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COVER STORY P14

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Senator Ruston moves on national forest industry draft plan at forum

PM commitment reinforced at Canberra round of meetings

JOHN HALKETT

A DRAFT of the national forest industry plan announced last year by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will be provided to state and territory forest ministers in June.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Senator Anne Ruston presented an update on the plan to more than 40 leaders from Australia's timber and forest associations and other industry stakeholders at a forum in Canberra last week, ahead of the AFPA members' dinner.

Senator Ruston said the federal government would make announcements about the plan in September.

She was supported at the forum by key senior forestry staff from her department.

The senator's brief is based on the commitment given by the Prime Minister at Parliament House on September 12 last year, when he announced that the government would develop a



Round table... Greg McCormack, chair, Australian Forest Products Association, Rob de Fégely, co-chair Forest Industry Advisory Council, and Senator Anne Ruston lead the trade association forum in Canberra last week.

new plan that would underpin growth in the renewable timber and wood-fibre industry.

"We are committed to developing this industry as a growth engine for regional Australia," Mr Turnbull said.

In opening the industry forum, the chair of the Australian Forest Products Association Greg McCormack restated that the forest industry sector contributed about \$24 billion to the

country's economy each year.

"Forest industries underpin many regional jobs and communities. About 80,000 people work directly in our industries, while another 40,000 work in diverse jobs

which use the timber from our plantation forests and native forests," he said.

"Forest industry jobs are spread across a huge range of professions including the planting and regeneration of forests, the caring of forests, the sustainable harvest of forests, the haulage of timber and woodchips, timber processing, the creation of paper, cardboard, and tissue products, plus renewable

“COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING INDUSTRY AS GROWTH ENGINE FOR REGIONS

Cont P 3



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From P 2

bio-pellets for energy through to the cutting-edge invention of biomaterials and bio-chemicals.

"A further 180,000 people relied on forest industries for their indirect employment."

Mr McCormack confirmed the urgency for a national forest industries plan.

"There is a growing shortage of softwood plantations, which is preventing our sawmills from expanding to global-scale operations," he said.

"There is also a growing global demand for renewable timber, paper, cardboard, and bio-products to replace those existing products derived from fossil fuels."

In her presentation, Senator Ruston acknowledged the valuable work and reporting by the Forest Industry Advisory Council and the obvious need to see a lot more plantations "in the ground".

In also complementing the work of the Australian Forest Products Association, she said that with the support and involvement of the industry the government wanted to change the policy settings so



Malcolm Turnbull... announcing federal support for a national forest industry plan at an industry dinner at Parliament House last year.

they could better deliver for forestry.

"Significant opportunities also exist for the industry to make a leading contribution to the biofuels revolution, enhance research capacity, and consider related infrastructure issues and needs," she said. "Getting the policy setting right was an essential part of the national plan process.

“WE MUST PUT SCIENCE BACK INTO THE ARGUMENT

The senator added: "Yes, there are big challenges ahead for the industry in promoting its message and combating the forces of

darkness. Greater effort is needed to build relationships with entities and people who supported our goals and aspirations, including a closer collaborative relationship with the farming sector."

She also said the industry and government must also work collectively to change the public perception of the industry, especially the public perception in urban areas.

"We need to be more proactive to dispel myths and put science back into the argument – we need to change the public narrative," she said.

"We need to also put emphasis on the industries' linkages to climate change abatement, carbon markets and biodiversity."

Wood key plank for bringing nature into the office

EMPLOYERS looking to boost worker productivity should consider using more of one of the world's oldest and most sustainable materials in their office fit-outs: wood. That's the takeout from world-first research by strategic market research firm Pollinate and the University of Canberra.

Based on a survey of 1000 indoor Australian workers, the research provides fresh evidence to underpin the business case for biophilia – the principle that exposure



Jacki Schirmer... wood boosts worker productivity.

to nature increases human wellbeing.

The study paints a bleak

picture of workers' current access to nature at work with less than half (47%) enjoying access to natural light, only two in five (38%) being able to see indoor plants, a quarter (26%) unable to see any natural looking wooden surfaces and almost half (46%) spending less than an hour outdoors on work days.

The study found that the more natural-looking wooden surfaces workers could

Cont P 10



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Recruitment specialist Ria joins TABMA Australia in Melbourne

A SPECIALIST in apprentices and trainees recruitment has been appointed state manager in Victoria for TABMA Australia.

CEO Colin Fitzpatrick said Ria Stephenson, who would be based in Melbourne, brought extensive experience in the field, having previously worked with a leading group training organisation.

Ria has worked in the recruitment sector for 14 years across a broad range of industries including retail, energy, and executive. Around five of those years were spent within the apprenticeship space, including three years as a field officer with MEGT, an Australian non-profit



Ria Stephenson... wide experience in recruitment sector.

organisation that supports local employers, apprentices, trainees, job seekers and students.

Most recently, she was running the Victorian branch of group trainer MIGAS, which has a large focus on



Alicia Oelkers... 10 years' service with TABMA Australia.

the manufacturing sector and other traditional trades.

Ria joined TABMA in Melbourne in late February taking over from Brooke Caracciolo who had been acting in a caretaker role since late October. Brooke has now returned to her previous role with TABMA Queensland.

Mr Fitzpatrick praised Brooke for the improvements and initiatives she introduced into the Victorian market for TABMA.

He said that in early December, Alicia Oelkers,

manager for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, had brought up 10 years' service with TABMA.

"We congratulate Alicia on this achievement," he said.

The TABMA Australia national industry dinner will be held on Friday, October 26, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sussex Street, Sydney.

"All TABMA and industry members are invited to attend this gala event which will feature fantastic entertainment," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

Official invitations will be sent in early September.

TABMA is a national industry association representing timber and building material merchants, suppliers, manufacturers, frame and truss fabricators, wholesalers and timber importers.

From its origins in 1940, TABMA has grown into a dynamic and progressive business organisation.



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From P 9

see from their workstation, the higher their workplace satisfaction and wellbeing.

Ahead of an address to the Green Cities conference in Melbourne this week, Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer from the University of Canberra said the results were exciting, for the first time providing solid evidence to support the use of wood as part of bringing nature into workplaces.

"We are always looking for ways to improve health and

wellbeing, and this research points to ways we can achieve that in the places many people spend a lot of their time – the workplace," she said.

"The work has implications for businesses, because a large body of research has shown that workers who are more satisfied with their work and have higher wellbeing have better work productivity, and reduced rates of absenteeism – which means improving worker wellbeing has real benefits for businesses."

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

MAY

1-2: 5th annual RISI-DANA International Forest Investment Conference – New York City. Contact conferences@risi.com or visit www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/

JUNE

3-9: 3rd DANA China wood industry tour – China. Visits to Manzhouli on Russia-China border, Chongqing port and wood processing site and Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre. Contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz or visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2018china/

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

17-22: RISI 10th International Wood Fibre Trade Conference and optional field trip – Southern Sun

Elangeni Hotel, Durban, South Africa.

DANA assists with program. Contact: conferences@risi.com or visit www.events.risiinfo.com/wood-fiber/

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

25-26: FSC Asia Pacific Business Forum 2018 – Mumbai, India.

Email: info@au.fsc.org

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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Brisbane architect selected for judging panel at world festival

JIM BOWDEN

AWARD-winning Brisbane eco-architect Mark Thomson has been appointed to the international judging panel at the World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam, the world's largest global gathering of the architectural elite.

The festival, dedicated to celebrating, sharing and inspiring outstanding architecture, is the only architecture event where keynote talks from the industry's most influential figures sit alongside live judging presentations from more than 500 award finalists.

The festival from November 28 to 30 in the Netherlands' capital attracts more than 2000 of the world's most senior architects and clients and includes an international product exhibition.

The event this year introduces for the first time a Best Use of Certified Timber Prize awarded for completed buildings and supported by the Program for Endorsement for Forest Certification.

Mark Thomson, a director of Responsible Wood, founded Eco Effective Solutions in



Mark Thomson... selected as a judge for the World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam this year.

2010 and has undertaken architectural refurbishment projects and environmental consulting over a wide range of built project types.

He has a national reputation for championing sustainable design and development as a practising architect, commercial interior designer and environmental consultant. He is president of the Australian Green Development Forum, a faculty member of the Green Building Council of Australia and is the corporate sustainability principal for the Schiavello Group of companies, Australia's largest

commercial furniture systems manufacturer and construction organisation.

In the certified timber contest, a special jury, including a PEFC representative, will identify entries that have used certified timber in an innovative, educational or artistic manner.

"Certified timber provides

“ PEFC PRIZE FOR CERTIFIED TIMBER A FESTIVAL FIRST

architects confidence that their specified timber has been sourced from sustainably-managed forests and best practice supply-chain organisations," PEFC CEO and secretary-general Ben Gunneberg said.

Short-listed architects will be contacted to confirm that the timber specified and used in the project originates from certified sources demonstrating leadership in sustainable design. The winner will be announced at the gala festival dinner on November 30.

PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to enabling and promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. With more than 300 million ha of certified forests in 39 countries, it is the world's largest forest certification system.

The governing body in Australia for PEFC, Responsible Wood, maintains

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2nd Biennial State Conference

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standards for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708), and Chain of Custody for Forest Products (AS 4707).

Timber from PEFC-certified forests is now a key element in many building projects from structural applications including timber frames, glulam, CLT, LVL and structural insulated panels, to components such as engineered floor cassettes, trusses, staircases, windows and door sets, plywood, MDF, skirting, OSB, decking and cladding.

Project entries for the festival must be submitted by



Grand jury... judging gets under way at last year's World Architecture Festival.

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Entry details are at www.worldarchitecturefestival.com

NEG best plan to balance energy affordability: AFPA

AS the consultation closes, the Australian Forest Products Association has congratulated the federal Minister for Energy and Environment, Josh Frydenberg for progressing the National Energy Guarantee.

“The NEG, if well designed, is Australia’s best plan yet to balance the key objectives of energy affordability, energy reliability and the transition to a renewable energy, lower carbon future in line with Australia’s international climate change commitments,” AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

“Australia’s forest industries are facing an energy crisis of rapidly increasing costs yet could still make a significant contribution to delivering secure, reliable and affordable energy and lower emissions, through the recognition of the huge potential of renewable bioenergy and renewable heat energy,” he said.

“It would also help sustain manufacturing operations, providing much-needed regional investment and jobs in Australia.

Mr Hampton said investing

in bioenergy could significantly contribute to both guarantees under the NEG. Bioenergy was a unique renewable source that could be used across all three energy sectors – transport, heat and electricity.

Bioenergy can be both dispatchable and deliver baseload power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Biomass waste and residues could partially substitute for coal in coal-fired power station units.

Bioenergy is well suited to powering many existing

regional manufacturers and communities and bioenergy assets located in those communities would reduce transmission losses and distribution costs.

Mr Hampton said Australia’s forest industries would continue to work with the government on the design of the NEG including on issues such as the framework for offsetting carbon credits and managing the impact of climate change policy on emissions-intensive and trade-exposed domestic industries.

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Forest Commission submits tender for southwest native forest harvest

THE WA Forest Product Commission has submitted a tender to the state government to establish an integrated timber processing yard which could see an increase in the harvest of native forests in the state's southwest.

The proposal indicates that "native forest and plantation logs would be supplied to a central processing facility" which would be located close in the southwest region and operated by a third party.

FPC SEEKS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION WITHIN APPROVED LIMIT

The WA Forest Alliance has stated the proposal defies government policy by seeking to "massively increase" native forest logging.

The Forest Product Commission's native forest operation currently operates at the lower limit of the Forest Management Plan 2014.

If the proposal for an integrated timber processing yard is successful, the commission will seek to increase production within the approved limit.

WA Forest Alliance convener Jess Beckerling said the old guard within the FPC was "hell bent on continued native forest logging".

Ms Beckerling said up to 180,000 cub m of jarrah,



Dave Kelly... balancing preservation and sustainable harvesting.

marri and karri would be logged from the forests every year making it the largest buyer of native forest logs.

Forestry Minister Dave Kelly said the government was committed to balancing the preservation of the environment and a strong

sustainable forest industry.

"Currently, 62% of native forest is protected in national parks and designated conservation areas and is not available to harvest, which includes more than 334,000 ha of old growth forest," he said.

"The Forest Products Commission has access to 38% of regrowth forest and annually harvests less than 1% of this allocation."

Mr Kelly said the timber industry supported about 6000 jobs. The processing yard was designed to maximise value of recovery from timber already available for harvest under the Forest Management Plan.

(Extracts from Busselton-Dunsborough Mail)

Latest ABS housing finance figures start on positive note

LATEST ABS housing finance data commenced on a positive note with total dwelling commencements up by 0.7% in January.

"Most encouraging for builders is that mortgage

borrowing for the construction of new housing was particularly strong, up by 3.1%," Master Builders Australia national manager, housing and economics, Matthew Pollock said.

"Finance for first home buyers has continued its positive trend rising again in January as a share of total finance commitments to 18%," he said.

"However, while investor

borrowing remained little changed from recent months, up by 1.1% in seasonally adjusted terms, it's fallen 6.7% from a year earlier."



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Hyne first glulam manufacturer to meet new BIM specifications

Major milestone for Australian design and construction

A SIGNIFICANT milestone for the design and construction industry has been achieved by Maryborough-based Hyne Timber – the Queensland company becomes the first glulam manufacturer in Australia to provide Building Information Modelling (BIM) content for GLT in accordance with the new AS/NZS BIM standards.

Revit software users can now access the Hyne Timber 'GLT families' for designs incorporating Australian graded, independently certified GLT products for their timber projects while ensuring product specifications are accurate and reliable.

Responsible Wood chain of custody certification is also included to provide surety that the timber products are responsibly and sustainably sourced from within Australia from certified, sustainably managed plantation forests.

Hyne Timber's GLT business development manager Rob Mansell said engineered timber was increasingly specified for its structural, visual and environmental benefits.

"Technology is transforming the way buildings are designed and BIM provides insight and tools to more efficiently plan, design, construct and manage

“TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING WAY BUILDINGS ARE DESIGNED



1/ John Hess and Robert Mansell of Hyne Timber confer with Toby Hodsdon, principal structural engineer at Bligh Tanner, a Brisbane-based structural, civil, environmental and water engineering consultancy.
2/ Kim Baber... commercial projects require service and innovative solutions.



buildings," he said.

Providing BIM content for GLT is an innovative part of Hyne Timber's Market Led Proposal to design and build a new Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Complex (QFES Complex) in Maryborough, from locally-grown and engineered timber.

While the proposal continues to progress through Stage 2, the company's BIM content is available to download now and is already being used by the QFES Complex design team.

The proposal's principal architect Kim Baber said Hyne Timber's announcement

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would not only benefit the QFES Complex design team but was an example of the benefits realised from early contractor involvement.

“For commercial projects, it isn’t simply a case of placing an order of GLT products,” Mr Baber said.

“We need timber experts on the design team from the start.

“Working closely from the concept stage means we now have BIM content for the GLT components, something that didn’t previously exist.”

He said all product details, from dimensions, mass and volume, down to the colour and texture of GLT, could be

brought into the 3D model in a single integrated BIM element.

“This means we can exchange quantitative information with our consultant team, particularly the structural engineer, as well as clients, all from the same model,” Mr Baber said.

“Commercial projects require service and innovative solutions and that is exactly what Hyne Timber has provided, enabling improved accuracy when sharing technical building information and saving considerable time.” Mr Baber concluded.

Proponent partners and leading construction company Hutchinson Builders has also welcomed Hyne Timber’s

announcement with design manager Luke Churchin stating that GLT BIM content provides value beyond efficiencies during the design and construction stages.

“As a building company, it is important for us to provide the client with as much detail as possible in relation to the life-cycle of the building,” he said.

“The benefits of BIM include the capacity to store

data and detail relating to the project such as certification, chain of custody, inventory, warranties, energy consumption, equipment information and periodic maintenance procedures.

“This can simply be passed on to the end user for their facility management and ongoing building operation.”

Hyne Timber’s GLT BIM library consists of Beam 17, Beam 18, Beam 21 and LGL, available in beam and column families.

GLT BIM content also provides reassurance to the end user that the timber materials are compliant, certified, and sustainably sourced from within Australia.

**“WE NEED
TIMBER
EXPERTS ON
DESIGN TEAM
FROM THE
START**

Housing crisis deepens in US as harsh tariffs hit steel industry

AS the nation-wide housing affordability crisis deepens in the US, the Trump

administration is moving to adopt steel and aluminium tariffs that will make it worse,

particularly in dense urban cities. This move follows new tariffs on Canadian lumber late last year and harsher enforcement on the migrant workers from Mexico and Central America who are essential to the industry.

The combined effect could mean higher rents and more expensive housing in the years to come.

Earlier this month, the administration signalled it would increase steel tariffs to 25% and aluminium tariffs to 10%. While the goal is to inject some life into the US steel industry – which employs just 143,000 workers, many clustered in the politically important Midwest – the Wall Street Journal and others have pointed out that the tariffs could ultimately hurt employees in much larger steel-consuming industries.

While wood frame construction is increasingly common for apartment buildings up to five storeys, the taller structures that

are needed in white-hot housing markets such as San Francisco, New York, and Austin depend entirely on access to steel.

Meanwhile, the US government has hit the Canadian forestry industry with more duties as it upholds countervailing duties on Canadian newsprint.

**“HOUSING MORE
EXPENSIVE IN
YEARS TO COME**

The US Department of Commerce says Canadian exporters have sold newsprint in the US as much as 22.16% less than fair value and it will collect cash corresponding to those rates.

It noted that the maximum margin of 22.16% is lower than the 54.97% rate alleged by Washington-based North Pacific Paper Company.

The final determination in the investigation will be made in August.



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Good Samaritan Kenneth a big-time plantation investor with a big heart

HOPE by now you would have gathered I have a busy day job. It's quotas and keeping on the right side of the occasional Forestry Corporation visitors in their white utes bristling with aeriels.

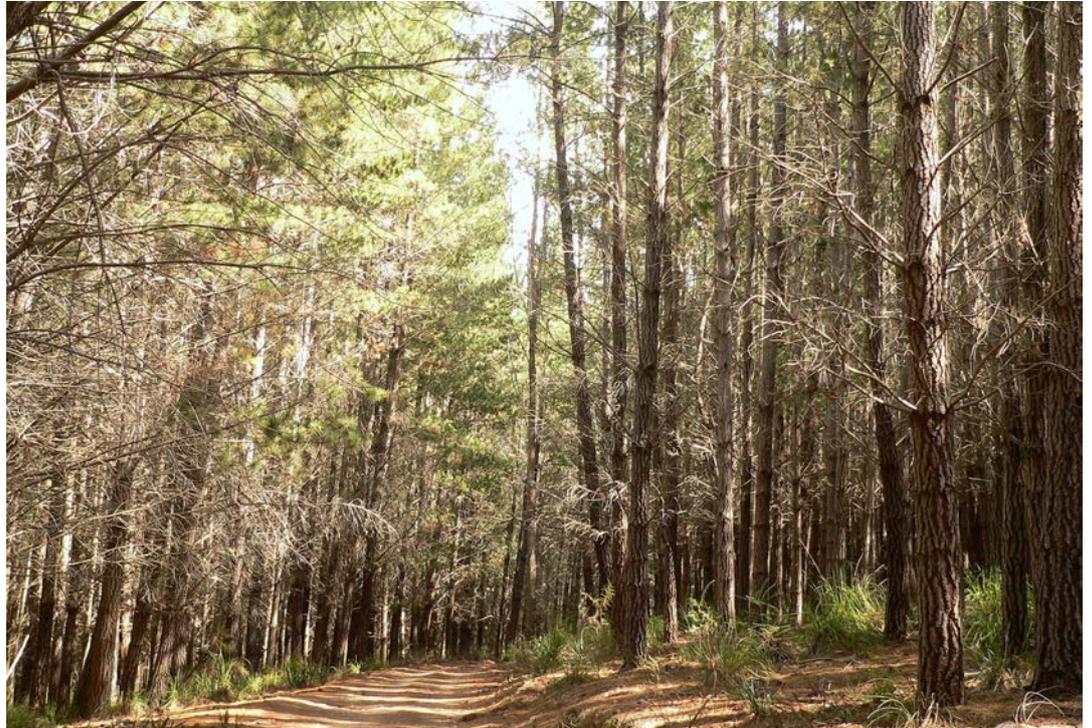
They are usually all good guys – we are mostly all pushing in the same direction. But sorry I digress.

From time-to-time I go for a look-see at areas needing a harvesting contractor. And it was in this vein, via a friend of a friend, that Sal and I drove from Tumut to Cooma to meet up with Kenneth (I won't tell you his surname to protect his dignity).

Now Kenneth is a big-time city investor who had brought a chunk of land reasonably adjacent to Badja state forest, not all that distant from Nimatabel. I just love that Monaro radiata pine. Mature trees are often not more than 50 cm diameter, but the form is usually impressive – tall trees and delicate branching, if that is the correct technical description.

Anyhow, some work was needed – you know a bit of a walk around and a couple of plots – to get a sense of sawlog and pulpwood volumes and so on.

A real enticement was that over the phone Kenneth had told us that next to his plantation he had a flash 'retreat' where he, Sal and I could spend the night. So we had come equipped with the necessary – some food to cook and a couple of bottles of red. A night in Kenneth's 'retreat' with an open fire on



Tall trees and delicate branching... Kenneth's Monaro country radiata plantation.

a chilly Monaro night, a cook up and glass or two sounded inviting.

So after a preliminary reconnaissance, a couple of locked gates and what could only be described as a goat track for the last couple of ks at dusk, we arrived at Kenneth's retreat, and it did look most inviting. However, to quote a line from that famous 'local' poem: 'There was movement at the station...'. We discovered a woman had taken up residence – squatting to be accurate – in Kenneth's retreat. My immediate

“THE LADY WILL HAVE TO BE WELL GONE BEFORE THE LOGGING STARTS

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

reaction, after preparing for a quiet evening after a long day, by the fire and with a glass of red in hand, was to tell her to pack her bags and hiss off!

Being a much more gentle soul Kenneth listened to the lady's hard luck story through the tears. "We just can't kick her out into the night, can we?" he said.

So for us it was goodbye to the much anticipated cook-

up by the fire, back down the goat track (with the glass of red in hand) to a motel and some Chinese chow at Cooma.

Back next morning, another plot and Kenneth goes to talk to the damsel in distress who had totally destroyed our night of companionship by the fire. I stayed well away.

"She is in difficult circumstances so I said she could stay for six months," said the benevolent Kenneth.

To put it mildly, I was staggered. But afterwards on reflection what a generous, kind gesture. So well done Samaritan Kenneth. But the lady will have to be well gone before the logging starts. I still want that cook-up and glass of wine or two by the fire.

Catch you next time,
Cheryl

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Caboolture sawmill purchase the ‘perfect fit’ for AKD Softwoods



Enthusiastic welcome... executives and staff cheer the arrival of AKD Softwoods in Queensland after the group's successful purchase of the Caboolture sawmill.

“THE Caboolture sawmill will be a perfect fit for AKD Softwoods,” CEO Shane Vicary said after the group finalised the purchase of the mill from Carter Holt Harvey.

Associated Kiln Driers Softwoods, based at Colcac in south western Victoria, took ownership of the mill, 50 km north of Brisbane, on March 9.

The Caboolture operation processes about 215,000 cub m of sawlog into a range of timber products for the Queensland and northern NSW markets.

The mill resumed normal operations this week with no disruption to customers. All existing 120 employees have been offered on-going employment.

AKD Softwoods is a privately-owned company with a proud 60-year history in the forest industry. A vertically-integrated forest products business, it

operates on six separate sites. AKD services local and international markets through sustainable forestry practices and employs the latest processing technologies available to produce high-quality products.

“We see the Caboolture business as a well-run operation that will be a perfect fit for the AKD group,” Shane Vicary said.

“ PROVIDES AKD ACCESS TO NEW MARKETS AND NEW CUSTOMERS

“The acquisition provides us with a greater range of products to offer our existing customers, and also provides AKD with access to new markets and new customers,” he said.

“For AKD, it was important that there be no impact on the existing operations and

employment. We believe that these assets, being the people and plant, will enhance our future and provide growth and stability.”

Mr Vicary said through the group's long history, AKD had continued to grow through a combination of strategic acquisitions and on-going capital investment in core business and core activities.

“The Caboolture sawmill acquisition continues this approach and our commitment to this vibrant industry,” he said.

“We believe that the future demand for quality virgin wood fibre in the Australian and International markets is strong.

“The access to well-managed plantations is at the heart of this transaction. We are committed to working with our key log suppliers and provide our customers with quality locally-grown and produced products, from

renewable resources.”

AKD also operates two sawmills that process about 700,000 cub m of sawlog annually drawing resource from more than 8000 ha of radiata plantations in Victoria and South Australia.

The group has three timber preservation businesses, a softwood chip export operation and two log export locations

AKD is proud of its 60-year history in the Colac-Otway region, having retained its headquarters at the site on which it was founded in 1955 by an association of local family companies.

The four equal shareholder companies that own AKD have been involved since day one.

On the cover: Faith in timber, faith in Queensland... Craig Neale, general manager, Queensland, AKD Softwoods, Shane Vicary, AKD chief executive, and Tony Ryan, Caboolture site manager.

Yes, Minister, what can you tell us?

Just where will the wood come from in SE Qld?

DICK PEGG

RECENT articles in Timber & Forestry enews by Cheryl Forrest and Stephen Midgley and their question "where will the wood come from?" plus articles on the rapacious appetite from China for logs and timber from Australia prompted me to think about the situation in southeast Queensland.

We all remember the Southeast Queensland Forest Agreement, signed in 1999. Signatories to this agreement highlighted the virtues such as:

- Giving certainty of wood

supply for 25 years from native forests.

- Providing a hardwood plantation resource to provide for industry in perpetuity.
- Reservation of 73% of native forest on public land rising to 100% over 25 years.

I understand this agreement differed from the Regional Forest Agreements signed in other states in that the commonwealth did not sign off on it. I have heard some Queensland bureaucrats refer to this agreement as the 'Beattie-Keto agreement' as they



R.E. (Dick) Pegg, a forester for more than 60 years, was a former director of operations, Queensland Forestry. As a consultant, he has worked mainly in China and Queensland. He was presented with the China Eucalypt Development Outstanding Contribution Award in 2012 for services in developing the eucalypt plantation industry in China, an activity which also saw him awarded the IFA President's Award.

were the key players.

Dr Aila Inkeri Keto, AO, was president of the Australian

Rainforest Conservation Society and led the greenie push towards stopping native

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From P 15

forest logging in Queensland.

Once the agreement was signed, an arrangement was put in place whereby native logging proposals and operations had to be vetted and overseen by Dr Keto. In my opinion, this was an insult to the forestry profession and I wondered how far left-wing politicians were prepared to go to get the green votes, which came mainly from the big cities.

Under this system, the logging was intensified to remove more volume than would be considered prudent under rational forest management. This tactic had



Regen logged area... a long time to the next cut, with stocking too heavy for sawlog production.

two outcomes: an increase in the volume available for sawmills with a guaranteed supply of Crown logs; and a decrease in the possibility of another cut from those areas in the foreseeable future (in case there was a change in

government policy).

Today, many of these heavily-logged areas have regenerated thickly from lignotubers, particularly in the spotted gum and ironbark forests which form the bulk of forests in the

agreement area.

Unless these regenerating stands are thinned they will produce a lot of small-diameter material and will in time probably make good pole stands.

In recent years, there have been big advances in the development of chuckless lathes for veneering so many of these stands will in time produce small veneer logs and round timbers but it will be a long time before they produce traditional sawlogs. Anyway, this is of academic interest only if all the remaining state forests in southeast Queensland are to be converted to national parks.

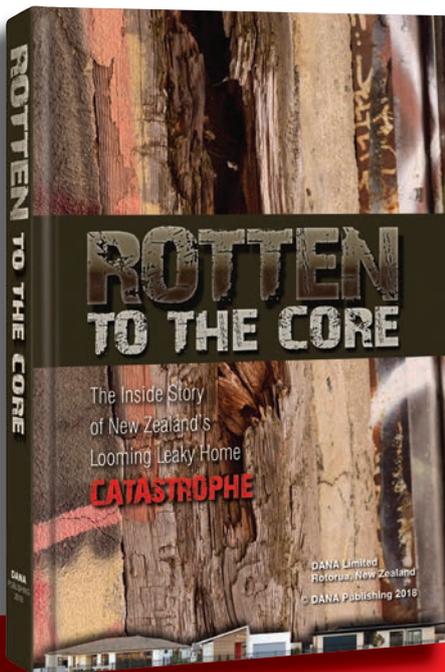
The concept of producing sawlogs from plantations in 25 years was viewed with great scepticism by foresters of my generation and ex-Conservator of Forests Cec

Cont P 17

“LANDHOLDERS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PLANTATIONS ON THEIR LAND

ROTTEN TO THE CORE

The Inside Story of New Zealand's Looming Leaky Home **CATASTROPHE**



- DANA's startling new Review
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- Was it preventable?
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- Who ignored their pleas?
- Who covered it up?
- Who is accountable?
- Why is New Zealand still in denial?
- What cost — \$30 Billion or \$100 Billion? You decide.



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From P 16

Haley said: "If we could not do it, I don't see how they can". Of course, by the time of the agreement we had all left state government employment and had no part in developing this agreement.

I do not know the areas of hardwood plantations established under this agreement but it must be of the order of 15,000 ha. I have seen a few good plantations (on good sites) and many poor ones.

Of course, neither the good nor the poor will produce sawlogs in 25 years. Thus at the cessation of native forest logging in 2024, there will be no plantation resource to replace that from native forests. Recent purchase of some of the better plantations by Chinese companies and the demand for export logs (mainly to China) will exacerbate the

future supply situation.

A couple of years ago, the Queensland government commissioned consultants to review and report on these plantations. I understand the report was received long ago. When I inquired of DAF recently, I was advised the report is still awaiting government consideration.

I have been advised that several landholders who entered into agreements to establish hardwood plantations under this agreement have been disappointed with the plantations on their land and would like to clear them

“IT WON'T REDUCE THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE DEFICIT IN WOOD PRODUCTS



Five-year-old clonal plantation in China.

to restore those parts of their properties to more productive use but are prevented from doing so until there is action from the state government.

After 2024, sawlog supply in the southeast will have to come from private property. Whether or not proposed (or as yet not disclosed) changes to the Vegetation Management Act will impact

on this source remains to be seen, but history would suggest these, along with the disastrous effects of the Southeast Queensland Forest Agreement, will not reduce the Australian trade deficit in wood and paper products.

On February 27 this year, the Queensland Premier sent out to all ministers ministerial charter letters with attached portfolio priority statements which in turn have delivery priorities. In the letter addressed to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, one of the delivery priorities is: "Develop a Queensland government policy on the future of timber production in state-owned native forests"

It will be interesting to see what the minister can tell us about where the wood will come from, especially in southeast Queensland.

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 or post to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005. Tel: (07) 3359 1758.



Responsible Wood 

Government intelligence report hits at Chinese builders in New Zealand

Regulatory, employment scare among new home sites in Auckland

A SECRET government inquiry has found that specially qualified builders are "missing" from 80% of home builds in Auckland.

'Operation Landing', an inquiry started by multiple government agencies after intelligence indicated problems in Auckland's new-home building sector, was kept secret for more than a year.

A sting operation at building sites for new homes in Auckland found specially qualified builders missing at four out of five venues inspected and a range of regulatory and employment problems.

The Labour Inspectorate noted nearly all sites failing to meet employment obligations were run by Chinese companies. Thirteen sites were to have been visited by Immigration New Zealand and five people were deported.

[The inspectorate works with employers and employees (and other people and agencies) to make sure workplaces follow at least the minimum employment



New Zealand inquiry... problems in new-home building sector.

standards and laws as set out in related Acts].

Newsroom, an independent, New Zealand-based news and current affairs site, has revealed the existence of Operation Landing, which hit 152 sites in south Auckland and the North Shore over a 12-day period at the end of 2016, after obtaining a copy of the "joint operations report".

Dated February last year, the report is signed by a Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment official, with the Labour Inspectorate, Immigration NZ, Auckland Council, Inland Revenue and WorkSafe listed among agencies involved.

Key findings include:

- The absence of licensed

building practitioners (LBPs), who are specially assessed to carry out essential structure or weathertightness work on residential buildings, at 81.3% of sites

- No consented building plans available at 75-80% of sites
- Issues with plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying at 28.3% of sites
- A lack of employment records or agreements, or the use of contractors without any legal basis at 41.18% of the 85 sites examined by the

“ ABSENCE OF LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONERS

Labour Inspectorate

The report, which identifies three separate phases, also highlighted challenges faced as part of "diverse ethnicities working in the sector".

Problems associated with overseas workers and the construction industry have grown alongside New Zealand's housing crisis – with the shortage in local skilled-trades workers resulting in a strong reliance on visa-approved people in the building industry.

Under Operation Landing, building sites were broken down by 'major ethnicities of the workforce'. Nearly two-thirds of the sites were listed as Asian or Chinese (64.7%). The next most prevalent ethnicity was European or Kiwi (16.7%).

The Labour Inspectorate reported nearly all the sites which failed to meet employment obligations were Chinese sites. It also advised Immigration NZ to follow up on 13 sites and as a result, five people were deported – four Chinese and one Malaysian. (Newsroom NZ).

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Wood fibres to offset climate change: harnessing the power of photosynthesis

ADVANCED copies of John Halkett's sixth book *By the Light of the Sun: Trees, Wood, Photosynthesis and Climate Change* are just becoming available.

The book is being published in Australia by Connor Court.

John says the aim of the book is to detail how to better harness the power of the products of photosynthesis to offset adverse climate change.

"Specifically this book asserts that trees and forests, plus wood products, will be even more important in assisting to tackle climate change, and in contributing to a sustainable energy and carbon neutral future," he says.

John says the book details how trees and forests will be a critical ingredient in the search for a zero net carbon emissions future.



John Halkett... his new book details how trees and forests will be a critical ingredient in the search for a zero net carbon emissions future.

"As we know, not only do trees 'suck' carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and wood products store it away for decades, but trees have the capacity to be at the centre of a sustainable future for humanity. They will be an essential energy component beyond the end of the fossil fuel era."

The book advocates the wider utilisation of wood-based products that use less energy in their manufacture, store carbon, and have the

capability to restrict the use of high energy materials, such as steel and aluminium.

The book says that the good news is that the most dangerous impacts of climate change may still be avoided if humanity moves fossil fuel-based energy systems towards renewable sources, and increases the use of sustainable materials like wood.

Even though there is much to be worried about climate change-wise, this new book

is not too despondent; it says that in an increasingly carbon constrained world, trees, forests and wood products are important, not only as carbon 'sinks' but as substitutes for more carbon intensive materials and fossil fuels.

John adds that he is delighted that the foreword to the book has been written by Dr René Castro Salazar of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations.

Dr Salazar is assistant director-general for the new climate, biodiversity, land and water department of FAO. Between 1994 and 2014, he held ministerial positions in Costa Rica as Minister of National Resources, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Environment and Energy. He has also been a fellow at Harvard University.

Advanced copies of Halkett's book can be ordered at: www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au

For bulk orders contact John at john.halkett@forestlands.com.au

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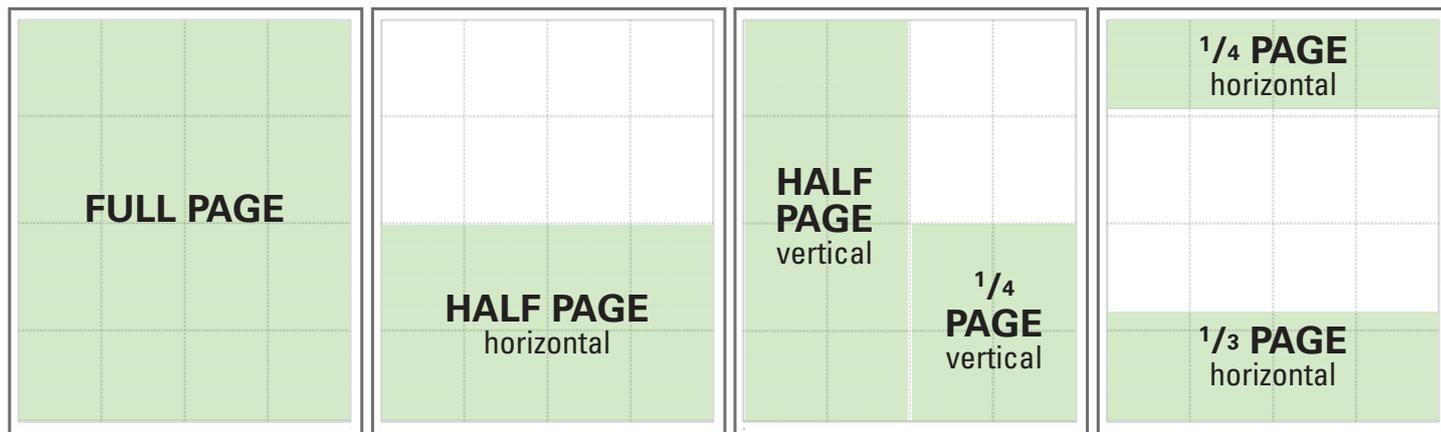
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