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## Multi-use native forest endorsed by bee keepers

COVER STORY P5

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# Regional Forest Agreement extension approved in the West

Landmark RFA agreement for WA's \$1.4 billion forest-based industries was signed off by the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and WA Premier Mark McGowan.

The Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) has been extended for another 20 years with an annual sustainable yield of at least 191,000 cub m of high-quality jarrah and karri saw logs. The landmark RFA agreement for WA's \$1.4 billion forest-based industries was signed off by the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and WA Premier Mark McGowan.

Matt Granger, acting chief executive of Forest Industry Federation WA, said the RFA was a key element in the regulatory architecture governing the timber industry. "Forestry and timber industry stakeholders in WA have been waiting a long time for this extension and for the certainty it provides to allow them to plan and invest for the future," he said.

The Australian Government's Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Richard Colbeck, said the



1/ Karri forest ... RFA sustainable yield modelling allows for long term prescribed harvest of jarrah, karri and marri sawlogs.

2/ Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and WA Premier Mark McGowan signed off on Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement.



improved and extended RFA included five-year reviews. This would provide ongoing confidence in forest management practices and a stable investment environment for the timber industry," he said.

Australian Forest Products Association chief executive officer Ross Hampton

commented that the work of the WA and Commonwealth Governments in consulting with stakeholders and implementing improvements to aspects of process relating to the RFA was appreciated.

"The conclusion of the WA RFA follows the completion of the NSW RFA last year and

the Tasmanian RFA."

"With its 20-year rolling horizon, subject to five-yearly reviews, the extended WA RFA provides

stability to the regulatory framework that is essential for investment and employment in WA's \$1.4 billion per year forest-based industries," said Mr Hampton.

The WA RFA recognises

Cont P 3



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**Matt Granger ... RFA key element in the regulatory architecture governing the WA timber industry.**



**Richard Colbeck... RFA will provide ongoing confidence in forest management practices.**



**Ross Hampton ... stable regulatory framework essential for investment in forest-based industries.**

From P 2

the state's comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in the South-West region. It provides for the sustainable management of public multi-use forests and plantations and for a long-term sustainable native forests products industry. It is underpinned by the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023, the primary framework for managing forests and

plantations on public land in WA.

The RFA sustainable yield modelling allows an average annual cut of 132,000 cub m of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs and 59,000 cub m of karri first and second grade logs. This in turn makes available up to 292,000 cub m of other log volumes of jarrah, 164,000 cub m of other volume karri, and 140,000 cub m of marri logs.

Provision is also made for

the potential level of yield that would arise from improved utilisation of available wood resources, particularly through the development of markets for lower grade logs.

The RFA also provides for other forest produce such as public firewood, burls, craft wood, wildflowers, seeds and honey. It also covers plantations and 'other exotics', with the latter largely associated with mine site rehabilitation.

## Victorian Government RFA delays unconscionable behaviour

Peak forest industry groups representing thousands of men and women in Victoria who make their livelihoods from forest-based industries are demanding that the Victorian Government immediately release an updated Timber Release Plan and deliver certainty regarding Regional Forest Agreements.

The Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA), the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) and the Australian Forest Products Association, have united in an unprecedented show of force to deliver the strongest of messages possible to the Victorian Labor Government.

AFCA chief executive,



**Stacey Gardiner ... Victorian Government's actions placing the livelihoods of forest contractors at risk.**

Stacey Gardiner, called the Victorian Government's actions "completely unconscionable behaviour."

"Decisions are at least a year overdue. The Government appears to be drip feeding snippets of information to the media promising that some release is due sometime. This is playing with the lives of Victorians who expect more care and concern from their Government.

"Native forest contractors

in Gippsland are struggling to meet their contracted supply, have no money to pay the bills, and many are reporting a growing sense of despair," she said.

VAFI chief executive Tim Johnston, said politics should play no part in the security of people's well-being.

"However, for months now that's what the Andrews Government has been doing to hard-working Victorians in the native timber industry. The Government's ongoing failure to approve a new plan is on the verge of bringing the hardwood industry to a standstill and is having a detrimental impact on the mental health of those affected," he said.



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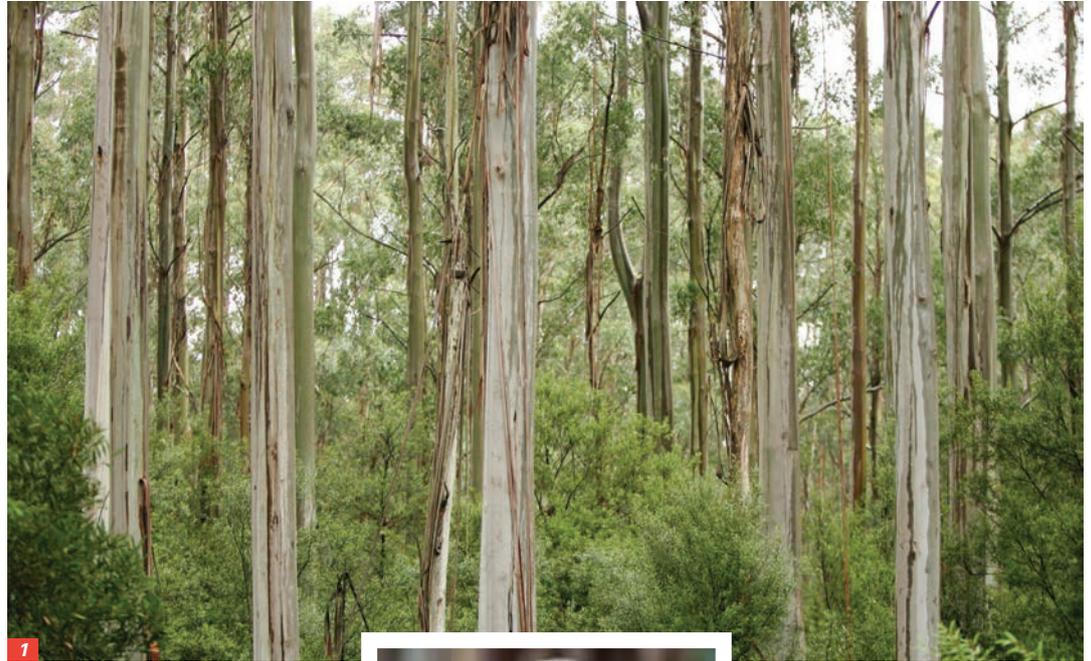
An industry-led program managed by ForestWorks

# Climate science says timber-producing forests store most carbon

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) urges policy makers to consider the science behind how to get the best carbon sequestration benefit from Australia's vast native forest estate.

AFPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ross Hampton, said any new emissions reduction methodology should be based on the evidence of the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) which says that sustainably managed, timber-producing forests sequester more carbon in the long-term.

"A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or



1/ increasing forest carbon

stocks, while producing an



2/

**1/ Third rotation Victorian ash forest... managed forests generate largest sustainable carbon benefit.**  
**2/ Ross Hampton... wants next federal government support for sustainable forestry management strategy.**



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annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained (carbon) mitigation benefit, states the IPPC Fourth Assessment.

"Industry has never and will never support a method which locks up forests. The science says that locked up, ageing forests become net carbon emitters," said Mr Hampton.

"Out of Australia's 123 million hectares of native forests, less than 0.06%, is harvested for timber annually, then sustainably regrown, with the regrowth quickly becoming an abundant food source and habitat for native species and sequestering higher rates of carbon during the growth phase.

"This Federal election, Australia's forest industries and the 120,000 Australians who work across the value chain of forest industries demand certainty, and this must include unequivocal support from candidates and political parties for rolling 20-year Regional Forest Agreements, and no more reduction of the small estate left for multi-use forestry," Mr Hampton concluded.

**“SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT BEST FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION**

# Honey bee industry backs RFAs as the best way to manage multi-use forests

Australia's Honey Bee Industry has backed Australia's Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) framework as the best way of ensuring multi-use forests are sustainably managed to benefit the whole community.

Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) CEO, Mr Ross Hampton, welcomed the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council's (AHBIC) commitment to work with the forestry industry on ensuring that RFAs in Victoria and nationally continue, so that state native forests remain accessible to the extensive honey bee industry.

The AHBIC's comments follow the misrepresentation of the bee industry's views in recent articles by The Guardian and ABC.

The AHBIC has expressed concern over the misrepresentation of its views about sustainable forest management, which benefits the community at large," commented chair Peter McDonald.



*Honey bee on grevillea flower. Multi-use forests good for honey bee industry.*

"Well managed multi-use forests involving forestry, beekeeping, and recreation will always deliver the best conservation, economic and social outcomes."

Mr Hampton said the statement from the honey bee industry shows it is happy to work constructively with sustainably managed native forest operations and that recent media reports

were grossly misleading.

"Australia's native forest industry will continue to work with the honey bee Industry to ensure better outcomes for both sectors," he said.

"What our industries need is long-term certainty that we will continue to have access to sustainably managed state forests for the range of social, environmental and

economic benefits that only multi-use forests can provide. The Victorian Government must end the uncertainty and commit to a 20year extension to the state's three RFAs, just as NSW and Tasmania have," concluded Mr Hampton.

*On the cover: Australian honey bee industry committed to supporting Regional Forest Agreements across the country.*

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# Responsible Wood feature at major fire, wind and sound seminar

More than 100 delegates participated in the Timber Queensland event, held in Brisbane last week.

Fire, wind and sound were the talk of the town as Timber Queensland members and delegates converged on the Victoria Park Gold Complex for the latest in Timber Queensland's seminar series.

With presentations from the QBCC Technical Standards Unit, the Insurance Australia Group, Queensland Bushfire Planning as well as Multinail, RED Fire Engineers and Xlam, important topics including building compliance, storm and wind exposure, fire design, bushfire and external noise were explored in detail.



**Timber Queensland Seminar theme... fire, wind and sound.**

For Responsible Wood the conference provided an opportunity to reinforce the forest certification message amongst architects, engineers, certifiers and

specifiers of timber.

At the seminar Responsible Wood Marketing and Communications Officer, Jason Ross, reiterated the importance of forest certification in demonstrating responsible forestry and meeting timber legality requirements.

"Responsible Wood is the largest forest certification scheme in Australia, more than 11 million hectares of Australian defined forest area is covered by the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme."

"Forest certification is all about verifying the origin of timber in the forest, timber that carries the Responsible Wood 'trust mark' is sourced from forests that meet the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management."

"More and more, the Responsible Wood 'trust mark' is being used by consumers to verify and demonstrate their commitments to timber legality as outlined in the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations (2012) under

Commonwealth law," said Mr Ross.

Highlighting the importance of fire management in forest management, Responsible Wood can provide consumers of timber based products with confidence that forests are managed responsibly, especially in environments prone to bushfires.

**“CERTIFICATION VITAL FOR BUSHFIRE PREVENTATION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT**

"The importance of forest certification cannot be understated, specifically when it comes bushfire prevention and fire management"

"Forests that participate in the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme must practice responsible forestry, and when it comes to fire management and bushfire prevention, the requirements for forest managers are outlined in the Australian Standard," said Mr Ross.

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**JUNE**

**16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour**

– *Ecuador*. This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua-export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador)

**17-18: Frame Australia**

– *Crown Promenade Melbourne, Australia*. A dedicated conference and exhibition will allow delegates to fully understand the exciting developments in the Timber Offsite Construction space. The conference will feature prominent local and global experts, with topics exclusively devoted to timber

and mass wood building construction. It will be the only event that will enable delegates to appreciate the world-wide transformation that is taking place and how building costs are being lowered. At the Frame Australia exhibition, booth sizes will be larger at no extra cost, with booths two to three times the previous floor area without any change in pricing from 2018. Visit [www.frameaustralia.com](http://www.frameaustralia.com)

**19: AFPA board meeting and members' dinner**

– *Canberra, Australia*. 6pm.

**JULY**

**10-12: 5th Pacific Timber Engineering Conference (PTEC 2019)**

– *Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Merivale and Glenelg streets, South Brisbane, Australia*. A forum for both young and experienced academics,

practitioners, researchers, and research students in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere in the world to share the latest developments in research and application of timber in construction. What the industry is achieving using timber in construction will also be showcased. The conference will bring a more practitioner focus that will complement the World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE) in 2020. Call for abstracts. Inquiries to conference secretariat, School of Civil Engineering, The University of Queensland. Tel: +61 7 344 31360. Email: [ptec2019@civil.uq.edu.au](mailto:ptec2019@civil.uq.edu.au) Visit [www.civil.uq.edu.au/ptec-2019](http://www.civil.uq.edu.au/ptec-2019)

**22-23: 2019 DANA Australian Forest Industry Conference and Field Trip**

– *Pullman King Georges Square, Brisbane, Australia*. To include one and a half day conference on Monday July 22 and the morning of Tuesday July 23 with 20 international and Australasian

speakers confirmed, to be followed by half day field trip on the afternoon of July 23. For further information and to register see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019brisbane](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019brisbane)

**OCTOBER**

**18: 2019 TABMA National Awards Dinner**

– *Doltone House, Hyde Park, Sydney, Australia*. Hosted by TABMA Queensland, 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Dress formal.

**The 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner**

– *Melbourne, Australia*. Entries open February 11 and close June 28. Peoples' Choice voting August to September. Sponsorship options available. Contact 0420 232 253 or email [inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au](mailto:inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au)

**26: 2019 Timber Queensland Industry Gala Evening**

– *The Tote Room, Eagle Farm Racecourse, Ascot, QLD Australia*. Casino Night. 6:30pm

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**MAY**

**5-7: American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) 115th annual meeting – Loews Royal Pacific Resort Orlando, Florida, USA. Tel: 205-733-4077.** AWPA is responsible for promulgating global voluntary wood preservation standards.

**7-9: Sixth Annual Forest Investment Conference – London, UK.** Program includes three exclusive opportunities to discover the timberland asset class, with a practical seminar and building visit; and (post-conference) mill visits to show why wood is an increasingly valuable product. Presented by Fastmarkets RISI and DANA, the event includes one-day mass timber construction seminar with a planned inspection of the MTC buildings in London (May 7); a two-day international forest investment conference (May 8-9) with agribusiness investment presentations; a two-day field trip to Scotland (May 10-11). Highlights of field trip include visits to plantation forests, a large sawmill, wind turbines and a biomass power plant; a field trip (delegates only) seminar on UK and Scottish and comparative UK, US, South and Latin American forest investment economics and returns a visit to a 1900-year-old Roman fort at Hadrian's Wall. DANA director Dennis Neilson will be speaking in

London about the highlights of a new RISI Review just published 'Russian Timber: A Growing Force in World Trade'. Email [conferences@risi.com](mailto:conferences@risi.com) Tel: Europe: +32.2.536.0748 or US and international: +1.866.271.8525. Visit [www.risi.com/invest](http://www.risi.com/invest)

**8-11: World Conference on forests for Public Health – Athens, Greece.** For further information see: [www.fph2019.org](http://www.fph2019.org)

**12-16: IRG50 (International Research Group on Wood Protection) – Fairmont Chateau Frontenac Hotel, Quebec City, Canada.** The IRG-WP is the leading global organisation for the dissemination of scientific information on wood protection technologies. Email [Rod.Stirling@fpinnovations.ca](mailto:Rod.Stirling@fpinnovations.ca) Visit [www.irg50.com](http://www.irg50.com) for registration details.

**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](http://www.nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years)

**JUNE**

**16-21: 2019 DANA Ecuador Forestry and Agri-/Aqua-business Investment Tour – Ecuador.** This event will introduce potential investors to the forestry and agri- and aqua- business; as well as the commercial, financial, political, and economical aspects of investments

in Ecuador. Included will be field visits to operating forests, manufacturing, and processing of wood products, and selected agri- and aqua- export oriented operations. For further information and to register see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019ecuador/)

**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: [www.iufrossf.umn.edu/](http://www.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: [www.waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/](http://www.waset.org/conference/2019/09/zurich/) ICATEA

**SEPT/OCT**

**30 SEPT-4 OCT: Second World Congress on Mid- and**

**High-rise Wood Buildings Woodrise 2019 – Québec City Convention Centre, Québec City, Canada.**

Theme: Building our cities for future generations jointly organized by FPInnovations (Canada) and Institut technologique FCBA (France) will bring together wood construction stakeholders, decision-makers, and professionals to share their knowledge and strengths in order to position wood as a leading construction material for tomorrow's sustainable cities. For further information: Ann Cantin, Director, Communications and Marketing, Québec City Convention Centre, [acantin@convention.qc.ca](mailto:acantin@convention.qc.ca), 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPInnovations, [marjolaine.dugas@fpinnovations.ca](mailto:marjolaine.dugas@fpinnovations.ca), 514 782-4595

**29 SEPT-25 OCT: XXV IUFRO World Congress – Curitiba, Brazil.** For further information see: [www.iufro2019.com](http://www.iufro2019.com)

**NOVEMBER**

**19-21: Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 – Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.** Email: [info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](mailto:info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my) or visit [www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](http://www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my)

• Please send any events listings to John Halkett via email: [johnh@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestrynews.com)

## 30 Fire fighter lives lost in Chinese forest fires

A fire high in the mountains of western China's Sichuan province has killed 30 firefighters and others, said a government source.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Management and the military the deaths occurred after a change of wind as fire fighters were battling a blaze in a rugged area at an altitude of 3,800 metres. Among the dead were 27 fire fighters and



**Extensive forest fires across China claim the lives of 30 fire fighters.**

three local residents recruited to help fight the blaze, the ministry said.

Nearly 700 fire fighters were battling the fire in Sichuan's Muli county.

Contact was lost Sunday with the 30 fire fighters and two helicopters carrying medical staff and military personnel were dispatched to help in the search.

China has been battling forest fires in recent weeks in various parts of the country, including on the outskirts of Beijing, fed by dry weather and high winds across many northern areas.

# Australian women's leadership symposiums



Tina Arena AM



Ita Buttrose AO OBE



Clare Bowditch



Michelle Cowan



Dame Jenny Shipley



Jacqui Lambie



Jessica Rowe

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Bowditch, Michelle Cowan, The Right Hon Dame Jenny Shipley, Jacqui Lambie, Jessica Rowe and many, many more.

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- Breaking the competency trap and developing adaptive leadership.

- Womenkind: Unlocking the power of women supporting women.

- Let's talk about non-traditional roles.

- Lessons learnt in the world of politics.

- Be heard and remembered: How to use your stories to influence effective change in the workplace.

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# Global softwood timber trade trends

Global trade of softwood timber products fell for the first time in five years

In 2018, global trade of softwood timber products fell for the first time in five years, with total trade down 7% year-over-year. The four largest importing countries, the US (-18%), China (-5%), the United Kingdom (-13%) and Japan (-6%) all imported less in 2018 than in the previous year. Much of the decline was the result of weaker economic prospects and reduced housing starts.

US timber prices have gone through a historic roller-coaster ride over the past 12 months. Random Lengths' composite index for southern yellow pine was at \$420/cub m in January 2018, peaked at \$554/cub m in June and fell to \$372/cub m in January 2019. 2018 softwood timber exports from Canada were down 5% from 2017, with the biggest decline being in shipments to China. A three-year high of 80% of total exports were destined for the US market in the third quarter of 2018 despite efforts by Canada's timber industry to diversify its export shipments. China's share has



**Uncertainty about the future of the Chinese economy, decade low GDP growth in the reduced investments in housing and construction have all been factors that have led to slowing demand for timber in late 2018.**

fallen from 13% in 2017 to 12% in 2018.

Sawmills in the northern European Nordic countries had a very good second half of 2018 with timber prices in the local currencies reaching their highest levels since 2007. Because of the weakening Euro and the Swedish Krona, prices in US dollar terms fell to their lowest levels in almost a year, with average prices in November for Finland and Sweden being \$240/cub m and \$260/cub m, respectively.

Export volumes for the first 11 months of 2018

were down 6.3% for Finland and 3.6% for Sweden as compared to the same period in 2017. The biggest declines were in shipments to China, Japan and the Middle East and North Africa region.

Timber imports to China fell for two consecutive quarters to reach 5.9 million cub m in the final quarter of 2018. This matches the pattern from previous years of declining

import volumes in the third and fourth quarters of the year. Total imports for 2018 were down 2.3% from 2017 but still the second highest volume on record.

Continued uncertainty about the future of the Chinese economy, decade low GDP growth in the reduced investments in housing and construction in 2018 have all been factors that have led to slowing demand for timber in late 2018. Import volumes in January 2019 were up by almost 20% from January 2018, but it is still too early to say if that is just a short-term jump.

Russia's share of total imports to China has moved up from 55% in the final quarter of 2017 to 63% in the final quarter of 2018 as the sawmilling sectors in Siberia and the Far East continue to expand and deliver competitively priced lumber. Shipments from Finland and Sweden have fallen sharply in the past year, from a total of 624,000 cub m in the final quarter of 2017 to only 335,000 cub m in the final quarter of 2018, the lowest volume in three years.

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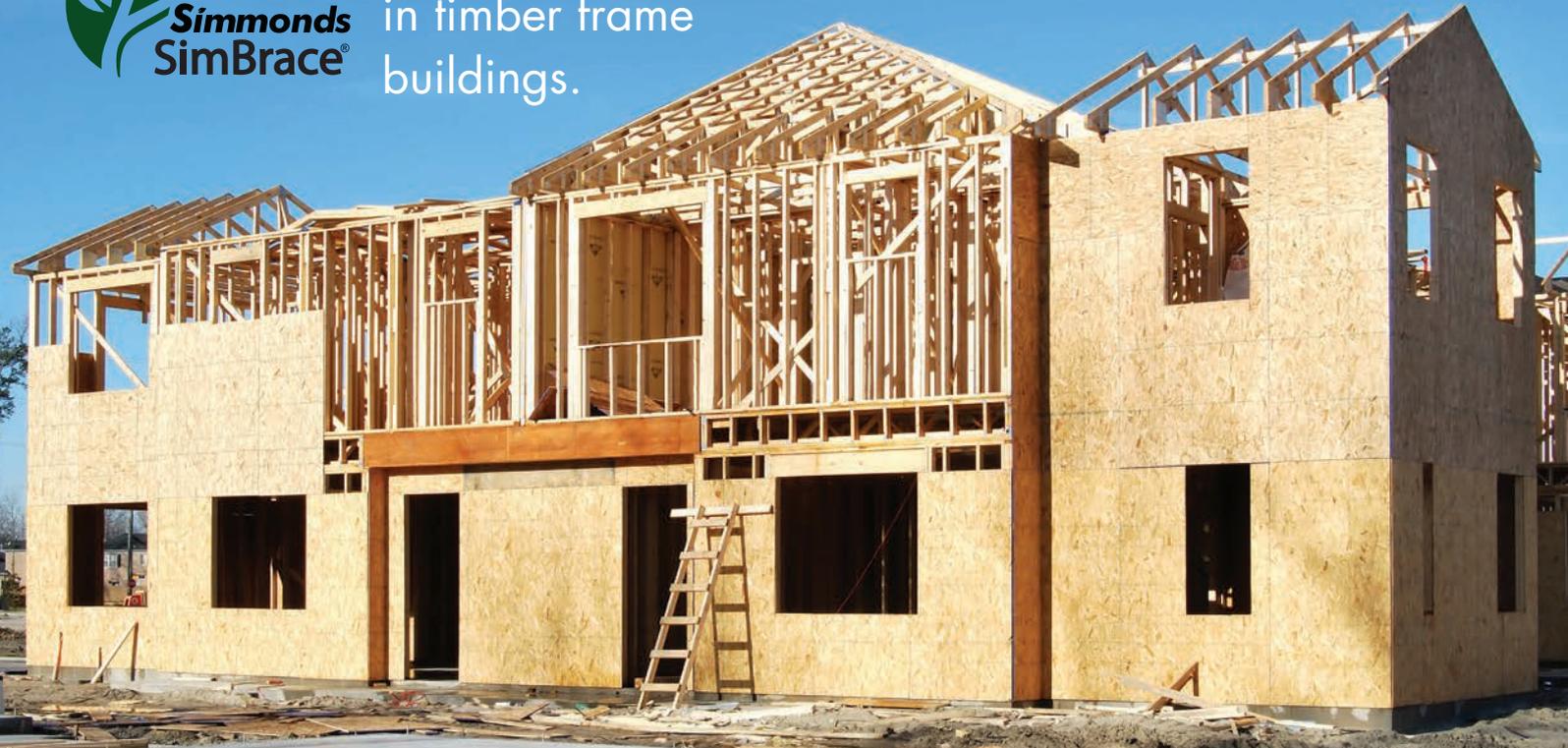
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# Professor recognises potential of connections in timber construction

Part two of Professor Pierre Quenneville's comments of wood-related issues.

MICHAEL SMITH

Professor Pierre Quenneville's reputation as an expert in bolted connector systems preceded his appointment to the University of Auckland's School of Engineering in 2007.

Quenneville started his engineering career in the Canadian military – inspecting and reinforcing timber connections in wooden aircraft hangars. Most of them dated from World War Two and were constructed at a time when the design knowledge was limited.

“When I moved into academia, I taught a steel design course and

appreciated the ease with which steel bolted connections could be designed and their brittle behaviour resistance predicted.

“At that time, a timber connection designed using the Canadian standard required three times as many bolts as a connection using the European standard. It was a mess of research studies conducted independently and with various factors applied on top of each other. No comprehensive study had been undertaken and I saw the potential to somehow clean it up.



**Professor Pierre Quenneville:** co-founder of Tectonus, supplier of seismic-resistant technology to the Nelson Airport Terminal project. Photo: University of Auckland

“I tried to replicate the steel connection design rule for timber applications, taking into account the varying timber resistances in different directions. The research started in the mid-nineties ... and by 2009, the new design rules had been included in the Canadian timber design standard.

“Since then, a lot more research has been conducted in Auckland and I have been blessed with the opportunity to supervise some very clever PhD students who have pushed the knowledge even further.”

Quenneville's critical research into connections includes the Quick-Connect concept, which originated from a consortium of universities on both sides of the Tasman, the major Australasian LVL manufacturers (Carter Holt Harvey, Nelson Pine and Wesbeam) and other interested producers.

“I was given the challenge of making LVL

portal frame construction more competitive. It was recognised that nail plated moment connections at the portal frame knees required a large workforce and significant crane time. So, coming up with a prefabrication solution on the floor (either on site or at a fabricator's warehouse) would be comparable to what steel erectors work with.

“The concept consists of creating a moment connection using threaded rods that slide into LVL sleeves which are attached to the sides of the LVL rafters. The connection between the sleeve and the rafter is prefabricated and once the rafter is erected, one only has to slide the threaded rods into the adjacent member (another LVL member or a steel column) and install the required nuts to complete the connection. The installation takes just minutes instead of hours.”

**“REPLICATING STEEL CONNECTION DESIGN RULE FOR TIMBER APPLICATIONS”**

Quenneville has also been involved in the development of patented Resilient Slip Friction Joint (RSFJ) technology through Tectonus (a commercial operation he co-founded). The technology's introduction followed an investigation into low-damage

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From P 12

damping connections for timber structures subjected to earthquakes.

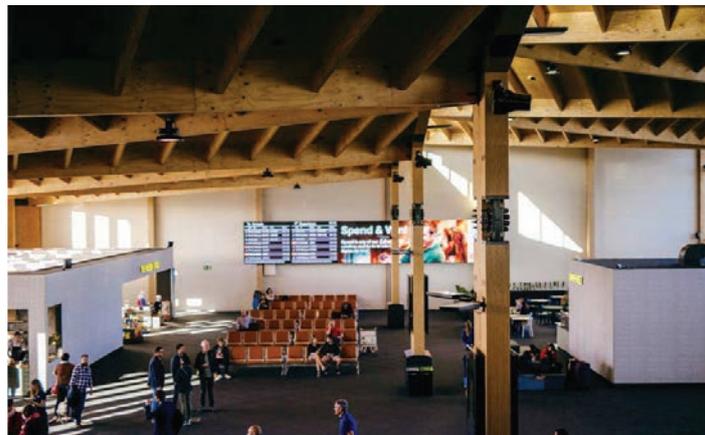
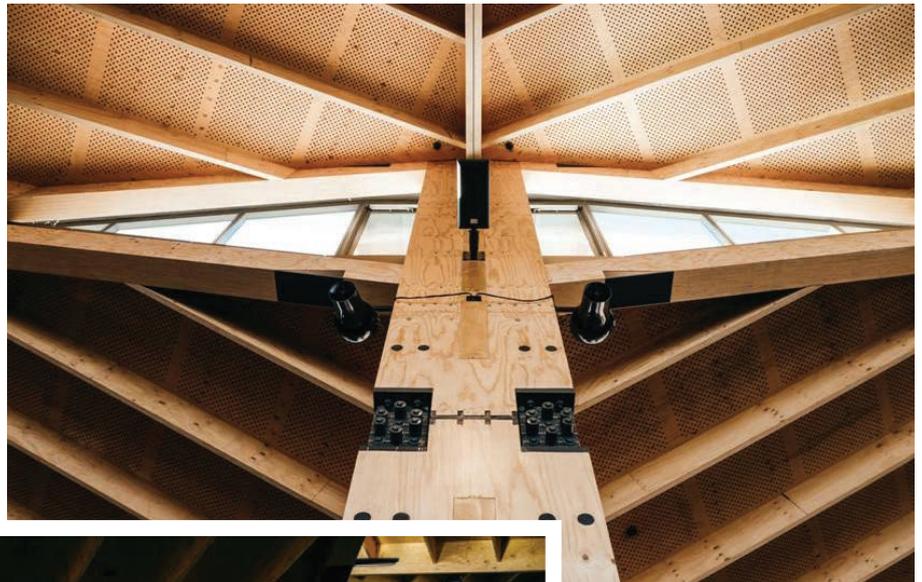
“Given the lower permanent loading associated with timber buildings, the problem of residual deformation following an earthquake presented itself. The connections would be ‘sloppy’ and it wouldn’t take much for a timber structure to rattle during aftershocks.

“My colleague Pouyan Zarnani had the bright idea to profile the plates to create a restoring force that would bring the connection back to its original position. We soon realised that the combination of these characteristics – damping and self-centring – could be applied to all structures, regardless of their material.”

Quenneville says Tectonus is looking to expand the configurations associated

**Tectonus’ RSFJ technology on display at Nelson Airport Terminal.**

Photos: Tectonus



with the RSFJ technology to provide a more efficient way to resist large deformations. “And our latest idea is the concept of a pinching-free timber connector. It has been successfully demonstrated technically, but its commercial application needs further investigation.”

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# Right trees, right place, right scale

## Trees, trees and more trees needed!

ABARES recently published a report on the economic potential for new plantation establishment in Australia.

The report is part of a joint work program with the FWPA and identifies a shortfall by 2050 in the volume of softwood sawlogs available for the domestic market of 2.6 million cubic metres. In terms of new softwood plantations, an additional 200,000 to 250,000 hectares would be required by 2050 to make up the shortfall. However, given the uncertainty around softwood sawlog supply and log-equivalent demand in 2050, some estimates suggest the required area could be higher with Omega Consulting indicating that this could be as much as 490,000 hectares.

That is a big number and to place that in context the softwood estate is presently 1.036 million hectares and produces 10.8 million m<sup>3</sup> of softwood sawlogs. The scale of the challenge raises the obvious question where would the land come from?

Considerable policy work over recent years suggests that the most logical areas for expansion are those where there is already forest activity including infrastructure and access to local processors and/or ports for export. These hubs have recently been endorsed in an announcement by the Prime Minister confirming funding for 4 forest industry hubs with indications further hubs will be funded.

It is anticipated the funding will be used to enable each hub to identify constraints on plantation expansion



*Jigsaw Farms near Hamilton in Western Victoria... centre of farm forestry field trip.*

and develop regionally based solutions. This could include farm forestry and the establishment of collaborative structures to support a number of landowner's plant stands of trees which collectively would be at suitable scale to supply local processors.

To better understand the benefits of farm forestry a field trip involving some 30 participants was organised recently by AFPA and the National Farmers Federation to Jigsaw Farms near Hamilton in Western Victoria. The hosts Mark Wootton and Eve Kantor were very generous in explaining the whole operation to the group.

It was amazing to see what had been done from the 1980's with the introduction

**“ FARM FORESTRY CAN BENEFIT THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

### FOCUS ON FORESTS



**With JIM HOUGHTON**

of revegetation and plantation stands all integrated into the farming landscape. As well as the future income from wood products the trees have contributed to improvements in the productivity of the farm with stocking rates nearly double the district average. The trees also act as a carbon sink which has enabled wool to be sold to high end carbon neutral customers. Other benefits included shelter for stock especially during calving and lambing.

This may not work for

all farmers in all regions but it certainly is a great example of how trees can be incorporated into the farming landscape and potentially create a win win for forestry and the land owner.

A lot more work needs to be done to make the benefits of long rotation softwood better understood as stand-alone projects or in collaborative structures and the funding for hubs will assist in this process.

Who knows in the future maybe a bale of wool and a pack of timber could be seen as complementary outcomes from a range of agriculture activities.

The ABARES report can be found at: [www.fwpa.com.au/resources/reports/other/1731-economic-potential-for-new-plantation-establishment-in-australia](http://www.fwpa.com.au/resources/reports/other/1731-economic-potential-for-new-plantation-establishment-in-australia)

Further information on Jigsaw Farms can be found at [www.jigsawfarms.com.au/](http://www.jigsawfarms.com.au/)



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# Canadian forest industry R&D funding boost

FPIInnovations' President and CEO Stéphane Renou recently welcomed Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau's commitment to continue investing in the competitiveness of the Canadian forest industry by allocating \$251.3-million over three years beginning in 2020-21 to encourage the forest sector to continue growing and develop new technologies.

Minister Morneau announced that the funds will extend existing innovation, markets, and product diversification

**“COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE INVESTMENT IN FOREST INDUSTRY”**

programs. More specifically, Minister Morneau announced \$91.8-million for the Forest Innovation Program.

Stéphane Renou said FPIInnovations is working on several R&D projects to transform the forest industry including:

- Increase the use of sustainable wood in structures and in building construction materials by \$900-million by 2023.
- Develop fibre-based bioplastics solutions that



**Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau... boosting research funding for forest industry.**

will represent 5 % of the bioplastic used in North America by 2022 for a market value of \$700-million.

- Develop wood-fibre-based biofuel solutions that will provide alternative solutions in a \$2.5-billion Canadian energy market.

- Enhance market penetration of North American wood-fibre-sourced packaging to achieve a market value of \$600-million by 2025.
- Integrate big data and high-tech into Canadian forest operations to create a safer and more productive environment along the value chain. By 2025, it will add value and generate savings of close to \$1-billion per year.

• Improve the efficiency of the manufacturing process. This will increase fibre recovery by 30% and reduce co-products production by 20% by 2023.

- Introduce new biomaterials and biocomposites made from wood-fibre for use in everyday products.

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# US forest agency looks to more logging, improved forest health

THE Forestry Agency in the US state of Montana is working with federal, local and private organisations to increase logging on national forests to improve forest health and decrease the risk of disease and catastrophic fires.

State lawmakers are supporting a \$2.2 million request from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to hire people to help implement the Good Neighbour Authority program.

Montana's forestlands are deteriorating because of insects and disease, fire seasons are lasting longer and the numbers of acres burned has increased 15-fold over the past 20 years,

Forestry division administrator Sonya Germann told a House appropriations sub-committee in January that poor forest health impacts drinking and irrigation water, recreational assets,

**“IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT LOGGING, IT'S ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY**



1/ **Good Neighbour Authority program... working to improve health of Montana's forests.**

2/ **Sonya Germann... we see this as a higher calling to do more on behalf of forestry.**



homes, communities and fish and wildlife habitat, she said.

The Good Neighbour Authority DNRC to contract timber sales on US Forest Service land, with some of the proceeds used to treat diseased trees, clear dead trees and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The DNRC has to follow the same federal environmental laws the Forest Service would have to meet in offering sales.

“When I look at this program I think this is probably the best thing the government has created in I don't know how long, because it's brought in

partners, industries are investing in it,” Lincoln County commissioner Mark Peck told the sub-committee. Lincoln County invested \$10,000 and hired a county forester.

“The economy has been devastated by the reduction in logging projects in the Kootenai national forest, which also has caused fuels to build up,” he said.

“The last three years we've just had devastating, catastrophic fire up there. We've lost homes.

“It's not all about logging, it's about public safety, it's about forest health and

obviously the economy comes into play too.”

The DNRC has received financial pledges from the timber industry, business and conservation partners and just over \$550,000 from the US Forest Service to help start the program. The state agency bid out two projects last fall and many more are in the works.

“We believe in this work,” Sonya Germann said. “This isn't just a job for us. We see this as a higher calling to do more on behalf of forestry in the state of Montana.”

Montana has lost about 30 lumber mills over the last three decades along with about 4000 employees, says Julia Altemus, executive director of the Montana Wood Products Industry, which has pledged \$450,000 to help start the forest management program.

“Increasing the number of sales will level out the timber prices, get more loggers working, get more wood to the mills and improve forest health,” Ms Altemus said.

The effort will also decrease the spread of disease and fire to state and private lands.

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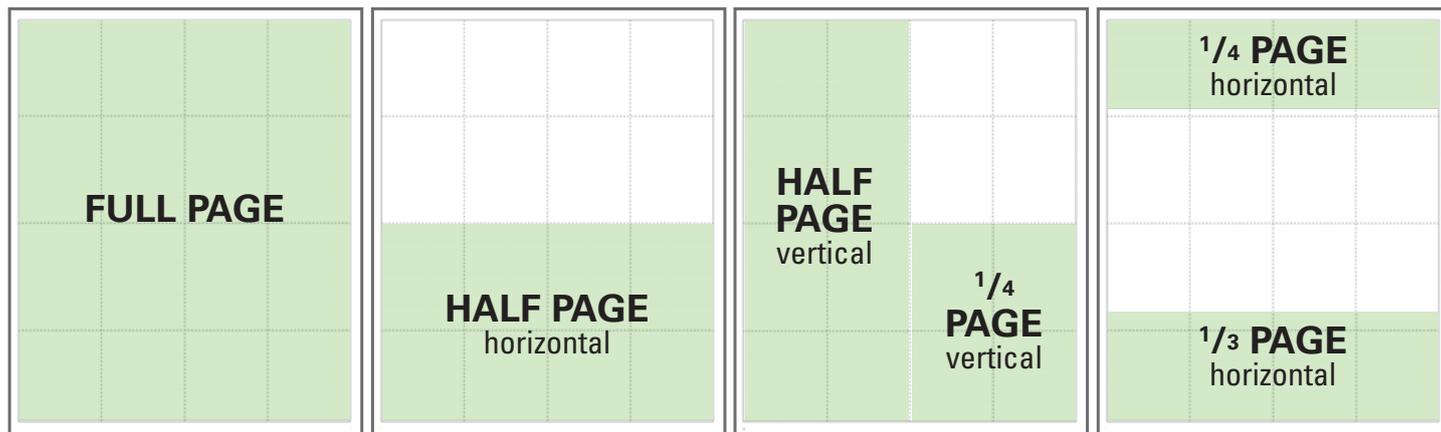
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