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# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## Senator set for DANA conference

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# Activists: states should follow federal laws to protect industry

TWO peak industry bodies have welcome the federal government's proposed new laws to protect farmers and primary producers, including forest industries, from activists.

The Australian Forest Products Association and Australian Forest Contractors Association also say the scope of the proposed federal laws should be broadened to include necessary protections for processors of forest products.

"However, state jurisdictions must do all they can to enforce their own existing powers so sustainable forest industry operations can operate without interference," AFCA general manager Stacey Gardiner said.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton says the Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019 currently covered forestry operations on

**“INDUSTRIES HAVE BORNE BRUNT OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR**



1

1/ *Threatened species?... forest activists continue to disrupt.*

2/ *Ross Hampton... states must enforce their existing powers.*

3/ *Stacey Gardiner... vandalism impacting on legal forest operations.*



2



3

are a welcome step, the concerns and circumstances of Australia's forest product industries should be addressed," he said.

Ms Gardiner said our industries had borne the brunt of disruptive and unconscionable activist behaviour along with vandalism impacting on legally conducted forestry operations.

"It needs to stop," she said, "and these latest proposed federal laws are both recognition and an opportunity to work towards that end."

Ross Hampton said Australia's forest industries were among the most environmentally conscious of anywhere in the world.

"Of our 123 million ha of native forests, only about half a per cent is harvested for renewable timber annually, before it's sustainably regrown," he said.

private land only.

"Many of the activist issues occur on public land, which means the states need to play a significant role," Mr Hampton said.

"State jurisdictions need to ensure they enforce their own existing powers to ensure forestry operations aren't disrupted, and employees and forestry contractors are free to complete their work without hindrance from activists."

Stacey Gardiner added: "We

know that powers exist at the state level, but often aren't properly or timely enforced by the relevant authorities."

Mr Hampton said additionally, the proposed federal laws should also cover forest product processing facilities, such as timber mills, just as meat processing facilities like abattoirs are already covered.

"The government is now consulting on the Criminal Code Amendment Bill and, although the proposed laws



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# Traralgon counts down for biggest forestry showcase

THE biggest forestry show in the southern hemisphere is in count-down mode as the Gippsland town of Traralgon in Victoria's Latrobe Valley prepares for AUSTimber 2020 from March 30 to April 4 next year.

A revised site plan will have a new central activity area between the pine and eucalypt live demonstration areas, and one site will be used for all expo and demonstration days.

In 2016, two sites were used – one in the forest and the other in Traralgon – which did not work well for visitors who had to travel between the two.

Multiple sites have already been sold and considering the extent of the event in 2016 many more will be secured in the months to come.

**“SITE PLAN HAS NEW CENTRAL ACTIVITY**

Local councils are behind the event for many reasons. The industry is vital for regional Victoria, which directly employs more than 21,000 workers. It indirectly supports another 40,000 to 50,000 jobs, providing a sustainable future for suburban, rural and regional communities across the state.

“We are committed to supporting the timber and wood industries in our region and this event is a tangible reflection of that support,” Latrobe City Council Mayor Darrell White said.



1/ *On the prowl... a Tigercat 1075C forwarder unloading wood processed by a H845C harvester on Onetrack Australia's eucalyptus site at AUSTimber 2016.*

2/ *Mayor Darrell White... committed to timber industry.*



“Because of that commitment our council was the first in Australia to adopt a wood encouragement policy that has since been taken up by other councils around the nation.”

At the AUSTimber launch last year, HVP Plantations gave each participant the opportunity to plant a seedling onsite. These were seedlings grown at HVP's Gelliondale nursey near Yarram, which is one of a number of local sites proposed for field trips as part of the week-long activities.

Early supporters of the event include the Australian Forest Contractors Association, HVP Plantations, VicForests, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, Latrobe City and Wellington Shire Council.

AUSTimber will provide exhibitors with access to hardwood and softwood to showcase equipment to the expected 8000-plus field day visitors.

Live action will include in-forest hardwood and

softwood demonstrations, clear felling, cut-to-length eucalyptus harvesting, pine harvesting in first thinnings and establishment techniques and silviculture practices.

Adding to this will be in-field chipping, mulching and bio-fuel production systems, later thinnings, long-length harvesting and truck and trailer test drive routes.

Meanwhile, the Australian Forest Contractors Association has launched its new AUSTimber website, its exhibitor prospectus, partner prospectus and electronic exhibitor booking form, which has been designed to make it easier to be part of the show.

Site preparation at Traralgon is well under way and there are some great photos and drone footage on the website and Instagram where the association will be posting updates.

For all the info contact Dionne Olsen on +61 4 29 202 929 or email [austimber2020@afca.asn.au](mailto:austimber2020@afca.asn.au)

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# A man named Armstrong walked the forest: industry loses champion

JIM BOWDEN

DEDICATED to the timber industry for most of his working life, David Armstrong, who was the high-profile general manager of the Queensland Timber Board for almost 30 years, has died, aged 79.

David joined QTB (now Timber Queensland) as manager in 1970, aged 30, taking up the position at the old Timber House building in Adelaide Street Brisbane.

The job was advertised nationally and David was the choice of a panel of four industry leaders – David Wilkinson, Jack McKenna, Bill Nutting and Bill Ashton. On his appointment, he flew

from Melbourne with his wife Edna. She had given birth to their second child and on leaving hospital on a Friday they were both on a plane for Brisbane the next day.

One of his first tasks was setting up QTB in new premises at Dunlop Street, Newstead.

The appointment severed 13 years' service with BP Australia for the Geelong-born son of a Victorian schoolmaster. While in the oil industry, he graduated to departmental management at the age of 25 specialising in finance and economic control systems.

During his service with



*David Armstrong... passion for timber industry.*

BP, he served with the 15th Company, Royal Australian Army Service and the No. 2 Company commando skydivers.

During his tenure at QTB, David travelled extensively presenting the sustainable forest message and his personal fight against forest closures to special meetings, congresses and summits in New Zealand, South America, the US and Europe.

**“ FIGHTER FOR INDUSTRY HE LOVED**

He was an associate of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, a member of Australian Timber Industry Stabilisation Conference (AusTIS) and the Australian Timber Producers Council and deputy chairman of the Queensland Timber Industry Training Committee and the National Timber Industry Training Council.

David was passionately involved in the fight against the closure of timber harvesting on Fraser Island in the early 1990s and fought a tough battle. Corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald QC chaired an inquiry that saw the end of logging on the island in 1991.

David was always proud to announce that Fraser Island was handed over as a World Heritage site – after more than a century of sustainable timber harvesting.

A lover of sport and outdoor camping, one of his greatest fascinations was astronomy. The writer remembers picking up a small glass phial in David's office in 1978 that contained a minuscule fragment of moon rock from samples brought to earth by David's namesake Neil Armstrong after the Apollo 11 landing 50 years ago. The first man to walk on the moon, Armstrong was the primary rock collector.

David acquired the sample, no heavier than a paperclip, on a visit to the Apollo launching pad at Cape Canaveral in Florida. How he got it remains a mystery. And maybe he witnessed the lunar eclipse this week on his way to the Celestial Heavens.

David George Armstrong – DGA to his friends – is survived by his wife, Edna and children Damien, Penelope and Christopher. A funeral service will be held at Mount Thompson Memorial Gardens at Holland Park on Friday, July 26, with the time to be announced.



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# Annual round of applications open for Gottstein Trust awards

HELEN MURRAY

THE annual round of applications for the JW Gottstein Memorial Trust awards opens tomorrow, Friday, July 19, and will close on September 16.

Every year the Gottstein Trust invites people involved in the industry to submit their proposals to be considered for a funding grant.

Most highly sought after are the Gottstein fellowships. More often than not the submitted proposals seek to cover an international study tour.

Intending fellows usually seek to expand professional networks internationally and many achieve that by submitting a travel itinerary to visit leading operations and people with specialised knowledge in the field of endeavour they are pursuing.

**“THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME IS TO BRING BACK NEW INSIGHTS, IDEAS**



GOTTSTEIN  
TRUST

The ultimate outcome is to bring back new insights and ideas that have potential application in Australia and to communicate those in a report.

Applications are also open for scholar support – grants to people presently undertaking study in a field of relevance to the forestry and wood products sector. Two University of Tasmania scholars who currently receive scholarships are pursuing PhDs. However, undergraduate and master's degree students are also invited to apply.

Another opportunity is the Industry Award. This is a grant that may be provided to applicants at any level who can demonstrate how this support would improve their professional skills



**Helen Murray... grant funding proposals invited.**

and advance their career prospects within the sector.

This opportunity has a real breadth but tends not to be awarded year in year out.

The Industry Award would be valuable to people at all levels who seek to advance their skills in a chosen area.

All the application information is available at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org) where the online application forms are also found. Intending applicants might be interested in the short video of a Gottstein Alumnus. On this new feature we've

provided for the trust, a 1990 recipient Braden Jenkin talks about the lasting impact of his fellowship award.

Also, each year, in conjunction with Australian National University in Canberra, the Gottstein Trust organises a one-week 'crash course' in wood science or forest science. This year more than 30 individuals graduated from the forest science course.

The 2020 short-course is tentatively set to run across the week of February 17 to 21 at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University in Canberra. Further details will be released in the timber industry media and through industry associations later in 2019.

Contact Helen Murray on 0419 991 423, Judy Pearce on 0417 250 058 or Jocelyn Carpenter on 0407 006 101 or email [gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com)

• *Helen Murray leads the Gottstein Secretariat management team.*

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# Four Corners report didn't flow very well

RESPONDING to a Four Corners program, Minister for Water Resources David Littleproud said the Coalition was proud to invest in water efficiency projects because they returned water to the river system while protecting rural jobs and communities rather than decimating them as water buybacks do.

"It's unfortunate the ABC program didn't mention this," Mr Littleproud said.

He said the government used water efficiency projects instead of water buybacks to recover water because water buybacks meant less farm production,

less harvesting and packing jobs in small towns, and less money spent in the local pubs and restaurants.

"The government promised before the 2013 election to use water efficiency projects to recover water and we've delivered our promise."

He said the plan so far had delivered 2100 GL of water back to the river system with about another 500 GL to go; 1200 GL was recovered through buybacks mostly under Labor – 700 GL through water efficiency projects and the balance through state government programs and gifted water.

"Recovering large parcels of water from a company through water efficiency projects instead of effectively closing dozens of family



**David Littleproud... helping farmers grow more with less water.**

farms in a small community through water buybacks is unarguably much better for those communities and the real families who live in them," Mr Littleproud said.

"Taxpayer-funded water efficiency projects help farmers grow more with less water, and return water to the river system. This way

the river, the farmer and the community all win – the river gets more water, the farmer produces as much or more produce and this protects jobs for the local community."

Mr Littleproud said planting almonds, nuts or any other water intensive crop did not give a farmer more water entitlement.

"Water entitlements are bought and sold on the open market and farmers are increasingly using them to grow the highest value crops," he said. "To suggest farmers are switching to high-value crops because water is recovered through water efficiency projects is silly. They are switching to high-value crops because they return more to the farmer."

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**JULY**

**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)

**AUGUST**

**9: Queensland Timber Industry Pioneers' Luncheon – Historic Pineapple Hotel, 706 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Australia.** 10 am-12 noon. Guest speaker Chris Hyne, fourth generation member of the Hyne family. Meals, drinks from hotel's servery at your cost and selection. No other charges.

Big holiday raffle to aid special children's charity. RSVP by July 27 to Don Towerton 0428 745 455 [don@thoraimtimbers.com.au](mailto:don@thoraimtimbers.com.au) or Jim Bowden 0401 312 087 [cancon@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cancon@bigpond.net.au)

**18: Hardwood is Good Convocation – Maryborough, Qld, Australia.**

Sunday, August 18, from 11.30 am. Private Forestry Services Queensland has partnered with industry to discuss the native forest sector in Queensland – and new changes 'in the wind'. New government regulations will impact on everyone, so attendance at this event is critical. Slacks Harwood is supplying a BBQ lunch. RSVP by August 11 for catering. Contact Bronwyn Lloyd, PFSQ on (07) 5483 6535 or email [pfsq@bigpond.com](mailto:pfsq@bigpond.com)

**SEPTEMBER**

**7-9: Kununurra Consultation Forum – Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development**

**Conference Room, 1 Durack Drive, Kununurra, WA, Australia.** 10 am-12 noon. Free event. Identify and explore the growth potential of the forest and forest products industry in Northern Australia and develop longer term relationships with key industry and community representatives. RSVP by August 29 to [sarah@timberqueensland.com.au](mailto:sarah@timberqueensland.com.au) or call (07) 3358 7900.

**OCTOBER**

**18: 2019 TABMA National Awards Dinner – Doltone House, Hyde Park, Sydney, Australia.** Hosted by TABMA Australia, 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Dress formal.

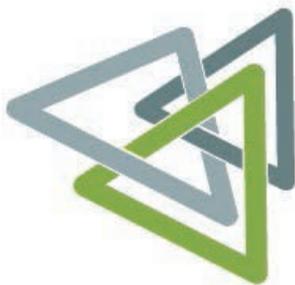
**The 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner – Melbourne, Australia.** Entries open February 11 and close June 28. Peoples' Choice voting August to September. Sponsorship options available. Contact 0420 232 253 or email [inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au](mailto:inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au)

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**26: 2019 Queensland Timber Industry Gala Evening (Casino Night) – The Tote Room, Eagle Farm Racecourse, Ascot, QLD Australia.** 6:30pm. Hosted by TABMA Queensland. For bookings contact (07) 3456 7065. Mob: 0418 449 031. Email: [Alicia@tabma.com.au](mailto:Alicia@tabma.com.au) Visit: [www.tabma.com.au](http://www.tabma.com.au)

**NOVEMBER**

**1: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards 2019 – Mt Gambier, South Australia, Australia.** The second GTTIA forestry awards for the region will recognise and celebrate outstanding foresters, companies, service providers and forest managers. Nominations open June 17 and close August 16. Gala dinner November 1. Further information and sponsorship opportunities visit [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com) or contact Prue Younger +64 21 2765 484. Email: [prue@publicimpressions.co.nz](mailto:prue@publicimpressions.co.nz)



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**SEPTEMBER**

**7-9: China Global Wood Trade Conference – Chongqing, China.** Annual event for global wood traders providing an opportunity to learn about trends in global wood markets and to network. Visit: [www.gwtchina.org/](http://www.gwtchina.org/)

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

**17-18: NordGen Forest Conference 2019: Future Forest Health – Early detection and mitigation of invasive pests and diseases in Nordic forests – Hotel Örk, Hveragerði, South Iceland.** Conference will focus on threats posed to Nordic forestry and forest plant production by invasive pest species. For further information contact: [forest@nordgen.org](mailto:forest@nordgen.org)

**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)

**OCTOBER**

**6-9: 52nd International Symposium on Forestry Mechanization (FORMEC) and 42nd Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) Annual**

**Meeting – Sopron, Hungary.** For further information see: [www.formec2019.com](http://www.formec2019.com)

**8-10: Timber Expo Birmingham – Birmingham, UK.** Annual trade show covering a breadth of timber applications from timber frame, sawmills, merchants, glulam, SIPs, CLT, fixings and fastenings, timber cladding, doors/windows, mouldings, skirtings and flooring. For further information contact: +44 (0)7956 173351 or [www.timber-expo.co.uk](http://www.timber-expo.co.uk)

**8-10: AUSTROFOMA (Austrian forestry machine and device demonstration) – Forchtenstein, Austria.** For further information see: [www.austrofoma.at/en](http://www.austrofoma.at/en)

**21-25: 2019 DANA Japan Forest Industry Tour – Japan.** A unique five-day Forest Industry Tour of several forest, wood processing and wood importing and expecting port facilities on Kyushu and Honshu Islands. For further information and to register see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019japan/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019japan/)

**23: Woodflow Logistix Conference – Vancouver, Canada.** For further information see: [www.woodflowlogistix.events](http://www.woodflowlogistix.events)

**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)

**20: Exploring pathways to verified sustainable tropical timber Conference – Berlin, Germany.** The 2019 European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) Conference centred around the two themes of tropical timber promotion and verified sustainable forest management. Visit [www.europeansttc.com/20-november-2019-conference-exploring-pathways-to-verified-sustainable-tropical-timber/](http://www.europeansttc.com/20-november-2019-conference-exploring-pathways-to-verified-sustainable-tropical-timber/)

**APRIL 2020**

**3-5: FORESTlive, Forestry trade fair – Offenburg, Germany.** Leading fair covering forestry technology, wood energy and biomass for decision makers in the forestry and agriculture, construction and municipal economy, timber crafts and energy industry. For further information contact: +49 (0)781 922604 or [www.messeoffenburg.de](http://www.messeoffenburg.de)

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

## Wood fibre costs on the rise in 16 countries

WOOD fibre costs for softwood pulp manufacturers in 16 countries have gone up the past two years, and as a result, in the first quarter softwood fibre price index reached its highest level in five years, reports the Wood Resource Quarterly.

Higher wood fibre costs in the US South, Russia and New Zealand contributed to most of the rise in late 2018 and early 2019. It is likely that the upward trend will come to a halt during the summer,

and then start to decline in the second half of 2019.

The only exception has been in eastern Canada, where an oversupply of sawmill residues has put downward price pressure on both logs and chips. The biggest price increases the past few years have been seen in Western North America, the Nordic countries, Russia and Indonesia.

The Softwood Fibre Price Index (SFPI) inched up 0.5% quarter-over-quarter in the

1Q/19. This was the third consecutive quarterly increase and resulted in the highest index seen since in late 2014. Of the regions covered by the index, Russia, New Zealand and the US South contributed the most to this rise. However, there were also a few regions in the world where pulplog prices fell. Central Europe, for example, saw high supply of logs from storm and insect damaged trees - pushing log prices downward in late 2018 and early 2019.

Pulp mills along the US Atlantic coast saw their wood fibre costs rise almost 10% over the past year because of higher transportation costs and tighter log supplies related to difficult logging and transportation conditions.

With the tight supply of wood fibre in the first quarter 2019, prices for wood chips and pulp logs, in both the south central and south eastern states, reached their highest levels in almost seven years.

2/ Talking forest certification and chain of custody at PTEC 2019 are Jason Ross, Responsible Wood, and Daniel Scheibmair, specification engineer, Simpson Strong-Tie NZ Ltd, Auckland.



2/ Catching up at the PETEC conference are Boris Iskra, national codes and standards manager, FWPA, Melbourne, and Professor Jeffrey Morrell, director, National Centre for Timber Durability and Design, University of the Sunshine Coast.



3/ Dr Benoit Gilbert, School of Engineering, Griffith University, and Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager, Agri-Science Queensland, DAF.



4/ Daniel Schibmair, specification engineer, Simpson Strong-Tie NZ Ltd, and Jane Armstrong, senior structural engineer, Taylor Thomson Whitting, consulting engineers in Sydney.



5/ Adam Jones, engineering adviser mid-rise constructions, WoodSolutions, Melbourne, and Claudia Roder, EWPA.



On the cover: Senator Jonathan Duniam, keynote speaker at the DANA forest innovations conference in Brisbane next week, against a background of pine seedlings at the Forestry Corporation of NSW's Blowering nursery near Tumut.

# PTEC fulfilled all expectations

## Global timber engineering forum opened a new close dialogue between industry and academia

JIM BOWDEN

AS more than 170 international delegates departed the three-day PTEC 2019 conference in Brisbane last week, the organising committee celebrated an event that met all the objectives.

- A global timber engineering forum that in a constructive way opened a new and refreshing conversation and kinsmanship among industry and academia.
- Allowed a fusion of both science-driven and practical sessions that accommodated more than 80 individual presentations.
- A venue that inspired relaxed networking over refreshment breaks at the Brisbane Convention Centre and during inspections of exhibits and posters.



**Craig Kay, national product engineer, Tilling, Kilsyth, Vic, welcomes Japanese delegates Xiaolan Zhang and Zherui Li of Kyoto University to the Tilling stand at PTEC 19.**

“And what a great opportunity it was to exchange points of view with timber engineering professionals from New Zealand, Canada, the US, Europe and Asia,” said Keith Crews, Professor Emeritus at the University of Technology Sydney and an internationally recognised expert on timber engineering.

He said the conference’s smaller attendance group was a “comfortable number”, allowing delegates to interact more closely with each other, rather than a thousand or so who attend like events.

Delivering a conference summary, Professor Crews said the Future Timber Hub at the University of Queensland, host of PTEC,

was an exciting process that was training young people properly and mentoring young designers coming on.

“It’s about sharing knowledge and not keeping it to ourselves,” he said. “So we are lifting the quality of work that’s been done at entry level by designers, researchers, practioners and builders to make sure that in the current climate new people that do it well are coming on board.”

But he added: “There can be a lot of dangers if a lot of people get excited and prematurely impulsive.

“Enthusiasm is good but not at the cost of mistakes – around fire prevention systems and connections as just an example. Mistakes could set the industry back 10 or 15 years.”

And he told the assembly: “You might think that some of the problems you are facing are new. They are not,

“IT’S ABOUT SHARING KNOWLEDGE”

Cont P 11



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From P 10

as many in the room who worked in the early 80s will assert.

“So don’t re-invent the wheel or start at ground zero if you don’t have to. Be encouraged to talk to people who have been around for quite a while. Find out what’s been done before. It’s always a learning process.”

The content and strategy of the 2019 Pacific Timber Engineering Conference was formulated at the 2016 conference in Vienna by science committee members including Professor Crews, Professor Jose Torero, University College London, and Associate Professor Dilum Fernando, UQ School

**“SO DON’T RE-INVENT THE WHEEL**



**Pat Thornton, principal, Loggo Wood Engineering Systems, Wollongong, welcomes Dr Tim Smith, director, forestry and biosciences, Agri Science Queensland, DAF, Katie Fowden, manager, strategic relations, Hyne, and Toby Hodsdon, associate structural engineer at Arup in Brisbane, to the Loggo stand at PTEC 2019.**

of Civil Engineering.

“The international support we received was overwhelming – the promotion of PTEC 19 and the supply of data bases and the like,” Professor Crews said.

He finished his overview in Brisbane with an open invitation to the next World

Conference on Timber Engineering to be held in Santiago, Chile, from August 24 to 27.

Chile País Forestal (Chile Forestry Country) will provide the framework for the conference. The South American country with more than 15 million ha of forest (80% native and 20% plantations) has a vibrant

forest products industry.

The national government is encouraging industry to be more competitive, based on the huge potential for the development of timber engineering.

“Yes, there’s a lot of good wood there – and a lot of good wine, too,” Professor Crews concluded.



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# An ecological crisis threatens the very future of the human family

I GUESS I would have to describe myself as a 'collapsed Catholic'. Mum and dad sent me and my two brothers off to Sunday school, even on very chilly winter Sunday mornings down here in southern NSW.

I recall we sat there and listened. I thought the hot deserts of some place called Palestine sounded pretty good to me sitting there with a frozen bum. The church didn't run to a heater.

But growing up a bit, and no longer under the well-intentioned strictures of mum and dad, along with tens of thousands of others, I questioned Roman Catholicism. How priests and brothers, supposedly joining the church to do good for humanity, could assault little kids was beyond me.

The Catholic Church has also attempted to obstruct almost every progressive move by society; it has opposed women's rights, contraception, abortion, marriage equality ... the list goes on.

So I was more than a little taken-back when I read some encouraging comments by Pope Francis about climate change. He said carbon pricing was "essential" to stem global warming – his clearest appeal yet to climate change deniers to listen to science.

**“A RADICAL ENERGY TRANSITION AWAY FROM CARBON**



1

**1/ Young pine plantation... ability to trade stored carbon dramatically improves the cash flow and investment profile.**

**2/ Pope Francis... carbon pricing is essential to stem global warming.**

Pope Francis also called for "open, transparent, science-based and standardised" reporting of climate risk and a "radical energy transition" away from carbon.

He has clashed over climate change with leaders such as US President Donald Trump (now there is an intellectual giant) saying that an ecological crisis "threatens the very future of the human family". He implicitly criticised those who, like Trump, deny that climate change is mostly caused by human activity.

"For too long we have collectively failed to listen to the fruits of scientific analysis, and doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain," said Pope Francis.

I would stop short of suggesting that the Pope should be inducted into a forestry hall of fame, but his advocacy for carbon trading

## TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

resonates well in forest industry circles.

Attracting investment in plantation establishment is presently the industry's Achilles' heel because the bulk of the costs are incurred in the first few years getting trees in the ground and growing, then waiting for a couple of decades at best to get a financial return.

So the tyranny of compound interest basically destroys even a modest return on money invested.



2

But add the Pope's carbon trading call – that is the ability to trade stored carbon each and every year after trees are planted – and dramatically the cash flow and investment profile looks much more attractive.

Yes, Pope Francis' carbon price call is something the forest industry would find a real boost. Call Catholicism what you may, but his intervention in carbon trading and the benefits it would bring to plantation investment are most welcome. That's what I reckon anyway.

Catch you again next month.

**Cheryl**

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Fourth generation family member CHRIS HYNE is a welcome guest speaker at the Queensland timber industry's annual Pioneers Luncheon on August 9.

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Free pre-lunch drinks and refreshments have been sponsored.

## Plan to open reserves for old-growth harvest

THE NSW government is considering reclassifying old-growth forest to open up some protected reserves in the state's northeast to the timber industry.



The Natural Resources Commission of NSW has been asked to remap and rezone old-growth forest in state forest informal reserves that were previously off limits to timber harvesting.

An NRC pilot study has already examined 13 sites in the northeast. In findings published last year, the NRC said it had identified "significant errors" in old-growth forests maps. It drew up new maps that reduced the extent of protected old-growth in those areas by 78%.

It is now embarking on a larger remapping exercise that would aim to rezone 14,600 ha of old-growth. A draft assessment will be published for public comment next month.

The remapping is to address a potential shortfall in the timber available for logging to meet contracts signed with Forestry Corporation NSW. The NRC identified the shortfall in advice it provided to the government in 2016.

In its pilot study, the NRC said work was still needed to verify that there would be a timber shortfall. It recommended rezoning proceed only if and when a shortfall was confirmed. A similar remapping process

is also under way on private land in the state and that has already opened up some areas to logging that were previously protected.

The independent upper house member Justin Field has written to the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and the ministers Rob Stokes, John Barilaro and Matt Kean calling for the remapping process to be halted until there was an independent review of "the supposed wood supply shortfall".

Field said the government could not hope to create a meaningful environmental legacy if it allowed logging of protected old-growth forests.

A NSW government spokesperson confirmed the remapping work was under way and said the government was committed to both maintaining timber supply and protecting the environment: "Initial mapping of the state's coastal old-growth forests in the 1990s was subsequently found to be inaccurate and unreliable. As such, the Natural Resources Commission has been asked to reassess the landscape to gain more accurate information."

The NRC will submit a proposal to the government in November after public consultation.

(With extracts from The Guardian)

# The 'perfect storm' as China confronts over-supply of logs

## Downturn will affect forest owners and those in the supply chain

A 'PERFECT storm' of global events is contributing to the current over-supply of logs in China.

Whipping up the disturbance are a slowing Chinese economy, the Trump trade war, a weakening Chinese RMB exchange rate, big increases in sawn timber supply from Russia, massive areas of dead and dying spruce trees and increased mill capacity in Europe, a surge in Uruguay log exports and a surge in New Zealand harvesting (both a result of high China prices).

In 1985, Dennis Neilson, respected forestry industry business analyst and director of Rotorua-based DANA Ltd, was directly involved in exporting the first shipload of pine logs from New Zealand to China. Since then he has witnessed the trade grow from zero to a record of almost 18 million cub m this year to March 2019.

Neilson has also witnessed a number of China volume and price slumps – notably from a high export volume up around 800,000 cub m a year in the late 1980s to zero for some years; then a modest recovery, before a post-GFC Chinese construction boom in from 2009 commenced the latest round of supply surges.

Even post-2009, there have been periodic downward demand and price adjustments.

**“SURGE IN URUGUAY LOG EXPORTS**



*Chinese puzzle... never try to predict China – just go with the flow.*

“However, none has generated such a media circus as has occurred with the latest softwood log inventory oversupply, which has led to price reductions and an impending slowdown in harvesting in New Zealand,” Neilson observes.

“Literally dozens of articles and radio and television reports have pontificated on and speculated about the cause and effect, with a plethora of trade and industry insider and outsider experts all proffering opinions and predictions.

“These range from it being a cyclical downturn normal in the life cycle of a commodity trade, to being the end of the forestry world in New Zealand as we know it. One commentator suggested log exporters were ‘intoxicated’ by China (many probably were by over-celebrating the multi-billion dollar, multi-year success of the New Zealand pine export trade).”

Neilson said the downturn was no doubt significant and would affect forest owners

No doubt about it.

So where to from here? As always, Neilson adopts the advice given to him in 1985: “Never try to predict China. Just go with the flow.”

However, he has identified a number of startling ‘mirror image’ similarities between the log trade and the global iron ore trade (especially from Australia and also from Brazil).

In the last decade this trade has seen:

- Giddy price rises in 2007 and again in 2009 – with one so huge that the Chinese

Cont P 16

and those in the supply chain, including hundreds of harvesting and trucking contractors and their staff.



## 2019 NOMINATIONS OPEN

### Key Dates 2019

Get involved, nominate today and step up.

Check out our website for nomination category criteria and details [www.gttia.com](http://www.gttia.com)

17 June	<b>Nominations Open</b>
16 August	<b>Nominations Close</b>
September	<b>Judging Process</b>
1 November	<b>GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS</b>

From P 15

government punished Rio Tinto by jailing its iron ore marketing manager Stern Hu for 10 years in 2009, for “disrupting the natural order”. He was released in 2018 after serving nine years.

- A series of devastating multi-year demand and price crashes from 2011 which caused several chiefs of iron ore corporate producers to be fired, and with several company bankruptcies.

- A slow ... then a fast resurgence of demand and prices since 2016, especially into 2019 when iron ore prices have already surged 70%. This caused a late-June decision by the Chinese steel industry to again reconvene its 2009 ‘Bejesus what is happening?’ committee to determine if ‘non-market’ forces are back at work.

Not only but also ... just as the Australian iron ore



**International traveller... Dennis Neilson inspects a six-month-old Eucalyptus saligna plantation in Ecuador in June with Adriana Meija Meija, forest technology manager at Novapan, a major Ecuadorian forestry and wood panels company.**

trade has enriched corporates and individuals by billions of dollars, so has the New Zealand log trade for some of the largest funds and fund managers on the planet. More than a few individuals have made tens and hundreds of millions on the back of surging forest values.

But in any commodity trading, Neilson says the weak can get taken out during significant market down-turns.

**“THE WEAK CAN BE TAKEN OUT DURING MARKET DOWN-TURNS**

“They did with iron ore in Australia, and will do with the log export downturn in New Zealand through 2019,” he said.

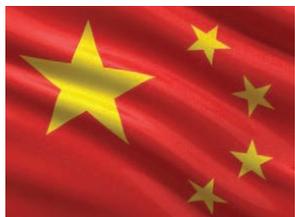
Several strategic and operational changes which Australian and Brazilian iron

ore producers have made since 2012 to ensure they will be ‘the last people standing’ in that trade (no matter what the price is) have many lessons for the New Zealand log export trade.

Dennis Neilson has just written a paper on the comparisons between the iron ore and log export trades, and some lessons to be learned. Check with him at [dana@dana.co.nz](mailto:dana@dana.co.nz)

Several presentations at the DANA Brisbane forest industry innovations conference on July 22 and 23 directly and indirectly address the Chinese and other Asian and European log and sawn timber markets, and the impact these will have on both New Zealand and Australian pine log exports, and the Australian sawn timber import sectors.

Visit [www.danaevents.co.nz/2019brisbane/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2019brisbane/).



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# The Ultimate Renewable builds awareness with industry support

## Brand unites communications along supply chain to the consumer

ONE of the challenges facing the Australian forest and wood products industry is its diversity. Comprising hundreds of companies, from small family operations to corporate entities, the industry, until now, has never had a united voice to promote the benefits of the material with which it works.

Wood. The Ultimate Renewable was launched at a series of industry events around Australia by Forest and Wood Products Australia. A consumer advertising campaign incorporating free to air TV, online and pay TV, and digital and outdoor advertising is running through July and August.

The messages underpinning the brand will aim to educate the public that Wood is The Ultimate Renewable resource; it can be replanted and will continually grow back. Branding for the campaign is The Ultimate Renewable and Planet Ark's Make It Wood.

FWPA managing director Ric Sinclair says The Ultimate Renewable builds on an ethos of collaboration and he urges all businesses involved with

**“BECOME CHAMPIONS OF THE BRAND**



**Grand Designs Australia host Peter Maddison... star of The Ultimate Renewal TV advertising campaign who explains that wood is a continually renewable resource and the replanting process behind Australia's commercial forests.**

manufacturing and selling wood products to become champions of the brand by promoting the benefits of using sustainably sourced forest products.

Timberlink Australia is one of the companies already on board.

“We see this as a great opportunity to promote the advantages of wood,” group marketing manager Scott Bradley said.

“We'll be using the brand on our own materials, and we'll be encouraging our customers to do the same. The more exposure we can provide for the brand the better it will be for us and the industry as a whole.”

“Supporting and publicising

### TALKING TIMBER



**With Eileen Newbury**  
National Marketing and  
Communications Manager,  
FWPA

The Ultimate Renewable is a small thing for each company or organisation to do, but if we all do it the results will positively affect people's perceptions of wood as a material and the forestry process,” FTMA Kersten

Gentle, executive officer said. “We will be actively encouraging our members to participate. Many have already taken up this opportunity.”

National business development manager at Australian Sustainable Hardwood Daniel Wright agrees: “It's great to see the industry getting behind a positive message about forestry, reminding people of the benefits we deliver to communities and the environment.”

FWPA is coordinating The Ultimate Renewable artwork. Promotional material is available for download from [www.fwpa.com.au](http://www.fwpa.com.au)

There are variations of the logo, videos and online banners.



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# Selective logging not enough to sustain Amazon timber demands

AMAZONIAN forests are unlikely to provide enough timber to meet current demand over the long term, even with the use of improved logging practices.

That is a key finding of a recent study led by the Tropical Managed Forests Observatory.

Scientist from the University of French Guiana Dr Camille Piponiot, the study's lead author says around 20% of the total forest area in the Amazon



Logging in Amazonia... period of transition that requires important forest policy decisions.

“20 PC OF TOTAL FOREST USED FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION”

Basin is used for timber production. This is usually done through selective harvest of a few trees per hectare, followed by regrowth.

"Selective logging provides income and employment and allows the forest to retain most of the carbon stocks and biodiversity of old-growth forests," Dr Piponiot said.

"However, with 30 million cub m of sawlogs extracted from the Amazon's 108 million ha of natural

Cont P 19

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From P 18

production forests each year, decisions about the management of these production forests are of major importance."

The Amazon rainforest spreads across Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Suriname, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Guyana, and French Guiana, making the concerted management of wood resources challenging.

Dr Bruno Héroult of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development says many Amazonian countries have passed regulations for maximum logging intensities and minimum time intervals between harvests, to avoid

**“NATIONAL REGULATIONS INSUFFICIENT”**

depletion of timber stocks. But these national regulations are insufficient.

"Typically, the minimum time timber stocks are assumed to recover to pre-harvesting levels are 20 to 35 years, despite substantial evidence that without strong limits on logging intensities, this is not long enough to be sustainable," he said.

The research project used computer modelling to examine the timber sustainability levels under five different logging intensity and timber regrowth scenarios: an average logging intensity scenario



**Dr Plinio Sist... we are in a period of transition.**

with a standard 30-year cutting cycle; a low-intensity scenario with a 30-year cutting cycle; a high-intensity scenario with a 30-year cutting cycle; a short 15 years scenario, with an average logging intensity; and a long 65-year cycle scenario, with an average logging intensity.

"Our results show that with current cutting cycles and logging intensities, forest

regrowth is too slow to recover timber stocks," Dr Héroult said.

"The light scenarios (low intensity and long cutting cycles) do not provide enough timber and the heavy scenarios are not sustainable, as they do not allow volume recovery during a cutting cycle."

Research report co-author and leader of the Tropical Managed Forests Observatory Dr Plinio Sist said these results highlighted the need for a re-evaluation of the strategy for future timber provision in Amazonia.

"We are in a period of transition that requires important forest policy decisions to promote diversification of timber sources, and a substantial shift in the objectives of Amazonian production forest management," he said.

## 2019 DANA INNOVATIONS IN THE AUSTRALIAN Forest Industry Sector Conference & Field Trip

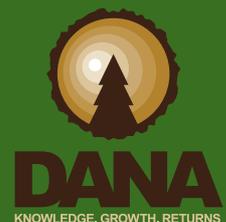
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# Holden Equinox a real ‘buzz’ in the mid-size SUV race for space

WITH the golden anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin’s feat fast approaching – their lunar module Eagle landed July 20, 1969, on the Sea of Tranquility – the moon is red-hot again.

And many thousands of Aussie moon lovers rolled out of their beds at 6 am on a cold July 16 morning to gaze at the global lunar eclipse, a celestial event technically known as a syzygy – a straight-line configuration of three or more celestial bodies in a gravitational system. Lunar eclipses happen when the Earth becomes aligned in between the Sun and the Moon.

So this is why the 2019 Holden Equinox jumped the queue for space on our regular motoring page.

For the celestial-minded, the autumnal equinox – also called the September or fall equinox – is the astronomical start of fall in the northern hemisphere and spring in the southern hemisphere. It’s when the Sun crosses what we call the ‘celestial equator’.

And on the subject of space, the Equinox has plenty of it. Plenty of head, shoulder, leg



Over the moon... the spacious Equinox, Holden’s all-new mid-size SUV.

and knee room, courtesy of one of the longest wheelbases in the class. The rear seats fold flat in a one-touch folding 60/40 configuration to increase the voluminous boot area from 846 litres to 1798 litres.

In front of the driver is a neat and clear instrument panel with two larger outer dials and a square MFD between with two smaller dials on top.

Even with the dual-panel panoramic sunroof (or moon roof!), the front occupants have plenty of head room.

The Mexico-sourced Equinox is an all-new mid-size SUV that Holden spent five years developing for Australian conditions and is available in a wide range of variants with a diesel power train and two

## MOTERING



With ORSON WHEELS

different petrol engines.

The Equinox tested was the petrol-powered all-wheel drive version, which features a 2 litre four-cylinder turbo making 188 kW at 5500 rpm and 353 Nm at 2500-4500 rpm, sending drive to an on-demand all-wheel drive system through a standard nine-speed automatic

transmission.

The fuel conversion is officially rated at 8.4L/100km on the combined cycle, while the Equinox’s 59L fuel tank demands minimum 95 RON premium unleaded. There’s idle stop-start tech fitted as well.

Standard equipment includes 19-in, alloy wheels, a powered tailgate, advanced park assist for perpendicular and parallel spots, automatic wipers, leather-appointed seats, wireless phone charging, heated front and rear seats, DAB+ digital radio, LED headlights and tail-lights, Bose premium audio, electric adjustment for the driver with lumbar and memory functions, and roof rails.

There is good inside storage spots front and back and a wireless charger and USB and 12V points. Rear passengers have air vents, USB and 12V plugs and comfortable seats.

The LTZ variant of Holden’s mid-size SUV starts at \$39,990 for the petrol with front-wheel drive, with the all-wheel drive version launching the starting price up to \$44,290, plus on-road costs. A 1.6-litre diesel with AWD is also available for \$47,290.

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### HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry e-news  
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,  
Australia  
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

### PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestrye-news.com  
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764  
dennisn@timberandforestrye-news.com

### MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

### ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestrye-news.com  
Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087  
cancon@bigpond.net.au

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- Manage research project activities including management

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**Applications close Monday, 29 July 2019**

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GLOBAL  
READERS\*

## ADVERTISING RATES

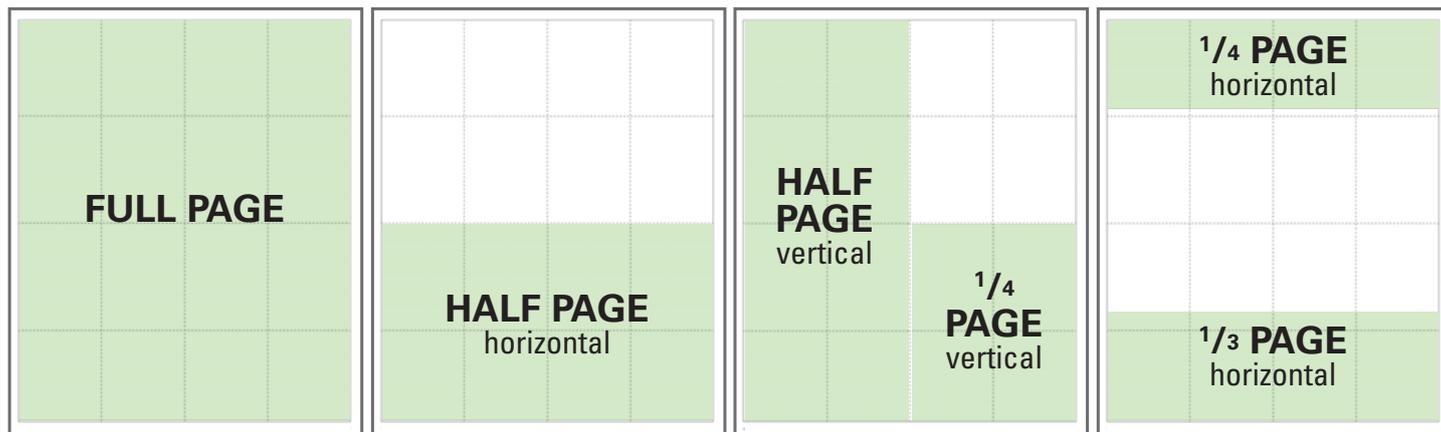
**timber**  
& FORESTRY *e*NEWS

Now in its 11th year, Timber&Forestry enews has grown to be the Number 1 online weekly news journal for the forest and forest products industries – across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

It is read by timber merchants, wholesalers, sawmillers, wood processors, foresters, contractors, CEOs and members of national and state organisations and associations, builders, specifiers, architects, state and federal government ministers, officials, and regional government.

\* Publishers' claim. The publication draws on a new data-base vault of more than 15,200 emails – a number that grows weekly.

## AD FORMATS



## DISPLAY AD RATES

### FULL PAGE: \$485

297mmH x 210mmW

### HALF PAGE: \$290

Vertical • 254mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

### QUARTER PAGE: \$180

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

### THIRD PAGE: \$215

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

### PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

### PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

### PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

### PAGE 3 Column strip: Contract booking

Vertical • 254mmH x 44.5mmW

### COMPANY PROFILE full page: \$485

## JOB SEEK AD RATES

### PER EMPLOYMENT AD: \$210

with FREE company logo

All prices quoted are per issue, exclude GST and are based on artwork being supplied.

## ARTWORK RATES

Contact: [zonya@creativebirddesign.com](mailto:zonya@creativebirddesign.com) for a quote

## TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5% 24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

Timber&Forestry enews is published by Timber & Forestry enews  
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Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe.

Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking. However, we have a minimum 4 week booking policy for display ads. Job seek ads can be placed on a weekly basis.

## DEADLINES

**Display ads:** Book by 10am Tuesday prior to publication

**Supply artwork:** Wednesday 12 noon prior to publication. jpg or pdf to our specifications with no crop marks or bleed.

**Job seek ad content:** Book and supply text copy by 4pm Wednesday prior to publication

## TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

## WHO TO CONTACT

**Media releases:** Jim Bowden e: [cancon@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cancon@bigpond.net.au) | **Ad bookings:** e: [advertising@timberandforestryenews.com](mailto:advertising@timberandforestryenews.com)

**Accounts:** e: [johnh@timberandforestryenews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestryenews.com) | **Free subscription:** [www.timberandforestryenews.com](http://www.timberandforestryenews.com)