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Tallest office building a 'king-hit' for timber

COVER STORY P13



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VAFI calls for industry security as Victoria heads for an election

AHEAD of this Saturday's Victorian state elections, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries is calling for long-term support and security for the timber and forest industry from candidates across all parties and regions.

The forest industry is shaping as one of the big issues in the November 24 poll when a first-term incumbent Labor government is challenged by a Liberal-National Coalition led by Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, who before entering parliament represented the agricultural interests at the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Conservation groups have mounted an aggressive campaign saying forests are at the heart of environmental issues.

The Wilderness Society's Victorian campaign manager Amelia Young says for both the timber industry and the forests to survive, wood supply contracts need to be switched to 100% plantation sources.

"It really is endgame," she says. "The forests aren't a magic pudding and they can't keep providing wood forever and that crunch time is happening right now, it's upon us" ... overlooking the fact that the state's forests have been harvested and regrown for a century or more and that commercial timber production in native forests is highly regulated and restricted to just 0.1% of state forests, ensuring they will exist in perpetuity.

The conservationists are also campaigning for the establishment of a great forests national park, which would lock up 355,000 ha of ash forests in the central highlands and east Gippsland.

VAFI has welcomed reports of a commitment from the state Opposition to not establish the proposed



Tim Johnston... industry growth needs multi-party support.

national park if they win government.

CEO Tim Johnston said confirmation by Matthew Guy that the Coalition opposed the park was a positive step for the industry.

Labor promised to investigate the creation of a forests national park before the 2014 election but has since backed away, citing a lack of consensus from a taskforce of conservationists and industry formed to investigate the proposal.

Only the Greens support it, and have been campaigning heavily on the issue on the inner-city marginal seats of Brunswick and Richmond,

where they stand a chance of a historic win over Labor

To continue to grow, Tim Johnston said the industry needed multi-party support for the following priorities:

- Jobs and economic contribution – regional jobs must be supported by commitment to increasing resources from plantations.

- Existing state forest resource certainty – the vital and sustainable timber supply from state forests must be maintained.

- Wood encouragement policy – a commitment to using Victorian wood products and supporting processing development.

- Timber and forestry skills for the future – supporting a skilled and secure workforce.

"The industry is a critical part of local communities, local jobs, and the Victorian economy," Mr Johnston said.

"It is the lifeblood of many rural and regional towns. The industry has a strong construction and manufacturing presence, particularly in metropolitan Melbourne.

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Foresters celebrate Jolly presentation to colleague Russell Haines internationally acclaimed scientist



Recognition... Dr Kerrie Catchpoole presents the 2018 William Jolly Medal to Dr Russell Haines. Joining in the celebration are Jolly Medal holders Dr Gary Bacon (2000) left, and Garth Nikles (1983).

INTERNATIONALLY-respected forest scientist Dr Russell Haines who was awarded the 2018 N.W. Jolly Medal, the Institute of Foresters of Australia's highest award, during the combined IFA- AFG conference in Canberra in September was again recognised at a special presentation in Brisbane on Wednesday.

Dr Haines, a former head of the Queensland Forestry Research Institute, was feted at a celebratory luncheon by his peers, who included two other Queensland Jolly medallists Garth Nikles (1983) and Dr Gary Bacon (2000).

Another Queensland Dr David Doley was awarded the medal in 1997.

Dr Kerrie Catchpoole, fellow and committee member of the IFA Queensland division, presented Dr Haines with his award on behalf of IFA president Bob Gordon who could not attend.

The Jolly Medal honours Norman William Jolly

(1882-1954) who made an outstanding contribution to the development of professional forestry in Australia in the first half of the 20th Century.

Dr Russell Haines has made major contributions to the basic understanding, operational implementation and holistic management of forests through his roles as researcher, research director, applied project manager, senior management team member and academic.

“WORK HAS LEFT LASTING LEGACY FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

In particular, his conduct and subsequent management of multi-disciplinary research and development programs have furthered the science, underpinning management of natural and plantation forests in Queensland and beyond. His work has left a lasting legacy for forest management in Australia.

Dr Haines has been a long-term member of the IFA and was joint editor of the 2009 IFA conference proceedings and has acted as a referee for the IFA journal Australian Forestry.

As leader of the plant propagation section

within Queensland Forestry, Dr Haines developed the techniques and propagules which permitted the 1995 decision to go fully clonal in the Pinus plantation business, the first in Australia to do so.

With his Queensland team, Dr Haines won the contract in 1999 to a mass propagation protocol for the newly discovered 'Jurassic Pine' (*Wollemia nobilis*) as part of the species conservation strategy. This was based on his ground-breaking work on the reproductive biology of Araucariaceae, resulting in more than 500,000 cuttings by the time the Wollemi Pine was commercially released.

Jointly with Dr David Flinn, his Victorian counterpart, Dr Haines convinced the state and federal forestry authorities to host the first IUFRO Congress (2005) to be held in the southern hemisphere. The Brisbane conference was a major success with over 2000 delegates.



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From trees to bees, Sarah will still have close connection with forests

JIM BOWDEN

THE Institute of Foresters of Australia is to appoint a new executive officer, a position that will be based in Melbourne.

CEO Sarah Paradise is stepping down after a four-year term with the IFA to join the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council as its new CEO, effective January 2.

Sarah has been a driving force for advancing the cause of professional foresters in Australia and also took the responsibility of national executive officer for Australian Forest Growers based in the Canberra offices of IFA. She joined IFA in April 2015 after a period as



Sarah Paradise... making a beeline for a new career in honey.

corporate services director at the Australian Royal College of Nursing.

"I am tremendously excited about my new role –

which is not too far removed from forests as they play an important role in apiculture," Sarah said.

Besides producing honey, bees are close friends of agriculture and silviculture

because of the pollination services they provide.

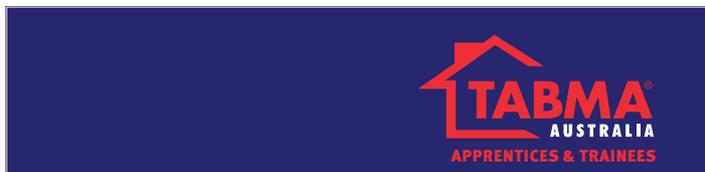
Sarah said her new role would involve a lot of strategy planning, representing industry policy at all levels of government, private enterprise and the public.

The new IFA executive officer will continue the strong role with the board and liaising with members, volunteers and stakeholders "to advance and protect the cause of forestry"

IFA, which has been committed to sustainable forest management since it was established in 1935, is a professional body with more than 1100 members engaged in all branches of forest management and conservation in Australia.

Based for the first time in Melbourne, the new IFA executive officer role is being offered as a part-time position.

NEW IFA EXECUTIVE WILL BE BASED IN MELBOURNE



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Youth clueless on food and fibre

AgDay – November 21 – was a day for all Australians to stop and recognise the important role primary industries played in producing food and fibre products, AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

A new survey has found almost a quarter of young Australians aged 18 to 29 don't care about how their food and fibre is grown.

"This trend is a major cause for concern for everyone across agriculture and primary industries

in Australia, including forest industries," Mr Hampton said.

"We need to ensure that Australians and more acutely young Australians understand and appreciate the importance of forest industries which provide jobs and economic activity and help fight climate change."

He added: All of us across our sectors need to do a better job of explaining to the community what we do and why."

Standards approval a leap forward for sustainable forest management

New benchmark extends impact of PEFC beyond forests

"NOVEMBER 14 was a future defining day for PEFC," secretary-general Ben Gunneberg said as the PEFC general assembly in Geneva voted on the approval of the revised Sustainable Forest Management and Group Forest Management Certification benchmark standards.

"We are delighted to announce that both standards were approved," Mr Gunneberg said.

This approval is the final step in the development and revision of PEFC standards, which began in 2016.

This new benchmark extends the impact of PEFC certification beyond forests and enhances its contribution to the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

"We have expanded the social requirements to



1/ The Responsible Wood delegation at the PEFC general assembly... Simon Dorries, CEO, Mark Thomson, board member, and Hans Drielsma, chair. Responsible Wood is the governing body for PEFC in Australia.



include minimum wages for forest workers, equal opportunities for employment and non-discrimination, and promote gender equality," Mr Gunneberg said.

"There are also enhanced provisions designed to safeguard the interests of indigenous peoples."

With the inclusion of the Trees outside Forests program, PEFC certification will become accessible to the millions of farmers and smallholders that

2/ Ben Gunneberg... the defining step.

3/ Peter Latham... re-elected PEFC chair.

4/ Suzette Weeding... joins PEFC board.

do not own or manage forests, but rather trees on agricultural or settlement land that are currently outside the scope of certification.

Mr Gunneberg said around 10% of forests were certified globally.

"Our current strategy is certainly suitable to more than

double this number, but we now need to start addressing the needs of the remaining 80% of global forestry to ensure it too becomes sustainable and is key in addressing societal challenges such as climate change," he said.

London-based Peter Latham, OBE, former chairman of James Latham PLC, one of Britain's oldest timber companies, was re-elected chair of PEFC International for another three years.

Tasmanian professional forester Suzette Weeding was among newly-elected board members of PEFC. Ms Weeding, who is forest management general manager at Sustainable Timber Tasmania, has more than 16 years direct experience in environmental management, stakeholder engagement and management of natural and cultural values and areas of significant biodiversity.

She is also a trustee on the JW Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund.

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New CEO to set out strategic blueprint for TABMA's future

WELL-KNOWN frame and truss specialist David Little has been appointed acting CEO of TABMA Australia following the departure of Colin Fitzpatrick who resigned on November 9.

Mr Little has extensive experience in the management of frame and truss operations including CEO of Sydney-based Hardware and General Supplies Ltd.

After a comprehensive and detailed review of TABMA's financial performance at the last board meeting, the directors agreed that a new strategic plan was required to ensure the association's long-term financial security and lay a platform for better service



David Little... extensive experience in the frame and truss sector.

to members in the future.

Mr Little's short-term objective is to review the significant commercial operations of TABMA, which include two group training organisations and a registered

training organisation.

He will also review the association's overall structure

“OVERALL STRUCTURE UNDER REVIEW”

and operations, which are member services and member representation, with a view to make TABMA more relevant as a peak national body for the pre-fabrication and building materials sector.

He will report back directly through the chairman of the board with his findings before a board meeting in May. The board will then be in a better position to formulate a short and long-term strategy and establish a policy to both secure TABMA financially and better serve its members.

The board praised Mr Fitzpatrick's 10 years-plus service, including his work on TABMA's apprentices and trainees program which developed into Australia's largest timber and forestry group training organisation.

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Credit squeeze brake on building

AN unexpected tight squeeze on credit for home buyers is accelerating the slowdown in building activity, says HIA principal economist Tim Reardon.

"The credit squeeze that has been impeding investors for the past 18 months has expanded and is now restricting building activity across the market," Mr Reardon said.

"APRA's [Australian Prudential Regulation Authority] restrictions were designed to curb high risk lending practices but we are now seeing ordinary home buyers experience delays and constraints in accessing finance."



Tim Reardon... delays in accessing finance.

Mr Reardon said this disruption in the lending environment was impacting on the amount of residential building work entering the pipeline. The effect on actual building activity would become more evident in the first half of 2019.

"The credit squeeze is weighing on a market that had already started to cool from a significant and sustained boom."

NOVEMBER

Four day native forest management workshop series - second session.
27-28: SESSION 2 –Private Forestry Service Qld’s forest management workshop
 – 672 Beenham Valley Rd, Queensland. 8am-3pm.
 Contact Bronwyn Lloyd on (07) 5483 6535 or email pfsq@bigpond.com
 Sponsored by DAF through private native forest extension program.

MARCH 2019

1: Top of the South Forestry Awards – Nelson and Marlborough, New Zealand. Inaugural awards in fourteen categories to be awarded across individual and companies, with the ultimate award being the Skilled Professional of the Year. The awards will culminate to an evening of celebration, presentations and dinner in Nelson on Friday, June 14 at the Trafalgar Event Centre. For further information see:

www.totsforestry.co.na or call Prue Younger, Event Manager +64 (21) 2765484

2: AFPA board meeting and members’ dinner – Canberra. 6pm.

8: AFPA members’ forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.

17: Women in Forest Industries workshop – Canberra, Australia. More information and registration inquiries to Natalie Heazlewood. Email: natalie.

heazlewood@ausfpa.com.au

26-29: AUSPACK Packaging and Processing Week – Melbourne, Australia.

APRIL

1-2: National Sustainability Conference – Brisbane, Australia

JUNE

19: AFPA board meeting and members’ dinner – Canberra. 6pm.

20: AFPA members’ forum and chamber meetings – Canberra.

Performance solutions for fire-safe timber buildings

MORE than 120 building design professionals attended the recent WoodSolutions seminar on the Fire Safe Design of Timber Buildings held at RMIT University in Melbourne last week.

The change to the National Construction Code, Volume One (NCC) in 2016, as submitted by FWPA, saw the introduction of fire-protected timber as a deemed-to-satisfy (DTS) solution for Class 2 (apartments), Class 3 (eg hotels/motels) and Class 5 (office) buildings up to 25 m in effective height incorporating automatic sprinklers throughout.

The DTS provisions provide



A clear understanding... the design of fire-safe timber buildings.

a robust solution, but there is also a desire by building professionals to vary from the DTS provisions and expose timber elements which requires a fire-engineered performance solution.

This WoodSolutions seminar gathered together

a range of experts who presented and discussed the principles for the fire-safe design of timber buildings – from the DTS provisions to performance solutions. These experts included EFT Consult, CSIRO, Exova Warringtonfire and Arup who described the structural

timber systems available for the construction of tall timber buildings; fire engineering principles behind the NCC provisions; aspects to consider when undertaking a performance solution; standard DTS fire tests and natural fire tests to support performance solutions; and using furnace test results as part of fire engineering analysis.

The presenters provided a clear understanding of the current NCC requirements and what needs to be considered when undertaking a performance solution to enable the timber building to remain fire safe.



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JANUARY 2019

24: Mapping the Course: Timberland, Forest Products Processing, and Fiber Issues for 2019 – Vancouver, Washington, USA. The conference and optional workshop will provide an in-depth analysis on forest products market challenges, opportunities, and threats for 2019 in the North American West Coast timberland region. For further information see: <https://westernforestry.org/upcoming-conferences/mapping-the-course-timberland-forest-products-processing-and-fiber-issues-for-2019>

MARCH

19-21: International Mass Timber Conference – Portland, Oregon. The largest gathering of cross-laminated timber and other mass timber experts in the world, with a special focus on manufacturing and mid-

to high-rise construction. Over 1,200 experts from 22 countries attended in 2018. The conference will explore the supply chain for cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam beams and panels, mass plywood panels, dowel-laminated timber, and laminated veneer lumber; and the opportunities and obstacles for mass timber in global manufacturing and construction. See: www.masstimberconference.com/

APRIL

10-12: Focus on Forestry 2019 – Mpumalanga, South Africa. For further information see: www.cmo.co.za

MAY

7-9: RISI's Sixth Annual Forest Investment Conference – London, UK. A key two day conference that will take an in-depth look at timberland investments around the globe and how

these opportunities will unfold in the near future. For further information see: www.risi.com/invest

8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece. For further information see: www.fph2019.org

20-23: A Century of National Forest Inventories: Informing Past, Present and Future Decisions – Oslo, Norway. For further information see: www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years

JULY

8-18: IUFRO Small-scale Forestry Conference – Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. Presentations and field sessions will explore a mix of family-owned, tribal, industrial, and public ownerships with a focus on small-scale forest management. For further information see: <http://iufrossf.umn.edu/>

SEPTEMBER

16-17: ICATEA 2019: 21st International Conference on Advanced Timber Engineering and Applications – Zurich, Switzerland. The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of advanced timber engineering and applications. For further information see: <https://waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/ICATEA>

SEPT/OCT

29 SEPT-25 OCT: XXV IUFRO World Congress – Curitiba, Brazil. For further information see: www.iufro2019.com

• Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com

Fraser Australia contract withdrawal hits Strongbuild

SYDNEY-based prefabrication and lightweight timber builder Strongbuild entered voluntary administration last week after Frasers Australia pulled out of a contract just two weeks from commencement leaving a

\$6 million gap in expected earnings.

Strongbuild managing director Adam Strong told The Fifth Estate that a lending facility that had been arranged as working capital was abruptly cancelled.

The total business is understood to have shown a turnover of \$160 million in 2017-18 with \$120 million of work in hand. It employed 150 people – around 60 on the NSW south coast, 60 in the commercial business and

30 in the factory.

It's understood that already there have been a number of parties showing interest in purchasing the factory, including "a competitor" and two product manufacturers.

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More trees and wood fibre – a tough nut for students to crack

Entries invited: essay competition open until December 15

SURE enough as predicted, detailing solutions to Australia's dire plantations and wood fibre shortage appears to be an almost intractable challenge.

Although a good number of inquiries has been received for the Timber&Forestry enews student competition, and some good tentative solutions advanced, there have been few qualifying entries to date.

Co-publisher John Halkett said that because of some confusion about the competition closing date, mainly generated by past articles on the topic, the competition will remain open for entries until December 15, so there is still time to submit an entry.

As previously announced, in collaboration with Queensland's HQPlantations, Forest and Wood Products Australia and Responsible Wood, Timber & Forestry enews is running a thinking and writing competition for smart young minds in the forest industry on ways to fill the wood fibre bucket.

Details of the competition are available on the Timber & Forestry enews website at: www.timberandforestryenews.com

The writing competition is asking current undergraduate or post graduate students at universities or other training institutions, or those who have had no more than five years' working experience, to come out into the open and write down their ideas.

Mr Halkett said enews was



Still searching for ideas... how do we get more trees in the ground?

looking for ideas in an essay form of not more than 1000 words. Entries should also include the entrant's name and contact details (phone and email) plus a head and shoulders image.

“LOOKING FOR WAYS TO FILL THE WOOD FIBRE BUCKET

There are cash and book prizes for the best three entries – \$1000 for first, \$500 for second and \$200 for third plus a book set for all three places. In addition, the winner will be offered two months' employment in Queensland over the summer by HQPlantations.

Further entries should be sent to John Halkett at: johnh@timberandforestry.enews.com up until December 15.



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CFMEU questions FSC eligibility in attack on new forestry standard

AN "historic" forestry agreement that purports to unite timber companies, unionists and green groups on how forests should be managed in Australia has outraged the powerful CFMEU forestry union which has urged consumers to reject the standard as "green washing".

The Forest Stewardship Council says the new standard, produced after five years of talks between representatives of green groups, provides greater clarity for forest managers how to meet FSC requirements.

CFMEU national secretary Michael O'Connor has described the standard as "a dirty deal struck by big business and big environment".

"The standard in its current form does very little to defend workers' rights," Mr O'Connor said.

The CFMEU says the union representative involved in negotiations on the standard not only voted against the final draft, but demanded this



Michael O'Connor... standard must address workers' rights.

formal opposition be disclosed in any announcement.

The CFMEU was appointed by the Australian Council of Trade Unions to the FSC standards development group in 2013 to represent the broader union movement in negotiations for the FSC Australia national standard.

CFMEU says not only did the union representative formally vote against the proposed standard, but provided detailed proposals to the negotiating committee, along with FSC leadership in Australia and internationally, detailing the weakness of the proposed standards on



Sara Gipson... standard underwent rigorous process.

workers' rights and their failure to address Australia's significant noncompliance with international labour standards.

CFMEU says that when it became clear FSC Australia intended to press ahead with the standard without industry consensus, the union wrote to CEO Sara Gipson requesting that "all communications, including any media releases will include the fact that the

“STANDARD ACHIEVED MAJORITY SUPPORT”

ACTU has not endorsed the standard".

Quoted in The Australian, Ms Gipson said the standard was approved because it had "achieved majority support" from each of the three FSC Australia chambers, representing the economic, environmental and social aspects of forestry.

"This rigorous process ... ensures that the standard meets the needs of the environment, workers and the community, while maintaining a healthy and responsible forest industry".

Michael O'Connor said FSC was a big deal in Europe but it was fledgling in Australia.

"The union movement will not back it [the standard] until it adequately addresses workers' rights and we are urging consumers to likewise reject it as an exercise in green-washing that fails to properly engage with the men and women working in the forestry sector."

He said the International Labour Organisation time

Cont P 11



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From ‘paddock to paper plate’ VR will take students along forest learning path

THE ForestLearning program and the use of exciting new virtual reality forest and wood products classroom tools captured the attention of participants at an Australian Forest Education Alliance gathering in Canberra last week.

Held at the ANU Fenner Forestry School, the ForestLearning annual face-to-face workshop showed how virtual reality technology can assist students to learn about the diversity of Australia’s renewable forests and wood products.

These new classroom tools will be a ‘first’ for the industry, capturing in virtual reality the renewable cycle that is the forest and wood products story.

The new ForestLearning resources will allow students to virtually experience



Participants enjoy presentations at the ForestLearning workshop in Canberra last week.

forests and wood and fibre processing facilities – from the ‘paddock to paper plate’ – or ‘seed to skyscraper’ – for a range of subject areas and year level outcomes, aligned to the Australian curriculum.

“By stimulating students’ minds at the cutting edge of new technology, we are investing in the future, developing new-age learning

tools and teacher aids that connect students with forests like never before,” ForestLearning program manager Beth Welden said.

“New teaching tools that will engage technology-savvy learners in schools today, such as the use of ‘virtual reality’, will provide a greater visibility of our ultimate renewable forest and wood industry in classrooms,” she said.

“As it stands,

ForestLearning interacts with thousands of teachers and students each year with all of our content in the Australian curriculum – essential for teachers with a crowded curriculum.”

However, Beth said the challenge now was to take aids and tools that have been developed in the first and second dimension and take them into the third dimension.

“Through virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) we can take the forests to the classrooms. It’s about using technologies to the best of our ability to engage with and educate the next generation of foresters, timber and wood-based enthusiasts.”

Beth added: “We have an amazing story to tell. We hope to engage with industry partners to develop tools and aids that will be used in Australian schools.”

From P 10

and time again had criticised Australia’s broken industrial relations laws.

He also highlighted the fact that the FSC national standard has been criticised at the Victorian ALP conference, where FSC Australia was lambasted for reneging on a promise to address what their own independent expert described as Australia’s “very significant compliance problems” with ILO standards.

“The Victorian Labor conference decided to require employers in the Victorian industry — starting with VicForests, their forestry contractors, and Australian Sustainable Hardwoods at Heyfield — to sign up to a

forest products industry code of practice in employment to address the compliance problems,” Mr O’Connor said.

“Where the private sector fails to deliver, like FSC has, we’ll keep calling on government to fill the gap.

“We’ll leave no stone unturned to ensure that when ‘fair trade’ labels claim to establish and enforce standards that protect workers that they actually do so, rather than just paying lip service.

“Green-washing gets called out by the environment movement when it happens, and we’ll keep calling out FSC until they get serious about protecting workers’ rights.”

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Tallest office building a 'king-hit' for use of sustainable and certified timber

THE Queensland Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations Grace Grace and Impact Investment Group joined Lendlease yesterday to celebrate the official opening of Australia's tallest engineered timber office building 25 King a \$2.9 billion renewal development on Brisbane showgrounds at Bowen Hills.

The \$140 million nine-storey building involved 3097 individual timber elements, including 33 timber columns on each floor and 52 beams.

The first of its kind in the Australian property market, 25 King included extensive use of innovative and sustainable building materials. More than 5970



King Street... construction involved more than 3090 individual elements

cub m of PEFC-certified timber – equivalent to 3402 spruce pine trees – was used in the construction.

Designed and manufactured by Lendlease and sold to IIG, the ground floor plus nine-storey timber commercial tower features open and flexible office space complemented by exposed timber structures to create a contemporary and creative

studio environment.

Global engineering firm Aurecon occupies 43.5% of the net lettable area, with IIG working with Lendlease to secure new tenants for the remaining office space.

25 King is targeting a 6 Star Green Star rating, a 5 Star NABERS Energy rating and a WELL Core & Shell rating to complement the

precinct's 6 Star Green Star – Communities rating.

Lendlease's managing director urban regeneration John Burton said the building was the latest example of high-performance workplaces setting new benchmarks in environmentally sustainable building practices with strong connections between timber and human health within the built environment.

"The building demonstrates greener and healthier ways of working," he said. "This creates a workplace that lives and breathes a culture of collaboration providing workers with a sense of belonging."

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Modern Swiss OSB making waves in Australia's construction industry

Structural board for bracing and flooring in timber frame buildings

OSB (oriented strand board) is the most used structural board for bracing, flooring and sheeting in timber frame buildings in many parts of the world.

Perhaps it has been surprising that OSB is not been more commonly used in building and construction in Australia. This now looks like changing. Modern OSB has attributes that mean it can outperform plywood and particleboard in many applications.

OSB panels are made from



1/ Durable, fit-for-purpose, cost effective and environmentally sensitive... modern OSB is making its presence felt in the Australian market.

2/ Simmonds Lumber's SimBoard OSB is manufactured by the Switzerland-based Swiss Krono Group, which manufactures high-quality industrial timber products for world markets.

has been developing industrial timber products of the highest quality and of outstanding value for money," Jacinta said.

"The Swiss Krono Group meets the highest technical and strictest ecological requirements."

OSB SimBoard complements Simmonds' capacity to supply structural and hardwood products.

"It is manufactured from 100% softwood thinnings harvested from forests certified as sustainably managed by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and the

long, thin layers of strands arranged laterally on the top and bottom layers and one layer laid longitudinally in the middle layer. The panel structure not only gives its OSB characteristic look, but also an exceptionally high level of bending strength.

Simmonds Lumber's Jacinta Colley says durable, fit-for-purpose, cost effective and environmentally

“HIGH LEVEL OF BENDING STRENGTH”

sensitive modern OSB is now making its presence felt in the Australian market.

Simmonds Lumber's OSB SimBoard is manufactured by the German-based Swiss Krono Group.

"For more than 50 years, the Swiss Krono Group

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Forest Stewardship Council," Jacinta said.

"Wood strands are glued together with formaldehyde-free binders and because of this OSB SimBoard can also be used for food packaging and other high hygiene requirement applications."

Jacinta said Simmonds Lumber's timber product wholesale and distribution chain had a particular focus on OSB and other structural timber products.

"With our acknowledged distribution and service strengths, we are a growing global player in timber and timber-related products," she said. "We have extensive



OSB SimBoard ... the future for flooring.

experience in timber supply acquisition, sales and distribution.

"Simmonds Lumber has worked hard to establish strategic partnerships with Europe's leading, most respected and trusted timber product suppliers, including German-based Swiss Krono products."

Simmonds Lumber has facilities and warehouses in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Surabaya, Indonesia, and was the first company in the world to use DNA technology to certify the legality and provenance of timber imported from Indonesia.

An industry leader, Simmonds works closely with organisations such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund and is at the forefront of using technology to provide exceptional customer value.

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Collaboration... participants in the WoodSolutions industry-university educator workshops gather at the Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

WoodSolutions workshop brought industry and the educators together

New awareness of competitive and reliable properties of wood

FOR the continued use of timber in current building markets and the successful future development of emerging mid-rise timber building markets, a stronger partnership between the industry and educational architectural, engineering and building construction institutions is a 'must'.

This was a clear consensus among the 50 participants at a very successful two-day industry-university educator workshop held on the Gold Coast last week, organised through the WoodSolutions Education Program in association with Griffith University.

Program manager Dr Alastair Woodard said the industry-educator collaborative initiative had been in planning for the past 12 months and had generated huge interest for educators and industry alike.

"The industry education program has been active now for 23 years making it one of the longest continually

running industry programs – first funded by FWPRDC and now FWPA," Dr Woodard said.

"This, however, was the first time ever that the timber industry has engaged so strongly with the university sector at a dedicated event and provided a unique network building opportunity for all involved."

The workshop attracted some 20 key industry technical representatives and 30 academic lecturers from every state in Australia – representing schools as diversified as structural engineering, architecture and design, civil and construction engineering, durability and design life and the built environment.

"It was an extremely positive two days," enthused Boris Iskra, FWPA national codes and standards manager, who presented at the workshops. "The positive energy set us back on our heels."

Mr Iskra added: "It's a

big ask to get academics away from campus for two days to network in such a positive way with industry stakeholders, architects and designers, so it says a lot about the support the WoodSolutions program is getting from the higher-learning sector, the value that it provides, and the esteem in which it is held.

“IT WAS AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE TWO DAYS

"The university lecturers were keen to be part of these discussions and expressed a desire to assist WoodSolutions in the development of future resources that they can apply in the lecture room.

"And they can't miss the ever-growing move to mass timber construction – it's there in front of them, and above them, so the opportunities for universities

to expand their wood engineering, architectural and building resources beyond under-graduate courses to post-graduate, a Masters, or other diplomas are real."

He said the timber industry was ready to provide today's young student designers with the tools to create and build these high structures that are sprouting on city landscapes ... that are eight storeys and beyond.

"And they're taking notice."

Workshop delegate David Gover, CEO, Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, said he was encouraged by the positive discussions around tertiary education ... "making sure that upcoming design professionals are aware that timber and wood-based engineered products are important as structural materials, especially in the drive towards sustainable technologies and construction."

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He said it was very important they were aware of improvements in the properties of these products and systems that were making them far more competitive and reliable.

The workshop commenced with a session on wood-related resources and presentations by Eileen Newbury, national program manager, WoodSolutions, and Boris Iskra on the wide variety of technical and educational resources available. A very active group discussion was then held around what new type of educational resources and delivery formats might now be required to further train students and professionals about new mid-rise construction methods.

The second session focused on presenting and discussing new opportunities, innovations



"We'll be back"... attentive participants in the WoodSolutions two-day industry-university educator workshop the Gold Coast last week.

and challenges in timber system design, prefabrication and construction with presentations from industry experts Boris Iskra, Basil Richardson, studio director, Bates Smart, Karl Heinz Weiss, general manager, product and business development, Lendlease DesignMake, and Paul Kremer, Xlam Australia and New Zealand.

An excellent interactive and

engaging group discussion examined how educators and industry might better work together to advance the knowledge and understanding of timber construction products, systems processes and methods.

“WORKSHOPS WILL GUIDE EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY”

This theme continued during a networking dinner of all industry and educator attendees held at Griffith Uni.

The first session of the second day included short, punchy five-minute presentations from representatives from all the university departments participating, outlining their timber-related teaching, R&D

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projects and expertise. This allowed all involved to be quite clear as to who was doing what in university timber education and research throughout Australia.

The final session focused on opportunities for industry, government and educator collaboration on research projects. Presentations were provided by Benoit Gilbert, associate professor, Griffith University, Dr Chris Lafferty, research and development manager, FWPA, Tim Smith, DAF, Keith Crews, professor emeritus, University of Technology, Sydney, and representatives from the three current industry-funded ARC projects: Dr Sathees



Eileen Newbury



Alastair Woodard



Boris Iskra

Navaratam, University of Melbourne, Dr Dilum Fernando, University of Queensland, and Mohammad Derikvan, University of Tasmania.

The final group discussion focused on how educators and industry can better work together to coordinate and deliver effective and timely R&D activities. Building

capacity in the university sector to provide R&D services not only helps industry in having experts and facilities when needed, it also assists in getting more timber content into university student coursework as university departments tend to give more teaching weight to the products they research.

Feedback from both

industry and university attendees was that the workshop had been extremely worthwhile and a great initiative and that they were certainly looking forward to similar future workshops.

Dr Woodard advised that the advice and feedback provided by attendees at the workshop would be used to develop an ongoing WoodSolutions education strategy and a range of new educational timber and engineered wood product/system resources.

For further information on the workshop or the WoodSolutions Education Program contact woodard@woodsolutions.com.au

Regional collaboration to boost timber industry growth

THE Queensland timber industry has applauded Gympie Mayor Mick Curran in promoting the further development of the forestry and timber industry in the local and surrounding regions.

Hosting a timber industry forum earlier this week, the Mayor consulted with industry representatives from across the region to identify pathways for greater collaboration, innovation and growth of the industry.

Timber Queensland CEO



Curly Tatnell of DTM Timber (left) discusses industry growth with Mayor Mick Curran and Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland.

Mick Stephens said with forecast demand in building and construction, and the strong environmental credentials of timber as the ultimate renewable, the growth prospects for the industry was very good.

“In order to capitalise on these opportunities, industry representatives from across the supply chain identified a number of critical needs for future growth,” he said. These included roading infrastructure, training, greater

utilisation of wood processing waste such as promotion of bioenergy, and enhancement of long-term wood supply from state-owned and private forest resources.

“We presently have some serious road network issues, for example, where we cannot get B-double access for many critical routes to get product to market,” Mr Stephens said. “This will require some significant funding and collaboration across the various tiers of government.”

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The role will be required to plan, undertake and direct the organisation's functions. The Executive Officer is responsible for growing membership and revenue, implementing professional development, communicating with and networking members, and ensuring member engagement.

The role would be suited to candidates with a high level of organisational skill and a capacity to organise and grow membership by meeting their needs.

Experience & Qualifications:

- Experience building an organisations membership and programs to meet the needs of a group.
- Well-developed organisational and leadership skills.
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- High-level attention to detail, initiative, maturity and professional independence to complete tasks and projects
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This position is based in Melbourne. Regular travel will be required. The position may be part-time.

Requests for a Position Statement and **applications should be forwarded to Jenny Broomhall via email - jbroomhall@pa.org.au by Thursday, 29 November 2018**, with interviews likely on 6 December 2018.

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