings on overheads improves the bottom line

MARK O'DONOGHUE

IF a new customer paid you \$8000 in return for one hour of your time, would you be willing to do that work?

There would be very few people who would say no.

Similarly, if you could save \$8000 in expenses for the same one hour of your time, would you be just as keen to do that?

That \$8000 is the saving on a \$300,000 truck if you manage to obtain finance at an interest rate which was 1% less than you were initially offered.

Unlike home loans, truck and equipment finance is NOT all the same. There are many financiers out there keen to compete for the business; spending an hour doing your research or using a broker to do that for you, then savings of 1% or more is often achievable.

In a world where margins

“ SPENDING AN HOUR DOING YOUR RESEARCH BRINGS SAVINGS



1/ **Unlike home loans, truck and equipment finance is not all the same.**

2/ **Mark O'Donoghue**

overheads just means more profit to the bottom line.

As the age old saying goes: It's the leftover not the turnover which is important.

• *Mark O'Donoghue is group CEO and managing director, Finlease (Australia) Pty Ltd*

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- Fire management.

Contact Bronwyn Lloyd, Private Forestry Service Qld. Tel: 07 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com

First Gottstein wood science course in Canberra a resounding success

Lecturers addressed participants from all over Australia

KENIA VIEIRA SCHMITT

THE Gottstein wood science course from February 5 to 9 was held in Canberra for the first time. Partnerships with both the Fenner School of Environment and Society (ANU) and the University House (ANU) brought course participants to the ACT where they had both theoretical and practical lessons about wood sciences, presented by a group of first-class lecturers.

The 27 participants came from all over Australia – Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT.

Hyne Timber, a Gottstein Trust patron, sent six employees to the course, the biggest contingent from one company.

Many other Gottstein sponsors sent both participants and presenters, and the trust was delighted to see new faces and partnerships arising from this course.

This year, participants had the opportunity to tour the National Arboretum, guided by Associate Professor Cris Brack (Fenner School ANU) as well as a visit to Visy's pulp and paper mill in Tumut, guided by Dean Hawkins, Visy's fibre and forestry manager, and Hyne Timber's softwood sawmill in Tumbarumba, guided by Mat Thompson, site plan controller, and long-time Gottstein wood course presenter.

A big thank you to Visy and



Enjoying the Gottstein wood science course in Canberra... from left, front: Victor Volante (AFPA), Jason Gill (Timberlink Australia), Yao Dai (University of Melbourne), and Jordan Ironside (Hyne). Second row: Laurance Richie (WoodSolutions), Jay Fowler (Forico), Tegan Brown (DEWLP), Shanelle Helmstedt (Hyne), Rana Ramos (CHEP), Beth Welden (Forest Learning), Clair Hammond (EWPA), Kenia Schmitt (course coordinator, Gottstein Trust), Matthew Sheridan (Xlam), and Simon Prebbles (Hyne). Back row: Warren Rippey (Lonza), Tamati Timoko (Wesbeam), Tom Rickerby (Wesbeam), John Meehan (Porta), Leon Holt (VicForests), Ashley Wilson (David's Timber), Kenneth McDermott (Hyne), Harrison Brooke (EWPA), Rhys Downham (ABARES), John Irwin (Hyne), and Chris Flood (ACT Parks).

Hyne, particularly Dean and Mat, for making the field trip possible.

Course participants also had the opportunity to interact with others in the industry during the Gottstein dinner on February 8. Professor Phil Evans from the University of British Columbia was a course presenter and dinner speaker, travelling from Canada for the occasion.

The Gottstein Trust owes a deep debt of gratitude to the support from Ian Thompson, first assistant secretary, sustainable agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division, and Andrew Wilson, director of national forest policy, Department

of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Course participants also had the opportunity to meet this year's Gottstein scholarship recipient Sam Van Hosbeeck, who spoke about 'forest and wood residues – bioenergy', the theme of his PhD studies at the University of Sunshine Coast.

The Gottstein Trust especially appreciated the support from Professor

Saul Cunningham, director of the Fenner School (ANU), Professor Cris Brack (ANU), and Professor Peter Kanowski (ANU), for their support at this year's course.

Comments received from participants at the close of the course included:

"Good background in a number of aspects I haven't had access to." (John Meehan – Porta)

"Great course, I learnt a lot!" (Warren Rippey – Lonza)

"Overall an amazing experience. Will recommend to colleagues." (Anonymous).

• Kenia Vieira Schmitt is secretary of the JW Gottstein Memorial Trust, based in Canberra.

“DELIGHTED TO SEE NEW PARTNERSHIPS ARISING FROM THE COURSE

Sumitomo Forestry envisions 70-storey wooden skyscraper

TOKYO-based Sumitomo Forestry aims to plant a 350 m wooden building in the Japanese capital in 2041 as it relies less on home construction in a greying and shrinking Japan.

The 70-storey skyscraper would grace the Marunouchi business district under plans announced last week. It would be reinforced with steel for earthquake resistance.

No such project beyond seven storeys has been planned in Japan until now.

The mixed-use facility will include housing, retail, office, hotel and residential facilities in its 455,000 sq m of floor space. Construction costs are estimated at \$US5.5 billion.

The 185,000 cub m of wood



Artist's impression of the all-timber lobby for the Sumitomo wooden skyscraper in Tokyo.

needed would be enough for 8000 of the company's built-to-order homes.

Sumitomo Forestry will research wood-based materials that can withstand flames for three hours. The plans also include waterfalls and such fire-resistant native

plants as *Camellia sasanqua*

“SUMITOMO STRENGTHENS FOCUS ON MID-SIZE AND LARGE BUILDINGS”

on the exterior of the building.

The company intends to build a 14-storey, 70 m wooden building as a steppingstone.

With housing starts seen decreasing as the Japanese population ages, Sumitomo Forestry is exploring other applications for wood materials and strengthening its focus on midsize and large buildings.

In November, it formed a capital alliance with construction engineering company Kumagai Gumi, which built the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taiwan. The building was officially classified as the world's tallest in 2004, and remained such until the completion of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai in 2010.

Forest industry adds \$1.405bn to WA regional communities

THE forest industry contributed \$649 million to the Western Australian economy last financial year in direct sales alone, and a total of \$1.405 billion once flow-on effects in other industries are included.

That was among the key findings of a new industry

snapshot conducted by the University of Canberra in conjunction with consultancy EconSearch, a division of BDO, and funded by FWPA, the Forest Products Commission and the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia.

In terms of jobs, the WA

forestry industry employed more than 2100 people directly in growing, harvesting and primary processing, and about 45570 once flow-on effects are taken into account. Of these jobs, 508 were generated by the native forest industry, 863 by softwood plantations, and 743 by hardwood plantations.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer said the importance of local processing of wood and fibre for jobs should not be underestimated.

“Fewer jobs are created if logs are harvested and exported with no or little processing,” she said.

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SA election challenge: \$77m ask to double value of timber industry

AFPA launches 'building blocks for manufacturing growth'

SOUTH Australian political parties and their candidates were this week urged to adopt a 10-point, \$77 million plan to double the economic value of timber manufacturing in the state and create thousands of jobs in the south east forestry industry.

Officially launching its 'Building Blocks for Growth' plan in Mount Gambier, the Australian Forest Products Association (SA branch) urged local candidates to adopt its recommendations in the lead-up to the state election on March 17.

In what is effectively an 'ask of government' document, AFPA seeks a commitment of \$40 million over four years for infrastructure improvements in regional forestry areas with matching commonwealth funding.

AFPA said the infrastructure request follows a \$40 million Victorian government commitment to upgrade similar infrastructure on its side of the border, making upgrades in South Australia necessary to enhance safety and increase productivity.

In addition, AFPA wants \$10 million for "last mile" productivity enhancing infrastructure such as power upgrades or heavy vehicle turning lanes.

In terms of reducing their reliance on high emission energy sources, AFPA seeks the establishment of a renewable energy fund with \$10 million in grants and \$10 million in loans over four years.

It also wants \$2 million to support a 10-year forest industries skills plan and \$2



1/ Politicians and a plan... AFPA CEO Ross Hampton (centre) with Labor Party regional legislative council candidate Clare Scriven, independent member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell, Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier Graig Marsh and newly endorsed SA-Best Mount Gambier candidate Kate Amoroso.

2/ 'Building blocks'... plan seeks a softwood timber plantation development project between government, industry and landowners to identify future investment opportunities.

million over four years to support growth in the Mount Gambier National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Hub.

A further \$2 million is needed for a softwood timber plantation development project between government, industry and landowners to identify future investment opportunities.

"Back this plan and you will effectively get our support," AFPA chief executive officer Ross Hampton told candidates during his launch presentation at the OneFortyOne Plantations

Jubilee Highway Sawmill.

"The idea will turbocharge South Australia's forestry industries, which are so important for regional economies and jobs across the state, but particularly in the electorates of Mount Gambier, Mawson and MacKillop," Mr Hampton said.

"The south east is a special region and it is high time

policy makers in Adelaide dedicated real attention and allocated specific support to the area based on its ability to grow income for the state.

"Given the right political and policy attention, we are convinced our industries can become a much-needed job generation engine for the state."

Mr Hampton stressed the importance of innovation and commitment to a "domestic manufacturing first policy".

"This election is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the next state government to stand up for regional jobs and domestic manufacturing by supporting the state's sustainable and renewable forest industries," he said.

Mr Hampton said inaction at state and national level to implement policies to ensure softwood plantings kept pace with population growth meant Australia was experiencing a shortage of softwoods.

He said sufficient softwood supply was the foundation for thousands of jobs in sawmills and frame and truss-making plants across the state.

In addition to infrastructure development, energy generation, plantation development, skilled workers and research and development, the 10-point plan focuses on national resources, domestic timber manufacturing growth, timber industry promotion, bushfire mitigation and the establishment of a governmental advisory committee.

(Border Watch and AFPA)

“IDEA WILL TURBOCHARGE STATE'S FOREST INDUSTRIES”

Wood to build human body parts?

Big scientific advance in nanocellulose research

THE Norwegian non-profit research institute RISE PFI is working on human 'body parts' made out of wood, or, more specifically, nanocellulose.

Pirate-style wooden peg legs may be the first thing that comes to mind, but in this case, the wood refers to tiny fibres that form scaffolds, which together with nutrients and stem cells from the injured patient help regenerate body tissue.

"With this very advanced use of a component from a bio resource, we can help the body repair an injury or a wound by itself," Kristin Syverud, lead scientist on nanocellulose research, said.

Experts around the world agree that bio-based products are essential for a sustainable society. Researchers are working hard to develop innovative projects such as regenerating human body parts out of wood fibres.

Under the existing economic model — which itself relies on increasing energy demands — industries



Behold the timber man...scientists using wood fibre to help regenerate body tissue.

are constantly producing materials for clothing, transport, construction and packaging that still largely rely on fossil fuels, plastics being a prime example.

"If we want to address the urgent challenge of climate change, such materials will have to come predominantly from fossil-free sources, basically from renewable

biological resources," says Marc Palahi, director of the European Forest Institute.

An alternative is the

“HELPING THE BODY TO REPAIR INJURY OR WOUND BY ITSELF

bio-economy, an economic model based on renewable, bio-based resources. Framed within the model of circular economy, in which resources are used as long as possible, the bioeconomy could drive our societies toward sustainability.

Bio-based materials such as bioplastics and nanocellulose — material extracted from cellulose, a natural renewable resource that is broadly available and biodegradable — can be used to create sustainable products used in daily life, but also for medical and chemical applications.

Cutlery, car seats and sport shoes made from bioplastics, together with plant-based leather tanning products made from olive leaf extract, or clothing made out of pineapple, bamboo and even milk are reaching store shelves.

But renewable resources can also be used in a wide variety of chemical and biomedical processes, though most of them are still in the research phase.

... and engineered wood is also bullet-proof

SCIENTISTS have successfully engineered wood which with its bulletproof competence could be the sturdy construction material of the imminent future.

The super wood plank has akin characteristics to carbon-fibre and can be utilised in edifice of buildings, cars and bulletproof jackets.

In a footage released of the experimentation, a bullet can be seen going through three

different barriers of natural wood, monolayer densified wood, and laminated densified wood. Out of the three layers, the laminated densified wood was seen grasping hold of the bullet and disabling it from passing through.

The development was made possible by engineers at the University of Maryland, US, by boiling blocks of standard wood in a water-based solution containing

sodium hydroxide and sodium sulphate. Through this method, organic chemicals in presence inside the wood were eradicated which gave the structure its stringency.

The wood is then hard-pressed amid two metal plates that are heated to 100°C for one full day, which compress the cells collectively, sealing all openings.

The force sparks a chemical

bond between atoms that construct the wood's cellular structure, as well as reduce the original size of the plank.

The research leader Liangbing Hu said: "This new way to treat wood makes it 12 times stronger than natural wood and 10 times tougher. This could be a competitor to steel or even titanium alloys – it is so strong and durable. It's also comparable to carbon fibre, but much less expensive."

Chinese traders caught in massive timber exporting fraud in Brazil

IN a further example of ongoing large scale illicit timber trading activity in South America's Amazon region, two Chinese entrepreneurs paid millions of dollars to a Brazilian company that bribed environment officials to authorise the illegal export of hardwood logs to China.

But in a rare success, Brazilian police and prosecutors were able to stop the scheme before exports occurred and said they saved the state from \$US30million worth of potential environmental damage.

Prosecutors presented details of two-year-long operations that have seen 31 people charged, including the two Chinese entrepreneurs, Brazilian businessmen, environment officials and the former head of the environmental licensing institute of the state of Amapá, on the eastern edge of the Brazilian Amazon.

They said that two Chinese citizens, who were named, had paid Brazilian company Pangea Mining \$3 million of a \$15 million agreed payment for illegal logs. Police became interested in the company



Caught... large scale illicit timber trade in the Amazon exposed.

after an anonymous tip off.

According to prosecutors, Pangea Mining used another company, Ordena Brasil, to bribe officials to issue 'forest replacement credits' that are issued to farmers who sustainably harvest wood by replanting deforested areas.

One of the suspects, was charged in December last year with racketeering and financial crimes by federal prosecutors in Amapá.

In 2014, a Greenpeace investigation found a similar system being used to 'launder' illegally harvested wood in neighbouring Amazon state Pará so it could be exported with apparently legal documentation.

Brazil is typically ranked

amongst the highest-risk countries in terms of illegality in its timber industry. The Brazilian tropical timber sector is responsible for the extraction of more than 13 million cub m of hardwood logs from Amazonian rainforests, and generates more than \$3 billion in annual revenue.

But it is estimated that more than 70% of timber products from the Amazon may come from illegal operations, which may involve theft of wood

from conservation areas and indigenous reserves, use of slave labour, and other illicit practices.

This, combined with the fact that the timber industry in the country has fallen behind in adopting sustainability standards, has led to decreasing demand for timber products from Brazil, according to a report by Brazil's non-profit BVRio Institute.

Timber production in Brazil has dropped by 40% in response to decreased demand. But another barrier to the production of legal timber is the "unfair competition" the industry faces from illegal operators, BVRio notes in the report.

“RANKED AMONG HIGHEST-RISK COUNTRIES FOR ILLEGALITY”

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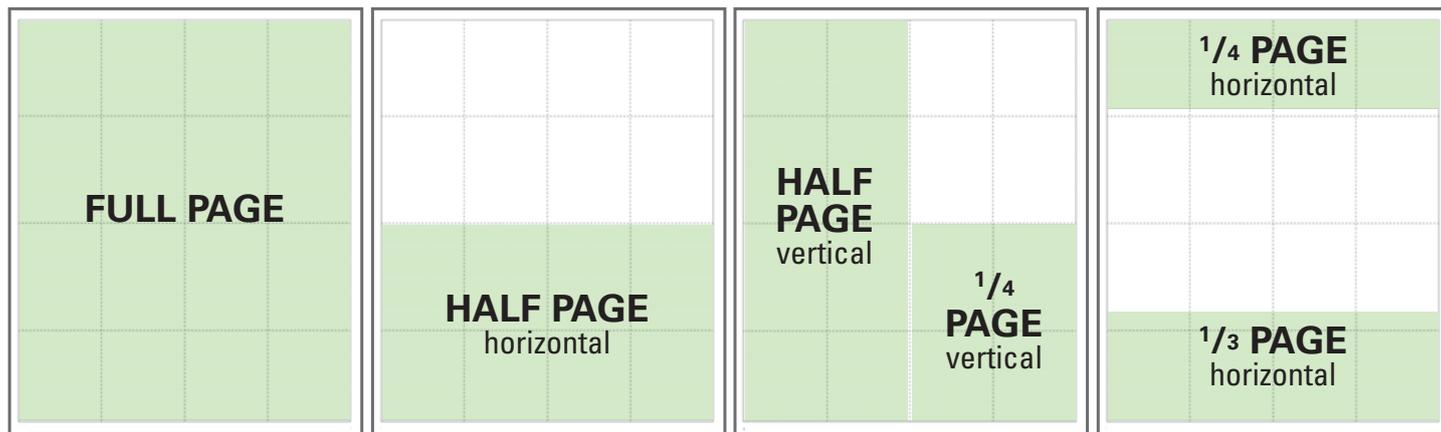
timber
& FORESTRY *e*news

Now in its 11th year, Timber&Forestry e-news has grown to be the Number 1 on-line weekly news journal for the forest and forest products industries – across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

It is read by timber merchants, sawmillers, wood processors, foresters, CEOs and members of national and state organisations and associations, builders, specifiers, selected architects, state and federal government ministers and officials, and regional government.

* Publishers' claim. The publication draws on a new data-base vault of more than 14,500 emails – a number that grows weekly.

AD FORMATS



DISPLAY AD RATES

FULL PAGE: \$485

297mmH x 210mmW

HALF PAGE: \$290

Vertical • 254mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

QUARTER PAGE: \$180

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: \$215

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 3 Column strip: Contract booking

Vertical • 254mmH x 44.5mmW

COMPANY PROFILE full page: \$485

JOB SEEK AD RATES

PER EMPLOYMENT AD: \$210

with FREE company logo

All prices quoted are per issue, exclude GST and are based on artwork being supplied.

ARTWORK RATES

Contact: zonya@creativebirddesign.com for a quote

TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5% 24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

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Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe.

Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking. However, we have a minimum 4 week booking policy for display ads. Job seek ads can be placed on a weekly basis.

DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 10am Wednesday prior to publication

Supply artwork: Thursday 12 noon prior to publication. jpg or pdf to our specifications with no crop marks or bleed.

Job seek ad content: Book and supply text copy by 4pm Thursday prior to publication

TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

WHO TO CONTACT

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