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ISSUE 501 | March 8, 2018

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

## Log export compliance demanded

COVER STORY P2

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# Industry calls for governments to act on global log trade distortions

## Federal, state agencies must ensure full compliance

JIM BOWDEN

TIMBER Queensland is advocating that federal and state agencies ensure full compliance with existing regulations for log export operations to ensure a level playing field with domestic processing, including all environmental, quarantine (biosecurity), export cost recovery and forest practice codes.

“Furthermore, the industry is calling on the Queensland government to work with its state counterparts and the federal government to assess the extent of any global log trade distortions with a material impact on the domestic industry, and seek appropriate trade agreement or countervailing remedies,” Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said.

In light of the current issue regarding the spike in native log exports out of the state, Timber Queensland has provided a native log exports policy statement to both the Queensland and federal



*The natives are restless... Queensland processing industry has extensive experience working with private land owners and has a long-term interest in maintaining a productive and ongoing native forest resource.*

governments.

The statement was developed in consultation with TQ members and raises concerns over the marked rise in native log exports, primarily in containerised shipments to China.

“One of our key priorities is to ensure a level playing field between domestic

processors and export operators when it comes to regulatory compliance and forest management,” Mr

**“KEY PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD”**

Stephens said.

“As stated in our policy, the industry is highly regulated and includes compliance requirements with codes of forest practice and a suite of environmental regulations.

“The domestic processing industry has extensive

Cont P 3



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From P 2

experience working with private land owners with a long-term interest in maintaining a productive and ongoing native resource into the future."

Mr Stephens said, however, there were concerns some export operators might be acting opportunistically and not in the long-term interests of the landholder or the industry.

**“PALASZCZUK  
COMMITMENT  
TO WORK  
WITH INDUSTRY**

"Perhaps even more perplexing are the high prices being paid for private native forest logs from some operators, raising issues with respect to their fair market value," he said.

Mr Stephens said there were significant opportunities for domestic value adding and further economic growth from private native forestry in Queensland.

"That is why we are



**Mick Stephens... raising issues with respect to fair market value**

working with key ministers and departments to promote a value adding agenda and improve the international competitiveness of domestic processing through red tape reduction and investment facilitation," he said.

"If there are issues with subsidised or unfair log trade with overseas competitors, we need to work together with government to address these concerns. This was indeed a policy commitment from the Palaszczuk government in the recent state election – to work with industry to secure future supplies and create additional value from the timber industry."

Meanwhile, reports from Tasmania say Chinese log buyers have crossed Bass Strait and are heavily logging private forest stands.

An industry observer noted forest growers who were only earning 'peanuts' for their logs were happy to take good dollars from Asian traders.

Also, Chinese buyers were supplying Tasmanian logs direct to Chinese processors who were machining timber and able to achieve recovery rates around 80% – a 50% better result than that achieved by local producers – to manufacture anything from building products and furniture down to chopsticks and tea tables.

At least, in Tasmania, code of forestry practice is in full force across the state. No landholder has the authority to harvest without a private forests practices certificate and plan.

*On the cover: Spare that tree... this magnificent spotted gum (Corymbia maculata) could be among many native species on private land earmarked for export in containerised shipments to China.*

## Women's network 'presses for progress'

THE importance of sharing positivity about women's achievements among peers, colleagues and friends was one of the salient discussion points at the Women in Forest and Timber Network's 2018 International Women's Day breakfast in Brisbane this morning (March 8).

• The group is pictured displaying the international day's hashtag theme for 2018 #PressforProgress.

The strong turnout of women from a wide cross-section of the forest and timber sectors discussed their love and passion for the



industry and paid tribute to the women in strong leadership positions throughout Australia as trailblazers and mentors for those rising up the ranks.

"Findings from the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report tell us gender parity is more than 200 years away," WIFTN

member Clarissa Brandt said. "So there has never been a more important time to keep women motivated and to #PressforProgress."

"Collective action and shared responsibility for driving gender parity is what makes International Women's Day successful," she said.



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# NFF supports cross-sector strategy on integrated farm-forestry program

THE National Farmers Federation supported calls for a collaborative industry-run forest industries and agriculture cross-sector strategy to deliver an integrated farm forestry program, the president Fiona Simson said in Canberra on Wednesday.

Addressing the AFPA members' dinner, Ms Simson said NFF also supported a call for \$1 million in seed funding for the establishment of farm forestry co-operative development.

"Please accept my commitment on behalf of NFF, that we will promote, communicate, sing from the rooftops of the opportunities of farm forestry ventures,"



**Fiona Simson... trees are not our enemy – nothing could be further from the truth.**

she said.

The NFF, a peak body representing Australian farmers, has 32 members, made up of state farming organisations, commodity groups, special interest groups and corporate affiliates.

AFPA has been a commodity member since 2015.

"Without doubt, one of the best parts of this job is learning about industries and sectors that, but for my role, I would have known very little about. Forestry falls squarely into this category," Ms Simson said.

"I have been fascinated to learn more about the complex business of forestry – the end products, the markets and the great lengths the sector is going to ensure its sustainability.

"I have also been interested, to learn about the large volume of timber Australia imports. I acknowledge the challenges this presents and I think it's something we as a primary production sector can work cooperatively on.

"Like foresters, farmers need markets for their produce; market access, preferential trade agreements, tackling non-tariff barriers are all crucial to our continued good fortunes.

"Efficient infrastructure and supply chains, energy market certainty (should we be so lucky), connectivity, R&D, technology and labour issues are all important and lingering areas that need policy and thought leadership going forward.

"Also, social licence to operate, to me, is becoming a bigger issue, almost as each day passes."

Ms Simson said Australian agriculture, when included with forestry, reached a record \$60 billion production value in 2016-2017.

There were always exceptions, she said, but overall commodity prices were great. Wool had reached or surpassed its historic lofty heights, global demand for red meats continued to grow and the fruit, vegetable and nut industries were enjoying the benefits of recent free trade agreements.

"The good times are here, but we are not resting on our laurel," Ms Simson said. "We have a vision for agriculture to be a \$100 billion industry by 2030 – a bold but I believe achievable target."

**“A SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE IS BECOMING A BIGGER ISSUE**

"It is opportunities like farm forestry ventures that could well play a cumulative role in increasing agriculture's production values.

"The NFF is excited to be working with AFPA on a rejuvenated quest to see farm forestry and commercial tree plantings become a larger part of our farm landscape.

Farmers often get a bad rap when it comes to trees. But trees are not our enemy – really they are not! Actually, nothing could be further from the truth."

• More reports, photos, pages 9-12



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**MARCH**

**9: Free native management field day – Slacks hardwood property, cnr Berries Road and Isis Hwy (approx. 16 km west of Childers).** 9 am-3 pm. (The field day originally scheduled for February 23 was postponed due to heavy rain). The March 9 event will give updates on legislation, 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

**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: AFPA Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Industries Dinner – Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra.** 6 pm. Contact: (02) 6285 3833.

**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: Inaugural 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.**

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**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

**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

**19th Australian Timber Design Awards in Sydney.** Full details to confirm. Entries open February 12 and close July 6. Judging period July 16-20. People's Choice voting July 23-August 17. Awards gala dinner mid-October. Visit www.timberawards.com.au



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# Liberals election win green tick for Tasmania's forests strategy

FORESTRY came out of the Tasmanian elections last week with a 'clean sheet' and an approved agenda to "get on with the business of good forest management".

The March 3 election was a historic victory for Premier Will Hodgman and his Liberal team and it gave a green tick to the government's Forest Industry Growth Strategy.

The state's influential Ministerial Advisory Council says the strategy highlights the growth in private plantation resources, reinforcing the industry's future as one led by the private sector.

The plan predicts a significant growth in private plantation forests, which

provide more than half of Tasmania's annual wood harvest. The public resource, or the forests managed by the state-owned Sustainable Timber Tasmania, is the main supplier to the sawmilling and veneering industries and the specialty timber sector

STT manages about 800,000 ha of public production forest (permanent timber production zone land) making available at least 137,000 cub m of high quality eucalypt sawlogs and veneer logs each year.

While historically this has been supplied entirely from native forests it will in future increasingly come from a mix of native and planted forests as the latter grow to maturity.

Because of a range of



Will Hodgman... historic victory.

environmental, social and economic constraints, harvesting is not undertaken in about 40% of the permanent timber production zone.

In a traditional Labor state, Will Hodgman becomes only the second Liberal Premier to win back-to-back majority governments. The Liberals

almost matched their 2014 result, polling above 50% for the second election in a row.

While Labor has recovered from its 2014 drubbing, its vote share of just under 33% is its third worst result since World War 2.

The election delivered a horror result for the Greens, with the party's worst result in the state in almost three decades.

The Greens have so far only secured one seat in the parliament and are currently sitting on 10% of the state-wide vote.

While Tasmania is the birthplace of the Greens, it's now trailing Victoria in support and representation.

## MBA tackling the gender pay gap in construction

IN celebrating International Women's Day today, Master Builders Australia is calling for more women to pursue careers in the building and construction industry to help tackle the gender pay gap.

"There is profound community concern about the gender pay gap,"

CEO Denia Wawn said.

"Getting more women into well-paying jobs in growing industries like building and construction has a big role in closing it," she said.

"Building and construction is the nation's second largest industry and one of the

highest paying. It currently employs more than a million Australians but only 11% of them are women.

"There are great opportunities for women to achieve financial security and independence through a wide range of careers in our industry now and in the

future. On-site or off it, on the tools or in the office or, as is often the case both, women need to know that building and construction is an industry that will welcome them and where they can achieve both financially and in their careers."

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# TCA has a clear view to the future

## Builds on its success as a strong grassroots community supporter

JIM BOWDEN

GRASSROOTS organisation Timber Communities Australia is looking to the future with a reinvigorated focus, building on its past successes.

Chair Owen Trumper, a forestry engineer planner, said after close consultation with the new board, TCA would have an action plan formulated within a few weeks with a recruiting process for a national coordinator under way within a month.

“We have a clear view for the future and have determined the skills and the priorities we need for the role of national coordinator,” Mr Trumper said.

New directors elected at the AGM in November comprise Owen Trumper, industry consultant (chair), Brenton Yon, Komatsu Forest, Peter Rutherford, South East Timber Association, Anne Kerr, OneFortyOne Plantations, and Nigel Catchlove, communications consultant,

Parsec Communications.

The board acknowledged the significant contributions to TCA made by departing members Stacey Gardiner, Australian Forest Contractors Association, and Peter Gostelow, NSW TAFE.

Helen Murray, projects and advocacy specialist at Kurrumbene Agribusiness, who resigned as national coordinator, was praised for her four years of service to TCA.

“Helen was extremely successful in developing the award-winning Young Community Ambassadors program and working on the board of FSC Australia to ensure the interests of the community were well

**“NATIONAL COORDINATOR SELECTION UNDER WAY**



**Owen Trumper... building on past successes.**

represented in the standards and initiatives set by FSC,” Mr Trumper said.

Canadian-born Owen Trumper, who operates his own Melbourne-based consulting business Trumper Enterprises, has held senior forest industry positions in Canada, New Zealand and Australia and is a graduate in executive education from the Harvard Business School in Boston, USA.

He was chief operations officer at OneFortyOne Plantations and general manager, Gippsland region, at Hancock Victorian Plantations.

The seeds of Timber Communities Australia were planted in the Forest Protection Society which was started in 1987 by

a small motivated group which saw the need for a cohesive community voice for grassroots people as forest policies were felt to be ignoring the lives of those most affected.

As the 1990s drew to a close, FPS changed its name in 2000 to Timber Communities Australia. The aims, aspirations and structure all stayed the same and TCA continued to press for sustainable futures in forests, timber communities and industries.

The organisation was completely restructured during 2013 and 2014 under the stewardship of an interim board, which stood down once the new constitution was implemented. The new constitution enshrined the grassroots general membership as the most influential; it opened a new category for affiliate membership for independent regional organisations; and the sponsor member category was redesigned to align with the wishes of grassroots members.

TCA entered a totally new era in 2015 with those positive changes in place.

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# ‘Treat timber seriously’ call as NZ prepares for revised treatment code

A FAST-GROWING New Zealand company is preparing to meet an unprecedented wave of demand for treated timber as a revised New Zealand standard is imposed on the industry.

NZS 3602 was introduced in 2003 to dictate the treatment required for timber and wood-based products for use in building and construction. A draft of the revised standard is currently available for public comment, and once updated is intended to prohibit the use of untreated timber feedstock used in the manufacture of massive timber products and supplied to new construction.

The draft standard addresses the implications of untreated timber and New Zealand’s consequential leaky building disaster.

One company welcoming the proposed update is XLam, which will make a submission on the draft standard. XLam is the only manufacturer of treated mass timber (CLT) in New Zealand. Its primary timber, radiata, is treated offsite and assembled

into panels at its Nelson plant.

CEO Gary Caulfield says the company has been experiencing a ramp-up in demand for its products and services over the last 18 months.

“The timber feedstock treatment process presents a number of benefits to industry stakeholders looking to use massive timber in construction,” Mr Caulfield said.

He urged the construction industry to “treat timber seriously”, as the consequences of not treating mass timber panels and components will only perpetuate the problems of leaky buildings.

**“NO PROBLEM EXPANDING THE PRODUCTION BASE FOR CLT”**

XLam is currently working with Auckland Council and Housing New Zealand on building developments, and is supplying CLT to 176 active



**Gary Caulfield... timber feedstock treatment process presents a number of benefits to industry stakeholders.**

a plant and HQ in Nelson. With the opening of its second plant in Australia in December, XLam has become one of the few manufacturers globally with more than one CLT plant.

Gary Caulfield says CLT’s use in housing and other structure types is strongly supported by the new government’s commitment to forestry, as evidenced by a new Forestry Service and the pledge to plant 100 million trees a year over the next 10 years, a doubling of the current rate of planting.

Over the same period, the KiwiBuild scheme will build 100,000 new residential dwellings.

“Also, given our well-established forestry sector, there is no difficulty in expanding the production base for CLT from the running start we already have, which would lend a time and cost boost to the construction industry that is tasked with pushing forward the massive housing program,” Mr Caulfield said.

projects for Housing New Zealand alone.

A vanguard local body, Rotorua Lakes Council, adopted a Wood First policy and action plan in 2015 to encourage the use of wood products and support the district’s vital wood industry.

In this building category, apartments, multi-unit housing, hotels, aged-care facilities, schools and hospitals are all strong candidates for CLT panels.

XLam was the first CLT manufacturer in the Southern Hemisphere, operating from



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# NFF proposes closer link with AFPA on future potential of forests on farms

## Farm-forest mission will study the 'New Zealand experience'

THE National Farmers Federation at the AFPA members' dinner on Wednesday proposed that both organisations work even closer together to better inform and educate farmers of the potential for farm forestry and support farmers in their farm forestry endeavours.

"It is important farmers understand the various 'structures' typically used in farm forestry operations," NFF president Fiona Simson said in her address to a full house of guests at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

"Ranging from individual pursuits to cooperative structures, there is also the option of using a forest manager," she said.

"Ultimately, farmers will need (depending on the structure they pursue) to learn the business of forestry. It will also be important to have the required infrastructure in place to make harvest and transportation efficient and economical.

**“ THIS IS WHERE COOPERATIVE SCHEMES CAN BE VALUABLE ”**

"This is where cooperative schemes can be valuable. Farmer's party to a cooperative can share equipment, infrastructure costs and coordinate the timing of silviculture activities, and farmers can support each other in



best management forest practices, harvesting and market techniques and become better informed of government programs."

Looking to a challenging future on the policy front, Ms Simson said NFF was right behind AFPA in its ask of government to review the existing emissions reduction fund farm forestry method to remove the rainfall restriction, which limits farm forestry to 100 ha where rainfall is of 400 mm or more.

The change of the rainfall restriction would remove a barrier for a significant number of farmers and was crucial to achieving a critical mass of forestry farming ventures, she said.

Referring to the farm environment she said one only had to look at the success of the Landcare program to know that farmers, perhaps more than anyone, appreciated the benefits of trees.

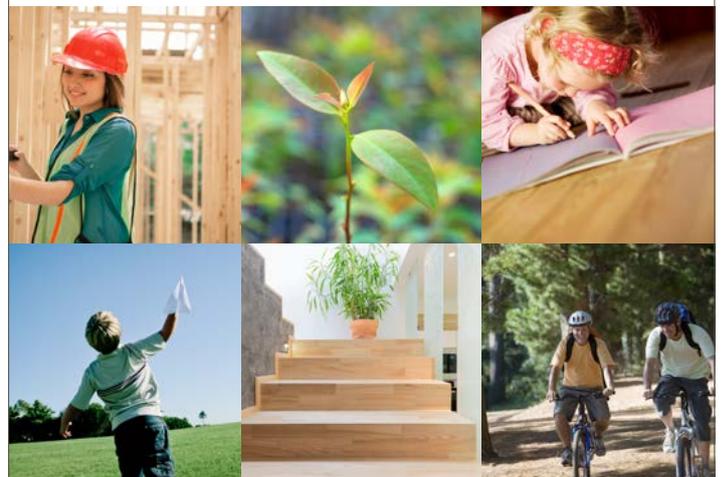
She said the success of Landcare by integrating agriculture and

environmental management through a grassroots approach had now been replicated in more than

Cont P 10

*Talking a national forest industry plan in Canberra... Greg McCormack, chair, Australian Forest Products Association, Andrew Wilson, director, national science forest policy, Department of Agriculture and Water, Rob de Fégely, co-chair, Forest Industry Advisory Council, Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister responsible for forestry and FIAC co-chair, and Michelle Lauder, assistant secretary, Agriculture and Water Resources. Senator Ruston was keynote speaker at the AFPA members' dinner in Canberra last night. The dinner was preceded by a forum of forest and timber industry trade associations, addressed by Michelle Lauder who updated the gathering on the federal government's progress on developing the National Forest Industries Plan, which Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced at AFPA's gala dinner in September last year.*

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From P 9

20 countries.

“Shade and shelter for livestock, soil protection including salinity control and the promotion of natural biodiversity are just some of the on-farm benefit of trees,” Ms Simson said.

“Of course, farmers need to balance area planted / retained for trees with the significant task of feeding and clothing the world. And this is the great opportunity farm forestry presents – the chance to incorporate softwood plantations on a commercial scale into existing farming systems.”

Ms Simpson said as an export-dependent sector, farmers prided themselves on feeding an increasingly hungry global population.

“But we also like to enjoy the spoils of our labour at home,” she said.



1/ Kevin Harding, president, Australian Forest Growers, Rob de Fégely, co-chair, Forest Industry Advisory Council, Diana Lloyd, general manager, ForestWorks, and Gavin Matthew, senior policy manager, AFPA.  
2/ Paul Michael, chair, Timber Development Association, Mick Stevens, CEO, Timber Queensland, and Matt Granger, new CEO of the Forest Industries Federation (WA).



“We are sensitive when we see produce from other countries, that we grow in abundance here, on our supermarket shelves. It is on this point that we sympathise with the forestry sector.

“It just does not feel right, that we should be importing timber products, which we could produce here in an arguably more sustainable and more economical manner.

“Now I know this will be a tricky one – agriculture is export-orientated – so it’s a bit conflicting to pursue a limit or block on imports.

“Having said that, we absolutely support a strong and vibrant timber sector in Australia and we simply must have a robust, transparent and equitable system to prevent illegal dumping of product in the domestic market.

“This goes for as much timber products like paper as much as it does for tomatoes from Italy or dried fruit from Turkey.”

Ms Simson added: “Collectively, we must seek policies that focus on making our domestic sector as competitive as possible and compete internationally where we can.

**“WE WANT TO HELP OUR FOREST FRIENDS GROW THEIR PRODUCTION CAPABILITY”**

“Let’s grow the production capacity and improve efficiencies and balance that with a realistic approach to trade.”

Ms Simson said the NFF on behalf of the farm sector, wanted to help “our

forestry friends, grow your production capability and competitiveness and as a result as a nation.”

She said it made sense, particularly if, at the same time, we farmers, can generate a diversified revenue and do good things for the environment.

“However, if we are to bolster our farm forestry initiatives, we must address the shortcomings of the past – the unresolved challenges that have resulted in farm forestry not yet reaching its potential.

She said this unrealised potential came down to a few factors:

- Uncertainty around the process of recognising carbon rewards or credits.
- A lack of understanding of how to harvest and market timber – we are farmers not foresters.
- Inadequate timber harvest and haul infrastructure.
- Difficulty in growing and harvesting a large enough haul to make farm forestry economical.
- Market access – an inability to participate in certification scheme, which increase market access.

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From P 10

Ms Simson said.

“In Scandinavia, southern parts of the US and in New Zealand there is a long history of wood supply from a large number of small private landholders and farmers as well as the development of marketing cooperatives.

“In Sweden and the US, 50% of forestland is owned by individuals and families.

“In New Zealand, almost 600,000 ha, or 34% of the plantation forest, is owned by individuals with parcels with no more than 10,000 ha.”

Ms Simson said NFF was looking forward to “travelling across the ditch” with AFPA to better understand the farm forestry experience of New Zealand.

“On our trip, we will learn more about the New



1/ AFPA chair Greg McCormack welcomes Senator Anne Ruston and NFF president Fiona Simson to the AFPA members dinner in Canberra last night.



2/ Sarah Paradise, CEO, Institute of Foresters of Australia, Dr. Hans Drielsma, AM, chair, Responsible Wood, and Dr. Bill Hurditch, a founding principal and director of The Fifth Estate Consultancy.

Zealand Farm Forestry Association, a national network of farm foresters who share information for mutual commercial benefit.

“And I’m also looking forward to hearing direct from farmers on how they’ve made farm forestry work - how they’ve benefitted, and undoubtedly the hurdles they’ve encountered.

“What the NFF commits to doing is informing our

members of the change in policy settings that now make farm forestry more attractive in Australia.

“In the past farmers have been shut out of carbon economy rewards. Now farmers can be eligible for such rewards with relatively modest plantings.

“Agriculture is our nation’s third most emissions intensive industry. As a sector, we recognise our

role in lowering Australia’s overall emissions. Being able to demonstrate carbon sequestration capability can only be helpful to this end.

“Overall, for farm forestry to be successful in this country, we need to foster strong linkages between farmers and the forestry sector.”

• **Additional coverage of the dinner and forum will appear in next week’s issue of Timber & Forestry enews.**

# Snap to it. Photo contest will be forest experience.

Responsible Wood is again promoting a nation-wide photo contest, aimed at further raising awareness of the importance of sustainable forest management and certification. The contest theme – ‘experience forests, experience PEFC’ – enables participants to submit photos that fit this theme. This could embrace many topics, from forest landscapes to individual trees and plants, from harvesters to families hiking in the woods, from indigenous people to rural village life, from wooden buildings to photos of PEFC/Responsible Wood-labelled products.

The winning Australian entry in the PEFC contest will receive a \$500 gift voucher. The competition runs from Earth Day (April 22) to World Environment Day (June 5) and closes on June 5.

Responsible Wood opens the contest this month. Entries can be submitted electronically or by postal mail. All photos will remain with Responsible Wood for future use and promotion of Australian forest management.

Entries (any number) can be uploaded to Instagram **#RW2018PhotoContest** or emailed to PEFC Photo Contest at [sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au) or post to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005. Tel: (07) 3359 1758.



# Responsible Wood message goes bush

## Forest auditors stars of TV and U-Tube productions

THE crew from 7MATE's Going Bush recently joined VicForests, and a team of auditors, to learn how native timber harvesting operations are certified in Victoria.

General manager, corporate affairs, Alex Messina said forest certification was important to VicForests because it provided reassurance from third-party experts that its operations comply with internationally recognised environmental standards.

"VicForests regrows all harvested areas with the same type of forest that was originally there," Mr Messina said.



*In focus and on film... a TV crew films forest auditors at a VicForests operation.*

For more than a decade, VicForests has been certified to the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme (previously Australian Forestry Standard), which is internationally recognised by the world's largest certification scheme, PEFC.

"Customers of timber products look to the forests and want to see it sustainably managed, but it's a very complex question," Mr Messina said.

"Having the branded certification on our timber products confirms for them that we are responsibly managing the forest and producing timbers they can use with confidence."

In order to maintain certification, VicForests is audited regularly by independent experts to ensure the standards are being met.

"VicForests undergoes surveillance audits every nine months and we undertake a full-scale audit of all our operations every three years to retain certification," Mr Messina said.

"The challenge with forest management is it's a dynamic environment. As we learn more about a particular species or area there are opportunities to apply new methods," Mr Messina said.

The story aired on 7MATE in January and is available on the VicForests website and VicForests YouTube Channel.

## Students take responsibility for sustainability in business

VISITING the Responsible Wood display at the National Sustainability Conference in Brisbane today (March 8) are Troy McGrath, business



development manager, CitySmart, Marion Glover and Gabriel Skeeffe (right) program managers with EcoBiz, and Sue Oxley, teacher and sustainability group leader at Seton College, a co-educational high school at Mount Gravatt (second from right).

Ms Oxley intends to introduce Responsible Wood's sustainable forest management and wood certification initiatives into the college's sustainability

and eco-science classes for Year 7-10 students. She said the college's sustainability program extended to other schools across Brisbane.

The college participates each year in National Tree Planting Day and this year planted lemon myrtles and other indigenous plants in its 'indigenous garden'

Ms Oxley said all students had their own laptop which would allow them to link to the Responsible Wood web site.

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# Women still facing significant barriers in construction industry

A NEW report by Construction Skills Queensland shows the heavily masculine culture of the construction industry is turning women away, not the nature of the work.

The report was unveiled at the National Women in Construction Queensland Women's Week breakfast ahead of International Women's Day today (March 8)

It shows women are still reluctant to both enter and remain in the construction industry despite technological advancements in equipment such as exoskeletons and robotics that are removing the physical considerations once thought of as a significant factor for women's lack of representation.



**Scarce commodity... women account for just 3% of construction trade workers across Australia.**

In Queensland, female construction apprenticeship completion rates have been up to 15% lower than men in the past five years, challenging the thinking that females are under-represented

because they simply prefer not to work in the industry. The figures reflect the broader difficulties faced by women working in construction and not the initial recruitment.

CSQ CEO Brett Schimming is calling on the industry to make a change.

**“WOMEN IN WORKFORCE COULD BOOST GDP BY 11PC**

“It has been estimated that increasing women's representation in the overall workforce could boost Australia's GDP by 11%, so, in an industry as poorly attended by women as construction, the economic gains have the potential to be much higher,” he said.

Women accounted for just 3% of construction trade workers across Australia last year compared to women in other industries who take up a 51% share in the non-construction workforce.

With the overall trend of women in the workforce on the rise, the construction

industry remains one of the exceptions.

For the women who do work in the industry, many work outside the traditional trades that form the core of the industry such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers. Only 3000 women participate in these three core trades occupations nationwide equalling less than 1%. This figure has remained under 2% over the past three decades.

“Too often, the problem of female participation is framed as an education and awareness problem, as if the main challenge is to persuade women of the virtues of construction work,” Mr Schimming said.

“This report reveals the reality that the construction environment is deeply unattractive to women, not because of the physical nature of the work, but because of the culture within the industry.”

A substantial body of international literature supports the notion that the heavily masculine culture within the construction industry, which the new report says is too often expressed as “thinly veiled misogyny, homophily or outright sexual harassment”, is the primary factor preventing women entering and remaining in the industry.

“It is only construction employers and workers who can create an environment within their industry to accept women and move away from the culture that excludes them or makes them feel uncomfortable,” Mr Schimming said.

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# Financial health critical to survival of the entire industry supply chain

## Buying power: more than \$450m in finance arranged annually

WE know that when it's all boiled down, the Australian economy is built on the backs of small to medium-sized businesses. Businesses that have the courage to dream, invest, take risks, employ people and hopefully make ends meet.

Forest harvesting, transport and logistics contractors are good cases-in-point.

Setting aside the large forest plantations owners, and the sawmills run by big corporations, the forest industry is characterised by small to medium-sized businesses, collectively employing many thousands of people across regional Australia and supporting rural communities.

Keeping these businesses financially healthy is critical for the survival of the entire forest industry supply chain. Clearly, if businesses fail the whole empire – investors, employees, creditors, suppliers and down-stream manufacturers – collapse like the proverbial house of cards.

So when it comes to business finances, specialist, sympathetic investment advice is essential. It is a reality that the big banks are not always particularly tuned into, or have detailed knowledge of small to



1/ *Financing the purchase or leasing of equipment for companies at the sharp end of forest operations.*

2/ *Mark O'Donoghue ... appreciating the courage of the forest contracting sector.*

understanding financial advice and equipment finance assistance to a wide range of family-owned capital intensive businesses for decades.

"Finlease is quickly establishing productive relationships with the forest industry; it has secured a number of well-known established family operators as clients in this sector with those numbers quickly accelerating as our reputation spreads," Mr O'Donoghue said.

"It does take time to initially establish a track record. However, we are now seeing

*Cont P 16*

medium-sized businesses in the forest industry. Fortunately for business owners and managers, Finlease has a strong history of working with family-owned and otherwise privately-owned businesses.

Financing the purchase or leasing of equipment and fleet for businesses at the sharp end of forest operations, including tree harvesting, transport and logistics that are critical to the entire forestry supply chain, is one of Finlease's key skill sets.

According to founder and CEO Mark O'Donoghue, Finlease appreciates the courage of the forest contracting sector and has provided competent,

## FREE – NATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

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

(The field day originally scheduled for February 23 was postponed due to heavy rain).

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“FOREST INDUSTRY TYPIFIED BY SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZE BUSINESSES

From P 15

the fruits of our labour. We want to make a difference and establish long term relationships. It's all about service, keen pricing and speed of delivery. We should be seen as a breath of fresh air compared to the other financiers in the market."

Mr O'Donoghue said Finlease made sourcing fleet and equipment finance easy.

"We arrange finance for all manner of equipment, machinery and vehicles for clients ranging from large private companies to individuals. Many clients have been with us for more than 20 years, whether their requirements have been an occasional vehicle or for millions of dollars in machinery and other assets."

He added that Finlease could also arrange debt restructuring, working capital and debtor discounting



*Specialist advisers in every state understand the needs of tree harvesting, transport and other forest sector companies.*

facilities, as well as arranging better overall banking relationships.

With more than \$450 million in finance arranged annually Finlease had the skills and buying power to locate and negotiate the right finance package for specific companies.

Mr O'Donoghue said Finlease believed in taking

the time to understand individual businesses, their opportunities and trading conditions. "This allows us to act as business advocates in putting their case to some of the country's leading

**“THE RIGHT PLAN WILL ADVANCE BUSINESS GOALS”**

financiers," he said.

"Once we have specific company information, subsequent finance requirements are easier as we already understand them. It doesn't matter whether companies are after a new or used fleet or equipment, through a dealer or private sale, Finlease can secure the right finance plan that will advance business goals."



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# Forest registration rights brought into investment screening regime

THE New Zealand government has agreed to changes to the treatment of overseas investments in forestry rights that will see them brought into the Overseas Investment Act

screening regime.

At the same time, a new streamlined approval path will be opened for overseas investors buying forestry rights that will make it easier to gain approval.

Associate Finance Minister David Parker said that in recognition of the importance of quality overseas investment in forestry, this new approval path would also be available for investments in leasehold and freehold forestry land, which were already screened.

"It is important to note that Māori hold a large percentage of forestry interests in New Zealand," Mr Parker said.

"It is not anticipated that this change will



prejudice interests that Iwi have secured through the settlement process or fundamentally change the rights and interests of Māori in relation to their lands."

Mr Parker said the change needed to be made before the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) came into force. He heads to Chile later this week to sign the CPTPP.

and a long term forestry registration right. Both confer effective control of the forest and land."

Overseas investors will be able to purchase up to 1000 ha of forestry

rights a year, or any forestry right of less than three years' duration, without OIA approval.

A standing consent system will also be developed so quality forestry investors can make purchases of forestry land and rights without needing to seek prior approval of each individual transaction.

The counterfactual test, which has complicated forest purchases, is removed. Any existing commitments to provide logs to domestic customers are maintained.

Ministers are finalising the details of the proposal and it will then be referred to a select committee.

**1/ Approval path... overseas investors will be able to purchase up to 1000 ha of forestry rights annually.**

**2/ David Parker... off to Chile to sign trans-Pacific agreement.**

"Making this change now will preserve policy options for future governments in relation to forests," Mr Parker said.

"Not making this change would mean future governments could not screen overseas purchases of our forests because there is little difference in effect between a long term lease

**“CHANGES NOW WILL PRESERVE FUTURE POLICY OPTIONS**

## Canterbury rebuild helps triple residential building in NZ

RESIDENTIAL builds are dominating the pool of approved building consents in New Zealand.

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, the value of residential construction projects has ballooned from about \$1 billion to just under

\$3 billion in December last year, Statistics New Zealand data shows.

The amount of money spent nationwide on commercial builds has increased slightly over the same time period, but only by about \$500,000.

The total \$820 million spent on construction in the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes was up \$162 million, or 21% on the same period in 2012.

Despite the increasing value of building consents, city centres have been

grappling with a shortage of new builds.

Little more than 10,000 dwelling consents were issued in Auckland in the year to March 2017, well below the 15,000 required just to keep up with the city's demand.

# Where's the industry's new blood?

## We're running short on succession planning

ALASTAIR WOODARD

IN terms the ever-important generic technical market support of the wood products industry, there is one unarguable fact – skilled and knowledgeable human resource capability is at an all-time low.

State associations that used to employ these technical experts no longer do so, and many of the previous experts are now either consultants or quite long in the tooth and close to retirement, or both.

Once the old guard is gone, the loss of corporate expert knowledge around standards and codes, past R&D innovation, market development and basic fundamental technical timber matters will be a major issue for the industry.

Solid technical succession planning should be a key priority for the wood products industry. Finding and recruiting talented and enthusiastic young professionals of all persuasions should be an ongoing and core activity; setting in place the next generation and passing on the expert corporate knowledge.



**New talent...** Adam Jones, technical officer, Victorian WoodSolutions (right) with Dr Alastair Woodard, program manager, pictured at the recent exterior timber design seminar in Melbourne.

One good news story is the recent recruitment of structural engineer Adam Jones, head-hunted into the industry by TPC Solutions from WSP, one of Australia's largest engineering firms.

I first met Adam as part of his WoodSolutions Educational Program work, when he was undertaking his final-year student investigation project on the life cycle benefits of structural timber. Our paths crossed again at a number of WoodSolutions seminars, and in at FWPA when Adam approached FWPA around the voluntary work he was doing with the Beyond Zero

Emissions (Using Less) project.

While with WSP, Adam was also one of the engineers involved in the 55 Southbank Boulevard project which is currently building an extension of 10 CLT floors above an existing seven-storey office building.

Adam's entrepreneurial interests, not something engineers often have, and his interest and knowledge in timber were most intriguing, so I took the opportunity to offer Adam a position with TPC Solutions.

As part of his role, Adam's

skills, and his Y-generation (digitally connected) knowledge, will be put to work assisting the Victorian WoodSolutions Technical Presentations Program, particularly exploring new social media approaches to engage with the younger generation of building professionals'.

Adam also has a personal interest in developing podcasts for busy professionals, which will be encouraged through the development of a range of different timber related podcast themes.

His engineering skills will also be used in assisting to manage a new FWPA project, developing a Structural Engineers' Design Guide for Mid-Rise Timber Buildings, the technical content of this which is being developed by leading industry experts Geoff Boughton and Andrew Dunn.

Adam will also assist in developing new educational resources for the WoodSolutions Educational Program and providing technical assistance to the WoodSolutions mid-rise advisory team.

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# Toyota's flagship Prado Kakadu BIG, cool multi-terrain performer

WE must have missed the signs. We ploughed along a twisted branch-strewn road, pushed by a big engine with enough torque to get us to the top of the steepest terrain.

Our initial destination was Springbrook, a mountain plateau 990 m high in the Gold Coast hinterland.

Travelling by way of Mudgeeraba, the track, which became an obstacle course, ended at a road barrier three-quarters of the way up. More than 205 mm of rain in 24 hours had washed away any hope of driving into the thick of one of Queensland's most wonderful subtropical rainforest national parks.

So, we turned the 18-in, alloy wheels of the big Toyota Prado Kakadu – and I mean BIG, brother – and headed back to a charming tea house we had spotted at the bottom of the range.

The cottage, built on the Gold Coast in 1911 and steeped in history, was cut in half in 1981 and removed in a slow traumatic haul to Springbrook.

It was moved again 14 years later by new owners to its current site at Mudgeeraba.

I recommend the carrot and almond cake with cream cheese frosting and the freshest-ever date scones with mulberry jam and clotted cream. The hot Darjeeling leaves were chosen from an impressive collection of different teas delivered in glass jars for our selection.

Reflecting on Springbrook, we were reminded that in 2005 the Beattie and Bligh government spent \$40.15 million in a controversial



*Toyota's Prado Kakadu shows off its stuff at the Mudgeeraba Tea House.*

## MOTORING



### With ORSON WHEELS

purchase of 45 properties that covered 705 ha. The aim was to restore critical habitat to world heritage status and eventually expand the Springbrook National Park. The controversial recovery process conducted by the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society led by Aila Keto was criticised for lack of accountability.

I reflected also on the Prado's namesake the Kakadu National Park, an area of 19,805 sq km, 170 km southeast of Darwin. My first and last trip to this wonderland was in the summer of 1979 travelling in a friend's two-

door Toyota Land Cruiser J40, which is slightly larger than the similar Jeep CJ.

Back then I would have welcomed Prado's capacious ventilated seats.

The Prado Kakadu, also referred to as Land Cruiser, depending on the platform, has been given a minor upgrade for 2018 – a new grille for a fresher appearance and specification and price changes to keep it competitive.

But at around \$84,490 (excluding on-road costs) it's not cheap, although \$1120 cheaper than the model it replaces and Toyota's flagship is the best-selling large SUV, outdoing its stablemate the Toyota Kluger.

The six-speed automatic Kakadu comes with a selectable drive mode system,

which gives the choice of five modes for the powertrain, chassis and air-conditioning settings, and there's a new panoramic parking camera.

Other standard equipment includes 18-in, alloy wheels, tri-zone air-conditioning, a moon roof, leather trim, heated and ventilated front seats, a 14-speaker sound system and a Blu-Ray rear entertainment system with wireless headphones.

Toyota has discarded the 4-litre six-cylinder petrol engine as part of the update, so the only option is the 2.8-litre four-cylinder turbo diesel, which produces 130kW of power and a healthy 450Nm of torque.

Claimed fuel economy is 8L/100 km for combined city and highway driving.

Another upgrade is an increased towing capacity of 3000 kg braked.

Only two of us on this trip, but the Kakadu's standard seven-seat layout can accommodate a large family and all their travelling gear, no problem.

**“FRESHER APPEARANCE AND SHARPER PRICE KEEP IT COMPETITIVE**

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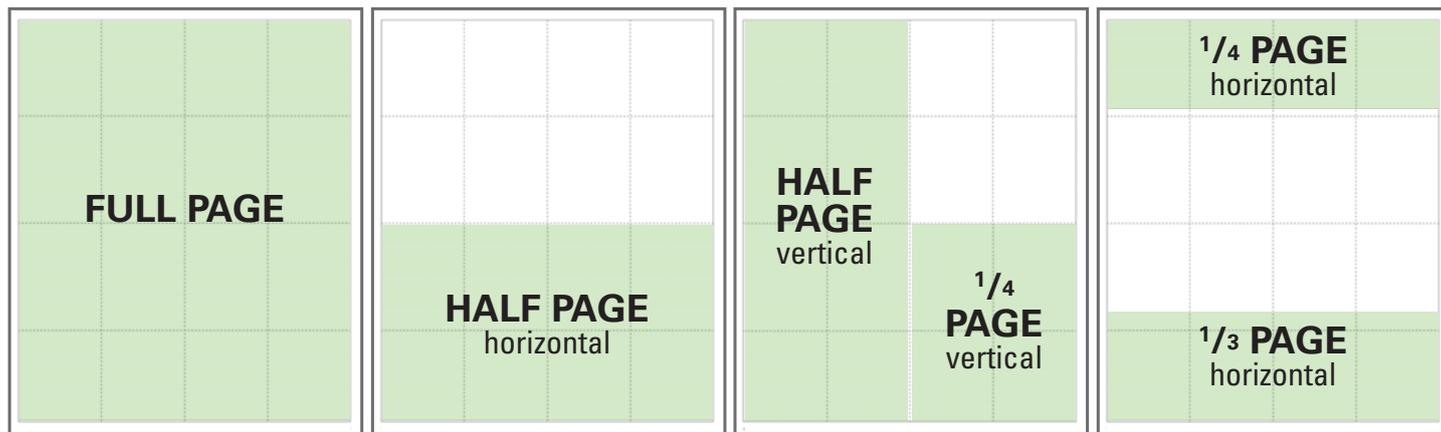
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