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Where's the wood? It's in China and Vietnam!

COVER STORY P2



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Where will we find the wood?

Australian species a 'gift' to world fibre supply

STEPHEN MIDGLEY

IN last week's Timber&Forestry enews, the question was asked: Where will the wood come from?

[The article referred to future massive shortages of wood in Australia as fewer and fewer plantations are established against clever Brazil's annual volume production increasingly dominated by 7.8 million ha of mainly Australian eucalypt plantations].

This is a serious question for which it is hard to receive a convincing answer and deserves lot of careful thought. Good on you for raising it.

It is not just the clever Brazilians who are using Australian species to produce commercial wood. The clever Chinese have more than 4 million ha of eucalypt plantations and clever India has 3 million ha.

The clever Vietnamese have established a 2 million ha planted resource of Australian acacias which enables them to maintain their place as the world's largest exporters of



Dr Nuyen Hoang Nghia and Stephen Midgley, who have collaborated for 25 years on Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research projects in Vietnam, inspect a plantation of *Acacia auriculiformis*. ACIAR, an Australian government statutory authority, invests in applied research to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability and food system resilience in developing countries.

hardwood woodchips.

Australian species have been a generous and uniquely Australian gift to world wood fibre supplies.

Let's consider some of the background to global increases in fibre demand:

- Global demand for industrial wood will triple by 2050.
- Supply from regional native forests is decreasing.
- There is an increasing

dependence upon plantations (est. 300% over next 30 years).

- Expansion of conventional plantations is challenged in crowded Asian landscapes.
- Where will the wood

“GLOBAL WOOD NEEDS ARE EXPECTED TO TREBLE BY 2050

come from?

Influenced by increasing population and prosperity, global wood needs are expected to treble by 2050, and an increased dependence on plantations will see demand for planted wood grow from 500 million cub m to 1500 million cub m over the next 30 years.

Expansion of planted wood resources using conventional commercial plantation models is challenged in the crowded landscapes of Asia, where land tenure, access and ownership are ambiguous and it is unlikely that conventional plantations will be able to expand to meet demand.

Forest assets managed by smallholder tree-farmers already make substantial contributions to national forest assets, wood production, exports and national incomes, and their role in wood production will become increasingly critical to meeting society's needs.

Benefits arising from the

Cont P 3



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From P 2

raw materials they produce are largely unrecognised in official statistics, partly because the many thousands of small stands of trees are widely scattered and flexibly managed by numerous tree farmers as 'living bank accounts', being strongly influenced by emergency needs for immediate cash to satisfy family and social obligations.

Using available data and credible assumptions, the probable contributions of smallholder assets to national economies and smallholder livelihoods have been calculated for acacias in Vietnam and eucalypts in Guangxi Province, China, along with smallholder contributions to commercial wood flows in several other Asian countries.

More than 600,000 ha (equivalent) of unaccounted acacia smallholdings and informal plantings in Vietnam annually produces more than 9 million cub m of wood worth (as export woodchips) in excess of \$US500 million. In Guangxi, commercial smallholder forest stands amount to about 800,000 ha of eucalypts, and produce in excess of 12 million cub m of wood annually.

This Chinese resource generates considerable employment and raw materials to industry worth more than \$US2.4 billion after local primary processing.

In India, sales of commercial logs grown by smallholders add more than \$US700 million annually to



Load of eucalyptus veneer logs out of the Dongmen Forest Farm in Guangxi, China. (Photo courtesy Dick Pegg)

rural economies and similar examples are offered for Lao PDR, Indonesia and Thailand.

Currently, Indonesia has an estimated 3.1 million ha of smallholder plantations, primarily of species such as teak, albizzia, mahogany, neem, sandalwood and eucalypts, supplying wood to panel, furniture and other industries.

Much of this resource is found in the crowded landscapes of Java and substantial industries for veneer and furniture have developed there to utilise wood from such plantings. While not a major source of household income for farmers, smallholder wood remains an important contributor, offering about 15% of total household income.

More than 95% of Thailand's eucalypt resource of 700,000 ha is privately owned and much of the resource is 'informal' and unmeasured in official figures.

Trees along the bunds of rice fields, around homesteads, and along roads and canals provide a substantial and important part of the resource base for the country's pulp industry.

In response to strong competition for land from an array of cash crops and

the long-term stability of prices for commercial wood, Thailand's SCG Company promoted and supported the establishment of some 44,000 ha of smallholdings and informal plantings in 2015-16. More than 30,000 ha of these new plantings are on the bunds of rice fields and alongside irrigation canals.

Similarly, the company Double A has initiated its Khan Na program which uses the bunds of rice fields and supports over 1.5 million contracted smallholders to plant and maintain commercial eucalypt trees.

The Thai pulp and paper industry is completely reliant upon smallholders for the supply of commercial wood.

• *Stephen Midgley is a forester and development specialist who runs his own consulting business Salwood Asia Pacific Pty Ltd. He is an Asia-specialist, and has worked continuously in Asia for more than 40 years through long-term projects in Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka and China.*

On the cover: Long-time forest friends... Queensland forester Dick Pegg with Mo Qiping, senior technician, and Wei Ju, Chinese project manager, admire a fine specimen of a hybrid Timor white gum (E urophylla) and flooded gum (E grandis) aged 27 years in a hybrid family trial at Dongmen Forest Farm in southern Guangxi, China. Mr Pegg was Australian director on the project.



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EUCALYPTS

Promise: no more forest lock-ups

Barnett announces re-building plan for Tasmanian industry

THE transition from Forestry Tasmania to Sustainable Timber Tasmania was already on track to improve the bottom line by \$30 million across four years, Resources Minister Guy Barnett said in a televised pre-election message this week.

"We have made terrific progress from the days when Labor's policy was to provide a \$25 million annual taxpayer subsidy to the business," Mr Barnett said.

"With this renewed confidence, now is the time to invest in the industry and promote further jobs growth."

Since the 2014 election, there has been a 33% increase in forestry jobs and a 32% increase in production.

The state election on March 3 will elect all 25 members of the Tasmanian House of Assembly and a first-term incumbent Liberal government, led by Premier Will Hodgman who is seeking a second consecutive term.

Since the announcement of a \$60.7 million agreement for forestry rights for pulpwood plantations, STT will be debt free and on the way to being commercially sustainable.

Mr Barnett said the



Guy Barnett... massive increase in hardwood plantation production.

government had backed the industry growth target to double the forest, fine timber and wood fibre industry value-add to \$1.2 billion by 2036.

Four million dollars was provided in the state budget to back the industry growth plan through various initiatives, including assisting industry marketing and raising community awareness of the value — economically, environmentally and socially — of Tasmanian wood.

"We are helping to achieve industry growth by encouraging innovation, on-island value-adding, more efficient processing of timber to reduce wastage, and by delivering the security of supply that disappeared as the Labor-Green government locked up production forests," Mr Barnett said.

"Importantly, another of the targets set in our Building Your Future Plan is no more lockups."

He added: "Not content with the lock ups under the last Labor-Green government, the Greens are now calling for a total end to native forest harvesting — despite the fact that we grow and regrow native forests so well in

Tasmania that STT harvests almost exclusively regrowth forests that have been harvested before."

Mr Barnett said Tasmania had seen a massive increase in hardwood plantation production — from 1.3 million tonnes in 2014-15 to over 2 million tonnes a year produced now.

A third forestry target was to work towards doubling production from Tasmania's hardwood plantations by 2022.

“TIME TO INVEST IN INDUSTRY AND PROMOTE FOREST JOBS

He said the government was already implementing policies to work towards this target, including a Wood Encouragement Policy, the first of its kind in Australia, which means wood would need to be considered for use in future public building projects.

The state and federal governments recently signed a 20-year extension on the Regional Forest Agreement, the first state in the country to do so.



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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

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

[woodflow.events](http://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 Woodtech 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 Woodtech 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

OCTOBER

19: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual dinner – RACV Club, Melbourne. Tickets available from VAFI in July. Contact VAFI on (03) 9611 9000 or info@vafi.org.au



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ROI breakthrough for foresters

DNA tracing predicts commercial attributes of adult eucalypt trees

AUSTRALIAN researchers have developed a world-leading genetic DNA testing system that can predict key commercial attributes of an adult eucalyptus tree from a single seedling leaf, and provide a strong return on investment to forest growers.

With research funding from Forest and Wood Products Australia and industry to validate the technology, this breakthrough could enable foresters to dramatically reduce the breeding cycle of *Eucalyptus globulus* (blue gum) and *Eucalyptus nitens* (shining gum) trees, significantly speeding up improvements to log quality.

with the new system and the genetic gains per year doubled or trebled, with a financial return of \$8 for every \$1 invested.

Unlike traditional crops, which have been bred over thousands of years and no longer resemble their wild forebears, eucalypts are genetically diverse, have long breeding cycles and are still close to their wild states – meaning the potential for gains are large.

The new system assesses the quality of a tree or seedling by DNA testing a 5 mm hole punch of a leaf for thousands of genetic markers developed by CSIRO and correlated with commercial attributes.

This project identified new genetic markers for wood density, and validated those, along with using previously-discovered markers for growth and pulp yield.

The researchers tested the DNA and commercial attributes of parent trees, and the DNA alone of their adult offspring. They used the DNA



Tina Liu, laboratory assistant at Gondwana Genomics, performs a leaf punch to extract DNA from the leaf sample.

of the offspring to predict the parent's commercial attributes – and the results proved to be highly accurate.

Robert Southerton, managing director of Gondwana Genomics, which was founded in 2014 and licensed the genetic markers

from CSIRO, said researchers had not expected the high degree of accuracy of the genetic testing.

“Surprised is an understatement,” he said. “We couldn’t believe it. We

Cont P 7

“TRADITIONAL BREEDING CYCLES HALVED WITH NEW SYSTEM”

Traditional breeding cycles are typically a decade or more, but modelling suggests the time can be halved

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From P 6

had to go back and check again and again, and the results held up.

“In the past, we’d done similar research with a smaller group of genetic markers, and with slower testing techniques, and we’d had only mixed results.”

To make the breakthrough, the Gondwana Genomics research team developed a new method of cheaper, faster genetic DNA testing which enabled them to test over a thousand samples a day for less than \$50 each instead of only 200 a day for more than \$100 each.

“If I’d known at the outset how many challenges we’d have to overcome to make this work, I would never have

“DNA TESTS IDENTIFIED ELITE PERFORMERS



Robert Southerton... phenomenal to get such accuracies in trees.

staked my house on setting up the business,” Robert Southerton said.

“The accuracies we have achieved would be considered very good in crops and it is phenomenal to get this in trees,” he said.

Trees, he explained, were exceptionally difficult to breed in the traditional manner for better genetics due to: a long cycle that means errors can creep in over time; difficulty separating out whether tree characteristics are genetic or environmental; and accidental



Andrew Jacobs... technology keeps breeding program at the forefront.

pollination in planned cross-breeding.

In total, the project screened more than 11,000 seedlings from industry partners Forico, Australian Bluegum Plantations and HVP Plantations.

Forico planted several hundred seedlings selected from almost 7000 screened – making for one of the first ever sizeable applications of marker assisted tree breeding in the world.

Research and innovation

manager Andrew Jacobs said Forico had planted some seedlings identified via DNA as elite performers, as well as others at the middle and bottom end for comparison.

“At the moment, the DNA is predictive of quality, but the actual quality traits don’t start to really show until the tree is around the five-to-seven-year mark,” he said.

“In the meantime, we’ll continue to use this new technology in conjunction with our current methods. Down the track, when we’re more comfortable, I could see us moving further into this space.”

Forico decided to participate and invest in the trial because of its large and independent breeding program in nitens.

“We felt this technology could keep us at the forefront in terms of our breeding program given the success of the approach in other plants, and in animals.”

Retail investment underpins surge in construction activity

NEW retail investment is a key factor underpinning the forecast surge in construction activity.

Forecasts by Master Builders Australia expects

the non-residential construction sector to grow by 14.6% in 2017-18 and be valued at \$42 billion.

Of this, \$6.9 billion is forecast to come from

the influx of international retailers into Australia – particularly the arrival of Amazon and expansions by Costco and Aldi.

“Aldi has plans to open

another 30 stores around the country in the next 12 months,” MBA manager, economics Matthew Pollock said.

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Laser scanning ‘weighs’ trees to better determine carbon content

NEW laser scanning technology is being used to ‘weigh’ trees in a project that could help more accurately assess the role forests play in tackling climate change.

Lasers are used to collect hundreds of thousands of points of data a second from the canopy, which are processed to build a three-dimensional picture of the tree revealing its structure and its volume, which allows estimates of mass.

For example, one sycamore tree in Wytham Woods near Oxford in England was found to have nearly 11 km of branches, double that of much taller tropical trees measured as part of the study, the researchers said.

It is hoped the information will give a more accurate picture of the amount of carbon absorbed by forests, as part of efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, as well as help predict how trees might respond to climate change.

Dr Mat Disney of the University College London, who pioneered the approach, said that previously tree mass



Laser scanning technology... helping to more accurately assess the role forests play in tackling climate change. (Image The Royal Society)

could only be measured by chopping it down and weighing it, which killed the tree, or estimating it manually from the ground.

But he said: “Getting the height of the tree and the volume of the crown are really hard to do from the ground, particularly big tropical trees when you can’t see the top of them.”

The new approach, which the scientists have used to analyse trees in places ranging from Gabon and Borneo to the UK and northern California, accurately captures the fine scale 3D structure of the tree.

The technology, which

costs between £75,000 (\$A132,260) and £150,000 (\$A264,522) can pinpoint branches to an accuracy within millimetres from a range of nearly a kilometre.

“THIS CAN TELL RESEARCHERS ABOUT TREE’S ‘LIFE HISTORY’

This can tell researchers about the tree’s ‘life history’, including its survival strategy, how it grows and competes with other trees, and because the tree does not have to be cut down, its development can be monitored over time.

Estimating the mass of trees from their volume could help assess more accurately how much carbon is stored in forests, and consequently the value that should be paid to countries not to cut them down.

“How heavy a forest is tells you how much carbon it’s got in it, as around half the weight of a forest is made up of carbon,” Dr Disney said.

Forests were earmarked to provide around a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions reductions under international efforts to cut climate change, but estimates of how much carbon was stored in tropical forests could be as much as 45 billion tonnes out, the researchers said.

There are also concerns about how forests could be affected by the changing climate, and the analysis could help predict the impacts of rising temperatures on trees.

• *The research by scientists at University College London and the universities of Oxford, Sonoma State, Ghent and Wageningen, is published in the Royal Society Interface Focus journal.*



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Smart awards program drives student-industry engagement

WHILE the cash prizes will be appealing, providing students with opportunities to engage with potential employers is the key benefit and driver behind Timber Queensland's inaugural student awards programs SmartForests18 and SmartTimber 18.

Timber Queensland communications manager Clarissa Brandt said SmartForests18 was designed to enhance student awareness of issues and challenges related specifically to Queensland's forest and timber industry.

"The winner of the award, who will act as the Queensland SmartForests18 ambassador, will be announced at Timber Queensland's state conference – Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Room to Grow – on April 19," Clarissa said.

"Stimulating new ideas to solve industry challenges and increasing exposure to new timber technologies are benefits of the competition," she said.

"But the real advantage will be the connections and conversations between students and potential future employers and suppliers."

SmartTimber18 is a program to introduce students to mass timber and glulam and to educate students regarding the design considerations required to use these building materials.

“DESIGNED TO ENHANCE STUDENT AWARENESS”



- 1/ Key benefit... opportunities to engage with potential employers.
- 2/ Clarissa Brandt... programs to stimulate new ideas to solve industry challenges.

assistance to ensure forestry students could fully participate in the conference.

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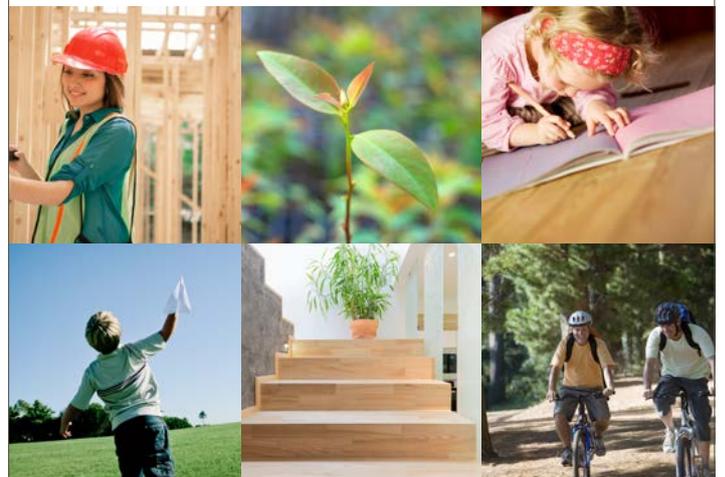
the awards program and entry requirements is available at www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com/studentawards

"Both awards require students to submit an abstract and poster to communicate their submission. The posters will be on display at the TQ timber business conference and there will be a dedicated session for conference delegates to talk and mingle with the poster authors," Clarissa said.

Support from award sponsors, the Gottstein Trust and Hyne Timber will provide complimentary attendance at the conference for 10 students and Timber Queensland is offering a heavily subsidised student ticket price.

Clarissa said Mark Brown and his colleagues at the Forest Industries Research Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast had been tremendously helpful in the organisation of the awards and were also providing

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New Zealand 'least risky' for tree investment, says new Sewall study

A NEW survey confirms New Zealand is the least risky tree investment location.

USA-based consultant Sewall & Company has just completed a study of its international forest investment clients, on what returns they would require to invest in more than 40 countries and regions around the world.

The survey assumes that the US South is a "risk free" region, and that all other options are measured against this, in terms of a risk premium built into return expectations.

However, Rotorua-based DANA director Dennis Neilson suggests there are several risks to investing in



Bret Vicary... presenting forest investment study.

trees in the US South, so he suggests that logically, New Zealand might well be the most favoured location of international investors in forest plantations – bar none.

Un-surprisingly, Australian pine plantation investments



Dennis Neilson... New Zealand most favoured location.

rated second most favoured. Australian planted eucalyptus plantations are rated ninth most favoured of the 42 locations identified, rated and ranked.

Neilson added: "This survey just reinforces that which many of us who have been in the business for decades have suspected. That is that Oceania is a favoured location for many international pension and endowment funds to invest their money into sustainable and renewable tree resources.

"However, it is satisfying to see that New Zealand and Australian pine plantations are the two top ranked of all options."

Neilson said the result was consistent with the conclusions of a major multi-client review which he co-authored in 2017. This is the Boston based RISI-DANA published The Global Tree Farm Economics Review, which analysed IRR returns and growing costs for more than 100 'case studies' of country, region and species and management regimes in 35 countries. The analysis confirmed the high

ranking of New Zealand and Australian pine and eucalypts returns (and low growing costs), although Neilson mused: "Not quite as high as international investors themselves apparently rank Oceania."

Sewall's vice-president for forestry and natural resources consulting Bret Vicary will present details of this survey at the RISI-DANA International Forestry Investment Conference in New York City on May 1 and 2 (see notice, Page 11).

In the meantime, New Zealand's existing and potential forestry investors are still waiting to see if the new government will enmesh Forestry Rights (tree only land leases) into the restrictive Overseas Investment Organisation (OIO) foreign investment approval (or sometimes likely rejection) process. This now applies if rural freehold land is involved in tree transactions.

“DETAILS OF SURVEY AT RISI-DANA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

The issue has come to an unexpectedly 'urgent' head as New Zealand is about to sign the CP TPP in March, and the government may want to reserve the option to place restrictions on forestry right transactions before signing.

Neilson concludes that while the government may feel that restricting overseas

Cont P 11



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OneFortyOne puts welcome stop to sawlog exports in 2018-19 year

IN a move welcomed by local timber processors, OneFortyOne Plantations has announced it will not export saw log from its estate for the next financial year.

Citing "strong domestic demand and the continued outperformance across the building industry" as reasons for the decision, CEO Linda Sewell said the export volume of saw log had recently been in steady decline due to high demand

from domestic customers.

"While demand remains strong, we will further support the local industry by retaining the logs onshore," she said.

However, Ms Sewell said OFO's focus was to support the current capacity of the domestic industry and not to compromise the long-term sustainability of its forests by expanding beyond its means.

"We have been meeting the rising domestic demand



Linda Sewell... strong domestic demand.

where we could do so sustainably," she said.

In this regard, OFO has confirmed it will continue to export surplus pulp logs produced from forest thinning programs and will not preclude exporting saw logs in future should market conditions change.

"We worked hard to develop export markets and like any industry we need the diversity that those markets bring to help smooth domestic market fluctuations," Ms Sewell said.

From P 10

ownership of forestry rights may be of net benefit to the country, many in the sector cannot reconcile its

serious contemplation of this restriction, in light of its stated goal of planting (with industry) one billion trees.

Neilson believes that many

offshore investors would consider that the government will not make them welcome with this restriction – or for some, even as a possible

'hostile' reaction to future foreign tree ownership.

They should know the outcome of this debate in a matter of weeks.

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20%	\$25	\$19	\$16
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Carbon market expert appointed new national CEO for FSC Australia

A PASSIONATE and recognised leader in climate change policy, carbon markets and corporate sustainability has been appointed new CEO at FSC Australia in Melbourne.

Sara Gipton previously worked as CEO of Greenfleet whose operations she transformed into a highly respected leader in the carbon abatement industry.

FSC Australia is a registered charity and national office of the global non-government, non-profit organisation FSC International. FSC Australia nationally promotes responsible forest management practices through multi-stakeholder standard setting and an internationally recognised certification labelling program.

Announcing the appointment, FSC Australia chair Susie Russell commented: "Last year we ended a chapter in our 2020 strategic plan, moving from our short-term outcome 'to make FSC publicly visible and known' and into the medium term phase 'to make FSC valued and respected by stakeholders'.

"Sara brings the necessary qualifications and experience now required in the role to achieve our new strategic focus."

Ms Russell said that under Sara's leadership, FSC Australia would focus on diversifying its membership, engaging stakeholders across the supply chain, and empowering consumers to



Sara Gipton... engaging stakeholders across the supply chain.

use their purchasing power

She said the new CEO was an expert for the Australian carbon market, corporate disclosure and the complex workings of carbon legislation.

Sara Gipton was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2011 and holds degrees in Science (Hons) and Master of Social Science (Environmental Policy). She is a chartered accountant and a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Director's Course.

She has also attended leadership programs at Harvard University's Kennedy School and Cambridge University Institute of Sustainability Professionals.

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Forest & Wood Products Australia

Call for proposals

Dame Judi Dench: a passion for trees



Dame Judi Dench... in touch with trees.

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

IT'S not often you get to use lidar and Dame Judi Dench in the same sentence, says The Royal Society in the London-based society's Interface Focus publication.

"But we've been lucky enough to work on a new BBC documentary presented by Dame Judi, which features some of the society's lidar (light detection and ranging) work.

The program follows Dame Judi on a journey to some iconic English trees and woodlands, to find more about their history and biology, what goes under the ground, under the bark and up in the canopy.

It's a very beautiful film with some very interesting science: the sounds of transpiration, canopy response to predation, and the fungal communities that seem to facilitate communication of resources and even 'information' in some senses, between trees.

The Royal Society visited Dame Judi's garden last summer and scanned a 200-year-old oak tucked away in a wild corner.

"We then estimated the

mass of the tree, and its leaf area/count – 25 tonnes and 260k if you're interested," the society remarked.

"We then generated a nice fly-through of the garden and around the tree, which we then talked through with Dame Judi.

She was suitably impressed by the detail. Interestingly, our estimate suggest the tree has 12 km of branches, more than any other tree we've come across, even in the tropics."

The program was made by Atlantic Productions, and is beautifully done.

The Royal Society, a learned society founded in 1660, was granted a royal charter by King Charles II as 'The Royal Society'.

The society is the United Kingdom's and Commonwealth of Nations' Academy of Sciences and fulfils a number of roles – promoting science and its benefits, recognising excellence in science, supporting outstanding science, providing scientific advice for policy, fostering international and global cooperation, education and public engagement.

Connection systems design is integral to mass timber builds

THE design of connection systems for modern mass timber buildings is critical and “can be a major cost factor that requires a detailed understanding of fastening systems to find economical solutions.”

That is opinion of Max Closen, owner of Vancouver-based MyTiCon Timber Connectors, a specialty supplier of connection systems for new mass timber and heavy timber buildings.

“It is almost impossible for a design consultant to keep up with developments in connection technology while being proficient in all other aspects of building design and construction,” Closen



Connected... Jean-Philippe Letarte of MyTiCon explains how the company's 190.5 mm structural wood screws can be embedded into a wood beam safe enough to support a two-tonne pickup truck.

said.

There is a wealth of different connections and each connection has its very specifics which a person can do multiple PhD studies on.”

MyTiCon and companies like it can be retained by the project's prime consultant or act as a consultant to a speciality engineer.

Closen said while government agencies, industry partners and not-for-profit groups had helped raise the profile of mass timber structures, increased education was still needed as the pace of construction picked up.

Along with understanding the technical and engineering aspects of a project, the

designer should also know how to make the connections “clean and appealing.” This included the best means of concealment for aesthetic and fire code reasons.

MyTiCon's Jean-Philippe Letarte says most mass timber buildings are designed by people experienced in concrete and steel.

“They are not used to timber,” he said. “They need to know how to reinforce it and its reinforcement options.”

Max Closen says design consultants need to consider the advantages of using connectors that are pre-installed or installed on site, which will speed construction.

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Wood encouragement on the rise across Australian towns and cities

IN December 2017, East Fremantle in Western Australia became the first town or city council in Australia to formally adopt a Wood Encouragement Policy.

In a clear statement of their belief in the environmental, health and many other benefits that wood provides, the town not only adopted a 'council' policy to encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of council buildings and infrastructure, but also a 'general' policy to encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of new residential dwellings and additions or alterations of existing



Bunjil Place... City Casey Council, Narre Warren, Melbourne. (Design: FJMT. Photo John Gollings)

“ENSURING THAT WOOD IS AT LEAST A PRIMARY COMPONENT

dwellings.

So now there are two local government authorities and 14 local councils that have adopted a WEP in Australia.

And in June last year, Tasmania became the first state in Australia to adopt a state-wide WEP.

Timber is the only major building material that helps tackle climate change. It is a naturally renewable resource, which allows users to practice 'ecological foot printing' – living on nature's interest, not its capital.

As trees grow they

WOOD IS GOOD



With **DAVID ROWLINSON**

remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and when the tree is responsibly harvested the carbon is locked in the wood and remains there for the life of any products made with that timber. About half of the dry weight of timber is carbon.

The production and processing of wood uses much less energy – known

Cont P 17

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Environment groups walk away from NSW forestry negotiations

GOOD working relationships stretching back more than two decades between the NSW government and two key environment groups are on the point of collapse.

The NSW Nature Conservation Council and NSW National Parks Association have both walked away from stakeholder consultations on the extension of the state's three Regional Forest Agreements.

These agreements were struck in the late 1990s and early 2000s and delivered a fragile peace in the forests wars that had raged for decades through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

NCC chief executive Kate Smolski said the relationship now teetered on the edge as her organisation and the NPA walked away.



Paul Toole...
committed to RFAs.



Kate Smolski... threat to wildlife.



Alix Goodwin... destruction of forests.

"The government is putting threatened forest wildlife and an historic 20-year peace deal at risk by pushing ahead with a sham consultation process designed to lock

in unsustainable logging indefinitely," she said.

However, Forestry Minister Paul Toole said the government remained committed to RFAs and would hold open the door to dialogue.

"RFAs represent the most effective framework for the

sustainable management of forests," Mr Toole said.

He added: "The public submission process remains open until March 12."

Alix Goodwin of the NPA said far from achieving ecologically sustainable forest management, the RFAs had permitted extensive destruction of public forests.

"Logging under the agreements is not subject to scrutiny by commonwealth law," she said.

"As a result, many of our forests are in a worse condition now than when the agreements were struck two decades ago."

(Coffs Coast Advocate)

“STATE REMAINS COMMITTED TO REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

From P 16

as embodied energy – than most other building materials, giving wood products a significantly lower carbon footprint. As a result, wood can be used as a low-emission substitute for materials that require larger amounts of fossil fuels to be produced.

Research has also shown that wood is good for our health and wellbeing – it effectively helps to bring the benefits of time spent in nature into the built environment – and can reduce stress responses including lower blood pressure and heart rate. As a result, workers are more productive, students learn better, patients heal faster

and we're all happier when we're surrounded by natural elements like plants and timber structures.

A Wood Encouragement Policy generally requires responsibly sourced wood to be considered, where feasible, as the primary construction material in all new-build and refurbishment projects. As such is it not intended to be a draconian, all-encompassing dictum, but rather seeks to ensure that wood is at least considered as the primary structural component in these buildings.

• *David Rowlinson is manager of Planet Ark's Make It Wood Campaign. He can be contacted at david@planetark.org or phone 0400 474 412.*

FREE – NATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

Friday, February 23, 9am-3pm at Slacks hardwood property, cnr Berries Road and Isis Hwy (approx. 16 km west of Childers)

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

‘Responsible resource use is responsibility of those who design and build’

Responsible Wood certified cypress choice for \$38m Hobart wharf project

JIM BOWDEN

HOBART architects Circa Morris-Nunn set high standards in their selection of wood for their award-winning structures – it must be robust and dense, blend aesthetically with other materials ... and carry the highest credentials for certification and sustainability.

All this criteria is on vivid display in their design of the \$38 million MAC01 hotel complex at Hobart’s Macquarie Wharf re-development site, where Queensland white cypress is used in a magnificent three-dimensional faceted façade.

Sourced from the Hurford family’s Chinchilla sawmill on Queensland’s western downs, the cypress is certified to Responsible Wood’s standards for sustainable forest management (AS 4708) and chain-of-custody standards for forest products (AS 4707).

“This certification is very important to us,” David Johnston, an architect with Circa Morris-Nunn, said.

Company director Robert Morris-Nunn added: “It’s about responsibility, both ecological and social, which is often underestimated.

“We believe that responsible use of environmental resources is the responsibility of those who design and build.”

More than 30,000 lineal metres of cypress produced from Responsible Wood certified sustainable forests in Queensland was used for



High credentials... the MAC01 hotel complex at Hobart’s Macquarie wharf features certified cypress.
Photo Circa Morris-Nunn

the pitched roof, cladding – a mixture of 200x50m and 150x50m kiln-dried profile boards screw-fixed to external skins – and for hotel balconies and decks.

“The timber was specifically used for its sustainability, material specification to meet fire hazard codes and durability for the waterside location,” David Johnston said.

Small amounts of cypress were used initially for walkways in the early stages of the project. The architects warmed to the species, using the “chosen timber” throughout the building. They had scoured timber merchants for supply and found Hurfords at Chinchilla was the only mill able to provide the amount of feedstock needed.

Hurford’s chain-of-custody certification was a bonus.

The pitched-roof structure, built to resemble a shipping shed, blends timber and glass to capture grand views over Sullivans Cove and Hunter Street’s 19th-century facades.

Tasmanian oak was used as a feature cladding timber in one wall of the building.

“THE TIMBER WAS USED SPECIFICALLY FOR ITS SUSTAINABILITY”

After demolition of the existing warehouse on the site the weight of the building was carefully designed and to create a modern building that retained the shape of the original warehouse. The ground floor is glazed to give a notion of the building ‘floating’ on the Hobart waterfront from both interior

and exterior views.

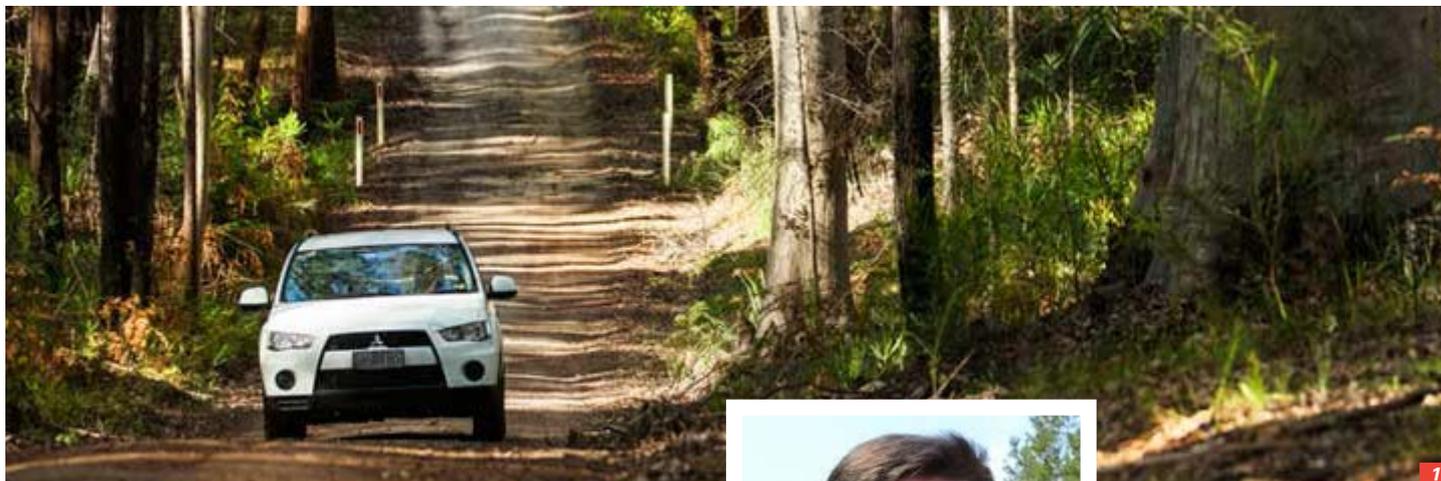
MAC01 is all about stories; each of its rooms is named for an illustrious or infamous figure from Tasmania’s past – convicts, crooks, captains of industry and other colourful characters.

The MAC01 was a team effort – Circa Morris-Nunn Architects, Stanton Management Group and Vos Construction and Joinery Pty Ltd, who created the magnificent Henry Jones complex, Australia’s first dedicated art hotel built within Hobart’s oldest waterfront warehouses.

Michael Vos, executive chairman of Vos Construction, a multiple winner in the Australian Timber Design Awards, said he was thrilled to be both the developer and builder of the MAC01 development.

Multi-year investment programs needed to restore our forest roads

TIM JOHNSTON



ROAD, rail and port infrastructure is crucial for our industry in transporting product from harvest site to be processed, and also to the end customer.

Better road infrastructure and regular maintenance directly improves the domestic and international competitiveness of Victorian forest, fibre and wood products industries, supporting job security and attracting new investment in the sector.

Just last week, I was concerned to see a Weekly Times report that funding for Victorian road maintenance was cut by around 60% between 2010 and 2016 (a period that covers government by both major parties).

Alarming, VicRoads expects 80% of the state's

roads will be in a poor or very poor condition by 2025.

The established and growing timber plantations in the Green Triangle region, on the Victorian and South Australian border, and the state forest and plantation operations in eastern Victoria, are key areas where the industry is facing infrastructure constraints. Poorly maintained roads also represent a safety risk to log truck drivers, other road users and local communities.

In 2011, a comprehensive assessment of industry roading needs estimated the total cost of road upgrades at \$97 million over five years. Despite this clear signal from industry, investment has been sporadic and there is still a substantial shortfall in funding. By 2014, only a reported \$4.5



1/ Road risk... poorly maintained forest roads safety risk to log truck drivers, other road users and local communities.

2/ Tim Johnston... substantial shortfall in funding.

million in state funding had gone to roads frequently used by the forest and wood products industry.

Many local councils struggle to maintain and upgrade their local road networks, and VAFI members have reported spending considerable funds on maintaining local roads because of the lack of budget available to local governments.

It's not all bad news, with the recent confirmation of a \$7.63 million upgrade for an important timber access route in north-eastern Victoria adjoining the Murray Valley Highway with support coming from the state and federal governments, Towong Shire and HVP Plantations.

However, a multi-year investment program is desperately needed to restore our local and arterial roads across the state.

VAFI will continue to emphasise this need in our advocacy to local and state governments, and we encourage our members and local residents to make local road hazards known to their elected representatives.

• Tim Johnston is CEO, Victorian Association of Forest Industries.

Forestry Hub Expo for Gippsland students next week

THE Gippsland Forestry Hub aims to promote understanding and interest in forestry and raise awareness of the career opportunities within the industry.

In partnership with Yarram Secondary College, the Hub will hold a Forestry Expo on February 26 at the school to show students first-hand the opportunities and career

paths open in the forest products sector.

VicForests, AusTimber, HVP, Leeson's Harvest and Haulage, William Adams CAT,

Waratah and Kennedy Trailers have donated time to the event.

Contact Lesia on 0455 552 094.

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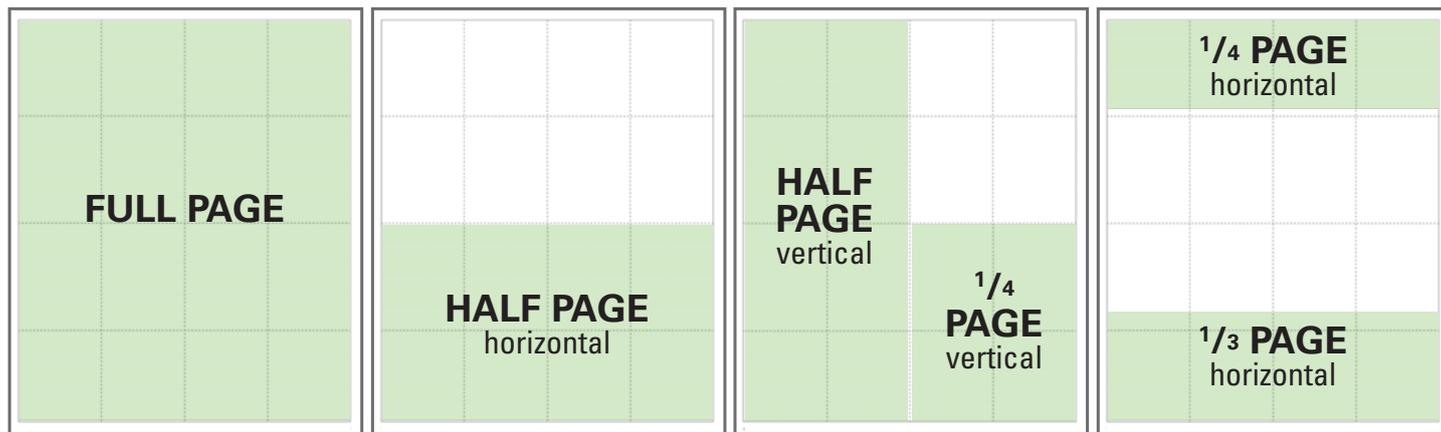
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