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COVER STORY P4

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Trade war casts dark shadow of uncertainty across Australia, NZ

Commodities: China is impossible to predict ... Trump even harder

DENNIS NEILSON

THE New Zealand forest industry sector has been badly affected by a major slowdown in demand and price reductions for its huge (18 million cub m a year) China log trade.

This slowdown has hit all softwood log suppliers to China, including Australia.

However, the New Zealand log export trade was pleasantly surprised when August 'at-wharf-gate' log export prices stepped up off their July base to increase commonly around \$3-4 cub m, but ranging from \$1 to \$12 cub m depending on port, log grade, sellers and buyers.

But just as we thought we might see more good news coming into the NZ spring and summer, uncertainty has again cast a dark new shadow.

In early August, US President Donald Trump announced that from September 1 he will impose a 10% duty on \$US300 billion of Chinese imports.



Until then there was some optimism that trade talks were progressing, and a full blown trade war could be avoided.

In response, on August 5, the Dow Jones Index plunged 767 points (2.9%), the Nasdaq dropped even further (3.5%) and the VIC 'volatility index' spiked 40% to a seven-month high. US 10-year Treasury yields dropped to 1.75%, the lowest level in nearly three years.

China has already retaliated

by further (as reported by CNBC) "weaponising" its currency on August 5 allowing it to slide below a psychological red line – the key 7 yuan to the dollar level – for the first time since 2008.

On August 5, The Financial Times reported that Beijing has asked its state-owned

“NEVER TRY TO PREDICT CHINA

enterprises to halt US agricultural goods, which will include the important 30 million tonne/year soybean export market. As a substitute for US soybeans, the Chinese Commerce Ministry last week announced it would seek to "expand soybean imports from Russia."

We think (but are not yet sure) that this 'request' may include logs and sawn timber. In any event, if we were Chinese wood importers from the US at best we would be cautious in case that government's 'suggestion' became a 'directive' and did include wood.

"I think it's their biggest signal yet," says Marc Chandler, chief market strategist at Bannockburn Global Forex. "The Chinese are signalling that they have lost confidence; that they can reach an agreement with Trump. And until now they

Cont P 3



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Inspecting Russian pine logs at Manzouli on the Russia-China border, a major land port of entry... Dennis Neilson (right) with members of a trade group visiting the region in June last year.

From P 2

were willing to go along and play the game.”

Not all Americans support the Trump Trade War. Some (or perhaps all, and especially farmers) feel like the cartoon suggests, but are helpless to intervene – at least until November 2020.

So, what does that mean for New Zealand (and Australian) pine log exports?

As usual the ‘Neilson Doctrine’ first conceived in 1985 applies: “Never try to predict China – just go with the flow.”

However, the net negatives will probably outweigh the net positives.

The possible reduction of further American log and sawn timber exports to China will be positive. In addition,

if the Australian government signs up to America’s request for it to “battle China” this would likely result in China also punishing Australian wood exporters – a positive for New Zealand (assuming the NZ government would not be so stupid as to also join this battle.)

However, the weakened currency makes NZ exports more expensive in China which is negative. Also a major side effect of the trade war is a general slowdown of the Chinese economy including construction, another negative.

Other (mainland) Chinese government distractions including its relationships with Taiwan and Hong Kong are not helpful.

New Zealand forest owners are eternal optimists, even

in the face of a never-ending (and ongoing) barrage of nay-and-doomsayer ‘Armageddon-is-upon-us’ by industry observers and the media.

Much of this included misleading and misfeasance reporting – and sometimes plain old blatant lies (widely exposed by DANA in numerous emails and blogs).

So, are the August export log export prices increases green shoots to further flourish into spring and summer, or are they a dead cat bounce

To know that for sure we would have to be able to predict China. That is impossible. To also predict Trump, well, that’s even harder.

• *Dennis Neilson is director of DANA Ltd, a NZ company based in Rotorua.*

Timber-getters: trees are competing against themselves

QUEENSLAND South Burnett region timber getters, brothers Aaron and Glen Marshall, say the forestry industry faces a bleak future if it is forced to leave 300 trees to the hectare.

“What’s the point of locking forestry up if it is only going to become like a national park,” Glen said.

Glen said at 300 stems to the hectare the trees would be competing against themselves.

At present, a minimum of

150 stems at least 2 m tall and 40 mm in diameter must be left on each hectare. That means getting out with a tape measure and ensuring there are at least seven suitable stems in each 12.6 m circle, or a 20th of a hectare.

The Marshall brothers also said leaving 300 stems will result in fuel loads with the potential for destructive, hot fires.

“Fire plays an important part of managing a sustainable

forest,” Aaron said.

The Marshall brothers budget on harvesting a 100 trees each a day.

“If it’s done right we can keep coming back to the same areas and harvest timber forever,” Glen said.

• The timber industry will rally against proposed changes to forestry management laws in Maryborough on Sunday, August 18.

(Queensland Country Life)



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Certified timber keeps massive Sydney rail line venture on track

Metro Northwest first chain-of-custody project in southern hemisphere

ACKNOWLEDGING and rewarding environmental choices made in the construction industry is becoming increasingly important as the demand for greater sustainability grows among consumers, governments, developers and specifiers.

The Sydney Metro expansion, which will be the first fully automated metropolitan rail system in Australia, is the first major project in the southern hemisphere to be awarded chain-of-custody certification.

Alongside an entirely new 66 km rail system that



A new generation of fast, safe and reliable train services... entrance to the Hills underground station in Sydney, which features certified timber construction.

will provide 31 new railway stations, the Sydney Metro is the biggest public transport

project completed in Australia in recent years.

Stage 1 of the project, Sydney Metro Northwest, recently opened to the public and services the region with the highest car ownership levels per household in Australia. It constitutes eight new stations and commuter car parks accommodating 4000 cars. Seven of the eight stations have satisfied the criteria for Responsible Wood certification.

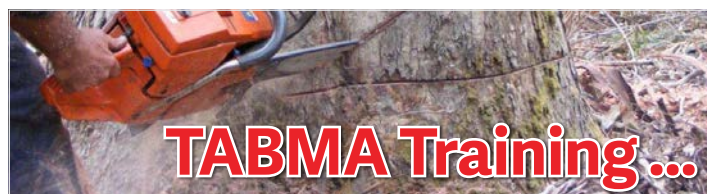
In fact, from the outset there was a contractual requirement for Sydney Metro Northwest's contractors to source 100% of all timber products used from either re-used, post-consumer recycled or ethically certified timber. As a response to this, Northwest Rapid Transit (NRT) developed a procurement strategy to secure the supply of only certified timber products.

The most effective way for timber growers and manufacturers to provide

proof of the sustainability of any timber product is through certification by an independent, recognised accreditation body such as the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) internationally and in Australia through the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

“THE HIGH WATERMARK FOR FOREST CERTIFICATION

Traditional 'chain-of-custody' certification poses problems for the construction industry, however, when short-term projects involve numerous, uncertified contractors. This has recently been resolved by Responsible Wood through the creation of 'project certification'. This provides a mechanism for attaining chain-of-custody certification against the Australian Standard (AS4707)



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From P 4

for a specified project with a limited duration.

Described by Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries as “the high watermark for forest certification”, the Sydney Metro Northwest project is the first in what could be a number of construction and infrastructure projects seeking Responsible Wood certification.

“It’s a pioneer project,” Mr Dorries said. “Not only is it the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere but the first to successfully achieve

“REFLECTS RESPONSIBLE SOURCING GOALS

Responsible Wood and PEFC project certification.

“We are fielding more and more inquiries from construction teams and certification bodies looking to achieve certification for future projects.”

Seven of the eight new stations have been certified by SCS Global Services under PEFC and Responsible Wood chain-of-custody standards with the eighth station achieving partial project certification by FSC.

A key component of the design was elements of the Cumberland Plain, a relatively flat region west of the Sydney CBD. The roof canopies resemble a leaf, while the underside is lined in timber species commonly found in the Cumberland Plain forests – spotted gum and Blackbutt.



Thirukumaran Jallendran... a milestone project for Australia.

The timber used in the façades of the new multi-storey car parks was also certified ‘sustainably sourced’ bringing the total timber use in the project to 200,000 linear metres.

The construction was undertaken by John Holland and CPB Contractors.

“This is a milestone project

for Australia and we are proud that it reflects the country’s responsible sourcing goals,” said Thirukumaran Jallendran, a professional engineer and former sustainability manager at John Holland.

“That such a large and complex project can achieve certification should inspire others throughout the construction industry to realise that project scope and scale should not be deterrents in seeking project certification, proving without question, the sector’s environmental credentials and commitment to protecting Australia’s precious forests,” Simon Dorries said.

On the cover: A section of Castle Hill station, part of the Sydney Metro expansion, features spotted gum and Blackbutt timbers in a leaf configuration.

Slice of thin wood makes saltwater drinkable

FILTERING the salt from seawater can take a lot of energy or specialised engineering. A thin membrane made of porous wood may be able to fix that.

In membrane distillation, salty water is pumped through a film, usually made of some sort of polymer with very narrow pores that filter out the salt and allow only

water molecules through.

Now, Jason Ren at Princeton University in New Jersey, USA, and his colleagues have developed a new kind of membrane made of natural wood instead of plastic.

“If you think of traditional water filtration, you need very high-pressure pumping to squeeze the water

through, so it uses a lot of energy,” says Ren. “This is more energy efficient and it doesn’t use fossil-fuel based materials like many other membranes for water filtration.”

The membrane is made of a thin piece of American basswood, which undergoes a chemical treatment to strip away extra fibres in the

wood and to make its surface slippery to water molecules. One side of the membrane is heated so that when water flows over that side it is vapourised.

This method filters about 20 kg of water per square metre of membrane per hour, which is not quite as quick as polymer membranes.

(Science Advances)

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Bushfire season on way: be prepared!

AUSTRALIANS are being urged to work with their community, neighbours and friends to prepare for another tough bushfire season.

Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management David Littleproud said all parts of Australia were vulnerable because of dry conditions and people shouldn't be complacent.

NSW authorities have brought forward the Bushfire Danger Period in 12 local government areas two months early because of drought and above-average winter temperatures.

"This season will be testing and everyone needs to be ready," Mr Littleproud said.

"Last August we saw homes destroyed in New South Wales and again



in North Queensland in November when the fire danger rating reached 'catastrophic' for the first time.

"It's a reminder bushfires can strike at any time and we've got to be prepared."

The Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre has advised that parts of southeastern Queensland are expecting

above normal fire risk.

The southern outlook will be issued in coming months but there are early indications of higher than average fire risks nationwide.

"The Coalition Government

has committed more than \$6.2 million on the next generation Australian Fire Danger Rating System so we have more accurate and local fire risk messaging," Mr Littleproud said.

"We've also invested \$1.9 million developing a robust public safety mobile broadband service for emergency service workers.

"We fund more than \$14 million of the standing costs of the national aerial firefighting fleet, with aircraft ready to commence service in coming weeks."

More information, including on how to plan and prepare, is available from local fire services.

The Red Cross has tools and resources to help people prepare for disasters. Visit www.redcross.org.au

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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@thoraimbers.com.au or Jim Bowden 0401 312 087 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

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 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.

17: 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner – The River Room, Crown Melbourne, Australia. Peoples' Choice voting open August to September. Contact 0420 232 253 or email inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au

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 Visit: 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 or contact Prue Younger +64 21 2765 484. Email: prue@publicimpressions.co.nz

15: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual industry dinner – Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Vic, Australia. Tickets available at www.vafi.org.au

MARCH/APRIL 2020

30 MAR/4 APRIL: AusTimber 2020 – Traralgon, Vic, Australia. Largest timber industry show in Australasia with in-forest show demonstrates the latest developments in log harvesting, processing and hauling equipment in action and up close. Also field trips to industry sites, a wood chop competition and forwarder competition. For more information see: www.afca.asn.au/www-austimber-org-au



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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/

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

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

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 FPIInnovations (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, 418 564-1312; Marjolaine Dugas, Director of Communications, FPIInnovations, marjolaine.dugas@fpinnovations.ca, 514 782-4595

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

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

8-10: AUSTROFOMA (Austrian forestry machine and device demonstration) – Forchtenstein, Austria. For further information see: 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/

23: Woodflow Logistix Conference – Vancouver, Canada. For further information see: www.woodflowlogistix.events

NOVEMBER

19-21: Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 – Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my or visit 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/

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

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

All aboard to celebrate Australia-Chile trade ties

TIMBER importers were acknowledged at a gala night on board the Chilean Navy training ship Esmeralda in Sydney this week.

Hosted by Chile's business and export advocacy organisations the event was a celebration of the growing business, military, diplomatic and cultural ties between Australia and Chile.

In recognising the expanding significance of Chilean timber imports in the Australian market, ATIF's John Halkett said Chile was clearly out-performing its close competitor New Zealand in

the Australian market.

"This is largely due to the innovation, quality and cost competitiveness that now characterises Chilean timber products, plus the marketing effort by the Chilean forestry sector more generally," he said.

"Chile is now an important supplier of sophisticated softwood plantation-based panel and solid wood products to the Australian market."

Mr Halkett said the Australian timber industry supply chain was looking



Celebrating Chile Australian friendship on board the Esmeralda in Sydney ... Captain Claudio Maldonado with ATIF's John Halkett.

forward to strengthening their relationship with Chilean exporting companies.

The current Esmeralda is the sixth to carry the name. The first was the frigate Esmeralda captured from the Spanish at Callao, Peru, by Admiral Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane of the Chilean Navy in a bold incursion on the night of November 5, 1820.

Construction of the current Esmeralda began in Cádiz, Spain, in 1946. She was finally launched on May 12, 1953. Since her commissioning, Esmeralda has been a training ship for the Chilean Navy.

Long-lasting benefits from PTEC discussions on timber engineering

THE Pacific Timber Engineering Conference held in Brisbane three weeks ago is still enjoying the benefits of academia and industry collaboration.

PTEC 2019, organised by the University of Queensland's School of Civil Engineering, and the ARC Future Timber Hub, was designed to showcase the research and application that has gone into promoting engineered timber as a safe and sustainable alternative to steel and concrete.

The overall goal of the organisers was to increase the number of timber buildings in Australia – from tall and mid-rise to domestic structures. To do this, presentations were given by global experts from multiple fields and concerns regarding timber construction, from fire safety to logistics. They showcased the buildability benefits of engineered timber, fire safety of timber buildings, and sustainability benefits of using timber.

One obstacle to increased timber use as a construction



PTEC 2019 closing panel session... Katie Fowden, manager, strategic relations, Hyne Timber, Dave Gover, CEO, EWPAA, Adam Jones, structural engineer, WoodSolutions, Dr Tim Smith, director, forestry and biosciences, DAF Queensland, Craig Kay, national product engineer, Tilling, and Professor Jose Torero, University College London

material in Australia its perceived fire risk – both in the eyes of the public and in some of standards set by regulatory authorities. Changing this perception is one of the key goals of the PTEC organisers.

Renowned researcher Professor Jose Torero, one of the top fire experts in the world and head of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London, led discussions on fire safety.

His work at the University

of Edinburgh helped show that fires in compartments made of cross-laminated timber can self-extinguish without intervention – results that have been replicated in research at UQ and showcased by a team of fire engineers at the conference.

Industry keynote speakers included Toby Hodsdon from Arup and Anna Charalambous

and Ben Owen from Lendlease. Their talks focused on how timber can offer faster build times and much lighter structures compared to steel and concrete, and the lessons learned from their experiences.

The Lendlease team, who led the design and construction of the Melbourne Forte building and 25 King in Brisbane, Australia's tallest timber office building, talked about the practicalities of their building process and

“TIMBER CAN OFFER FASTER BUILD TIMES

Cont P 10

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Applications close on Monday, 16th September 2019.

Further information: gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or Helen Murray +61 (0) 419-991-424.



From P 9

also the reasons behind the company's shift into tall timber construction.

The central reason is the buildability benefits, the ease and efficiency by which a building can be built, maximising the safety and quality while minimising costs.

Other key speakers included Professor Frank Lam from the University of British Columbia, Canada, who talked about opportunities and challenges in timber engineering research and Professor Minjuan He from Tongji University, China, who discussed the recent development on timber engineering in China, inclusive of research, codes and construction projects.

China and Canada have both seen their timber industries take up new construction methods and advanced materials in recent years. Certain technologies vary in their availability from country to country, for example, the regulatory requirements, the traditional construction techniques, and material availability.

“TRAINING MODULES TO EDUCATE EACH SECTOR



Conferring at PTEC 19... Associate Professor Dilum Fernando, University of Queensland, architect Dr Kim Baber, lecturer at UQ, and Dr Rob McGavin, DAF Salisbury Research Facility.

“The PTEC organisers see the future of timber engineering as all parties (academia, government and industry) getting together at the same table and having a

cross-disciplinary approach to every aspect in producing technologies that tackle the performance requirements of design, construction and maintenance,” ARC Future

Timber Hub manager Kelly Rischmiller said. .

“The importance of this was shown in the closing panel discussion with the theme ‘Using Timber in Construction: Benefits, Perception, Constraints’. Representatives from all parties gave their thoughts on what needs to be done and answered some challenging questions from the audience.

“This is where the Future Timber Hub, supported by the Australian Research Council along with interdisciplinary partnership's between the University of Queensland, the state government, Arup, Hyne Timber, Lendlease, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Scion New Zealand, Griffith University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Canterbury, is leading the way in this research.”



Ms Rischmiller said the hub team was made up of product and construction managers, fire safety engineers, architects, and structural engineers. This ensured pursuing research-based strategies and innovative technologies was conducted with a collaboration committed to challenging the barrier of timber construction to boost the timber industry.



1/ On the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia stand at PTEC 2019 are Dave Gover, CEO, and Harrison Brooke, manufacturing engineer.



2/ Pat Thornton, principal, Loggo Engineered Wood Systems, Wollongong, NSW, discussed round timber construction with Jussi Bjorman, structural engineer at Metsä Wood, headquartered in Espoo, Finland.

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German energy: multi-million tree plan

TREES have become a hot political issue in Germany amid concerns about the health of the country's forests.

Federal Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner, a member of Germany's 'climate cabinet', says wooden houses could help stem climate change by absorbing carbon emissions.

In an interview published in the Rheinische Post this week, Klöckner said increasing the number of wooden houses would help the country meet its emissions goals.

She said recent developments in construction meant that fire codes that have prevented the building of such homes are no longer justified.

"Increased wood – in building homes, for example – absorbs CO₂," she emphasised.



Aufrechtzuerhalten! Germany's Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner plants a tree in a storm-damaged federal forest in Brandenburg on World Forestry Day March 21.

"Saying that, quickly-constructed wooden housing could come in handy as the number of homeless people in Germany continues to rise."

The minister has urged state governments to do away with restrictions.

"Thanks to the high level of prefabrication, wooden

houses can be built fast," she said, adding: "Some federal states are still skeptical. They should put aside their doubts and adapt their building regulations."

Klöckner's call for more wooden houses comes amid concerns about the precarious state of Germany's forests.

More than a million trees have died since 2018 due to increasing temperatures, droughts and bark beetles.

Klöckner has also proposed financing a multi-million trees program from the federal government's energy and climate fund, set up to accelerate the energy transition.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she is in discussions with German forestry companies, especially those suffering from extreme drought and pest infestation.

Recently, Swiss researchers found that reforesting the earth could help fight climate change. Their study found that planting enough trees to fill an area the size of the United States would capture two-thirds of man-made carbon emissions.

7 REASONS WHY WOOD IS GOOD FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Studies show:*

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School children are less stressed

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Workers can be more productive

Improved indoor air quality by moderating humidity

Feeling of warmth, comfort and relaxation

* See Planet Ark report – Wood – Nature Inspired Design

MakeItWood.org



Project: International House Sydney
Design: Tzannes Architects and Lendlease
Photography: Ben Guthrie

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Forestry, rail: unlocking wealth in New Zealand's changing far north

MICHAEL SMITH

NEW Zealand's Northland has for so long had great prospects in the form of forestry, tourism, horticulture and more – but it lacks the infrastructure for transformational development.

Railways have been the prime example of underachievement in the region – notably the mothballing of the Dargaville branch line and the line from Whangarei to the log hub at Otiria in the far north.

Given the lack of funds/political will to maintain and develop the network, it's not surprising that potential freight customers



On track... Greg Miller, KiwiRail, Shane Jones, Regional Economic Development Minister, Todd Moyle, KiwiRail, and Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister, discuss the prospects for rail in Northland. Photo: KiwiRail

have been reluctant to sign up to an operation that is "limited by low clearances, single tracking and speed

restrictions" (Tai Tokerau Northland Growth Study).

Meantime, the rail line between Auckland

and Whangarei is also in desperate need of an upgrade, and is currently operating on borrowed time (five years at most). It, too, is subject to speed restrictions – meaning it cannot compete time-wise with road haulage – and has a number of tunnels that are too low to transport hi-cubed containers.

But amid the gloom is Northland's single most important infrastructural development – the establishment of Northport, the deep-water port at Marsden Point, near Whangarei.

Cont P 14

Suddenly, purchasing timber from Indonesia is only a click away.

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Find out more at indonesiantimberexchange.com



From P 13

Northport has been a godsend for the forestry industry. According to Peter Heath, the port's spokesperson, logs and woodchip, as well as processed products such as LVL and triboard, veneer and sawn lumber, comprise the bulk of exports handled by the facility.

He adds that Northport "undertakes weekly, quarterly and half-yearly reviews/requests with exporters around proposed export volumes". That includes "extensive discussions with the Northland forestry sector via FORME, our forestry consultants, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Also, we have encouraged several Maori forestry trust boards to visit Northport and tour the facility – and to discuss their future forestry plans."



Northport... logs, woodchip and processed timber products comprise the majority of exports.
Photo: Northport

Heath says Northport has consents in place to increase its hardstand area, and to extend its linear wharf by 270 m. The surrounding area is particularly suitable for commercial expansion and for supporting Auckland's freight/economic growth.

Rail does not play a part in the port's short-term plans, but a designated rail corridor to Marsden Point has been in place since 2008. The recent undertaking of a geotechnical

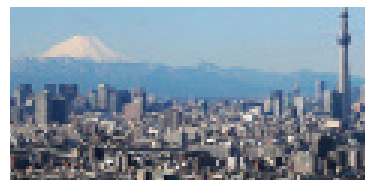
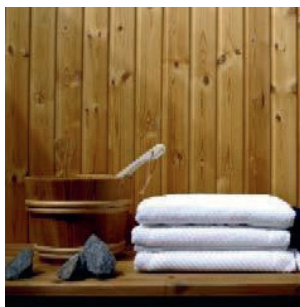
report is a first step in the process that could see Northport linked to nearby Whangarei and Auckland by rail – subject to the current deliberations of the Upper North Island Supply Chain Working Group.

“LOG HUB IN FAR NORTH A VIABLE PROPOSITION

Log exports via Northport may reduce after 2025 but long term the outlook remains positive. Heath says that as the forest resource trends further north and away from the port, the cost of road haulage and availability of trucks may have a negative impact on the daily cartage capacity. That would suggest the mothballed line north of Whangarei and the log hub in the far north could become economically viable.



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Take the opportunity once again to nominate an industry person or company that deserves to be recognised for their contribution to the forestry industry.

We are seeking suitable candidates that reflect all sectors and work within the Green Triangle region and with this inaugural event, let's make it the success it should be and provide the chance to celebrate the high achievers and players that hold credible status within the industry.

It is important to get involved again this year as the awards are now an annual event following on from the success of last year. The value proposition for nominees to be finalists and winners will generate industry opportunities and will grow the profile of the region to benefit businesses and industry.

Get involved, nominate today and step up.

Check out our website for nomination category criteria and details www.gttia.com

Key Dates 2019

17 June
16 August
September
1 November

Nominations Open
Nominations Close
Judging Process
**GREEN TRIANGLE
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS**



Hundegger Australasian leaders in off-site timber manufacturing

Logical partner for modern frame and truss operations

AUSTRALASIA'S leading frame and truss manufacturing machinery and technology supplier Hundegger is increasing its momentum towards off-site fabrication for lightweight and engineered wood products, including CLT and LVL.

Hundegger has the machinery, operating systems, software and technical support to meet increasing industry demands for complexity, quality, engineering precision, cost effectiveness and on-time delivery.

With its German design and manufacture heritage, Hundegger is at the cutting edge of timber processing machinery and technology, and is the logical partner for modern frame and truss and other off-site timber manufacturing.

If businesses want to be successful in structural timber processing and prefabrication in today's building and construction environment it is clear there is no choice but to make production processes faster, more flexible, specifications more exact and prices competitive.

Automatic processing gives timber fabrication companies the opportunity to make substantial increases in capacity while reducing costs. More components can be produced in a shorter time. Hundegger has made this possible, thanks to its patented 6-axis Robot-Drive unit.

For carpentry, joinery, timber frame, CLT and glulam



1/ Versatile... Hundegger has a range of larger machines that are allied with solid timber, engineered timber and composite panel processing.

2/ Hundegger staff at the FRAME conference ... Sam Rowe, general manager (second from left) with Charlie Hutchings, Karen Steyn, and Reinhold Klotz.



construction, the Hundegger Robot-Drive with flexible tool changing is able to meet every challenge, including trimming, grooving, drilling, milling, slotting or marking. The processing possibilities are almost unlimited even on larger cross sections – and all in a single pass without the need for timber components to be rotated or turned.

The Hundegger machinery range has extended well beyond its early days; it is now regarded as the world leader in joinery machines for the frame and truss, engineered wood products and panel processing.

The company has spread its influence around the world, with over 5000 installations in more than 40 countries. Today, four decades later, there are dozens and dozens of machine installations across Australia and New Zealand with many of the leading

industry companies having now purchased their second and subsequent Hundegger machines.

The early days of Hundegger machines in Australia were marked by the popularity of the versatile K2 joinery and the very successful Speed-Cut cutting and processing machines. This quickly expanded to include the high-speed TURBO-Drive and super flexible ROBOT-Drive. These machines remain at the heart of the Australasian timber frame and truss manufacturing processing with cutting, drilling, end profiling, slots and other forms of mortise and tenon profiles all being

performed in one place on a single work piece.

Hundegger general manager Sam Rowe says today's industry is

characterised by the evolution of the residential building industry towards more and more prefabrication, and the building codes accepting taller buildings made from timber.

"So today Hundegger is also exceptionally well positioned to be a key element in the push for greener, more sustainable tall wooden buildings."

Hundegger has a range of machines from stand-alone machining centres to a full production line with material handling and software solutions. The company has the product range, engineering experience and personnel to deliver productive integrated solutions, together with the ability to support machinery and technology products and their clients into the future. Visit www.hundegger.com.au

**“AT CUTTING
EDGE OF TIMBER
PROCESSING
MACHINERY**

HUNDEGGER TURBO-DRIVE “CUT”

The powerful Hundegger TURBO-Drive has enjoyed tremendous success in the region since its local launch a little over two years ago. Its super-fast operation, flexibility, small footprint (see overleaf) and user-friendly interface makes it the machine of choice for serious frame and truss operations. Many of the Hundegger TURBO-Drive machines are running multiple shifts and cutting 4-stack components, in operations where it is the second, third or fourth machine in operation.

We are now pleased to launch this new specification that allows any truss plant to enjoy all the benefits of a Hundegger CNC saw - without compromise. **The Hundegger TURBO-Drive CUT!** All the benefits you need in a **heavy duty** saw.

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The TURBO-Drive CUT is supplied with an automated infeed and outfeed, **10kW 5-axis servo-controlled saw unit**, waste conveyors, printing, security fence, powerful drive motors, centralised lubrication, production monitor, short piece handling, full software and Truss UI touch-screen, including delivery, installation, training and even a spare saw-blade!

Like to increase production even further? Other packages available stand-alone or combined include:



Hundegger TURBO-Drive “STACK”

All the above features, plus increased stacking capability and material handling for even greater productivity gains



Hundegger TURBO-Drive “PRINT”

All the above features, plus extended printing capability
Text, part numbers, job ID etc



Hundegger TURBO-Drive “MILL”

All the above features, plus tool carrier, soft starter for infeed system, and powerful 7.5kW vertical milling head and dedicated double mitre tool



Hundegger TURBO-Drive “PLUS”

All the above features, plus driven outfeed chains for faster and more automated operation

Whatever your requirements, the Hundegger TURBO-Drive has a package to suit, all with localised Technical Support. All machines can be upgraded at a later date to ensure your investment returns full value. For detailed specifications, contact Sam Rowe on +61 418 561 023 sam.rowe@hundegger.com.au

World architecture prize a great spin-off for WA wood-use policy

ON July 2 Western Australia joined Tasmania to become the second state government to adopt a state-wide Wood Encouragement Policy (WEP).

In addition, there are two local government authorities and 16 local councils – five of which are in WA – that have adopted a WEP in Australia.

The adoption of similar policies around the world is growing steadily, including Canada, Japan, France, Finland, The Netherlands and the UK. All are encouraging the use of natural, timber-based products in construction.

A WEP generally requires responsibly sourced wood to be considered, where feasible, as the primary construction material in all new-build and refurbishment projects. As such it does not in any way mandate the use of timber, but rather seeks to ensure that wood is at least

“A SHIRE INITIATIVE RESPONDING TO POPULAR DEMAND



Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre... winner of 2019 Architecture of Necessity Awards in Sweden. (Design: Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects with Advanced Timber Concepts Studio. Photo Peter Bennetts)

considered as the primary structural component in these buildings.

At almost the same time that the WA WEP was formally adopted, the Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre, situated in the Western Australian Wheatfield belt, won at the 2019 Architecture of Necessity Awards in Sweden. Curated by the Virserums Konsthall, the awards were first handed out in 2009 to projects that ask or answer questions about consumption and necessity.

The awards jury said: “This year’s focus is on entries that deal with the rural context, the reactivation of forgotten places



both with transformation of existing buildings and with new typologies, for example combining multiple symbiotic uses in to one building, seeking an architectural language, developed for smaller cities and places

integrating landscape, typology and details and materials”

The Pingelly Centre is Western Australia’s largest timber building constructed since the end of the Second World War.

The new sports centre is a shire initiative, responding to popular demand. Four pavilions with a function centre include a bar, a sports hall with change rooms, a gym and storage spaces, all linked together by a verandah facing east towards the already established sports fields. The verandah forms a welcoming ‘breeze-way’, tempering the hot climate. All visible surfaces are of prefabricated eucalyptus wood, locally grown and processed in thick sections to stand the harsh climate.

The WA WEP and Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre are great examples of the significant benefits that wood in construction can bring, particularly in rural and regional centres like Pingelly.

• *David Rowlinson is Make It Wood Campaign manager at Planet Ark.*



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The Wollemi pine: dinosaurs grow in Sydney's royal botanic garden

THE Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney is one of my favourite spots in the city. Its botanical prominence was confirmed as early as 1816 when a nursery was established for Australian plants before their export to Kew and other gardens in England, France, Asia and Africa.

The botanic gardens are an important part of Australia's tree heritage and are Australia's oldest scientific institution. Formally established during the reign of King George III, the gardens were granted the royal epithet in 1959 by his great-great-great-granddaughter Queen Elizabeth.

The gardens are the site of the first farm, established within weeks of the colonisation of New South Wales by Governor Phillip in 1788 and are part of the Domain established by Phillip in 1792.

Recently I paid another visit to the gardens to check out the young Wollemi pine specimen. This tree was planted as one of the first seedlings from the trees



A majestic conifer... the Wollemi pine has attractive, unusual dark green foliage and bubbly bark, and can grow up to 40 m high in the wild.



1/ Reminiscent of a scene from Jurassic Park... Wollemi National Park provided the setting for avid bushwalker and National Parks (then) field officer David Noble's 1994 discovery of the ancient Wollemi pine

found growing in the wild.

The Wollemi pine was formally identified in 1994. It is an example of the botanical diversity and wonder of Australian trees. Discovered when bushwalker David Noble clambered down a rocky cliff into a remote canyon in the Wollemi wilderness – hence the name – about 100 km inland from Sydney. He encountered a cluster of strange-looking trees that he had never seen

“NOBLE FOUND A LIVING FOSSIL

TALKING TREES



With JOHN HALKETT

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before.

Noble had encountered what has since been described as a living fossil – a tree that once flourished throughout the southern hemisphere and was believed

to have been extinct for millions of years.

The director of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens Dr Carrick Chamber drew an analogy with a living dinosaur, saying that the significance of the discovery was “the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur alive on Earth”.

The Wollemi pine is a majestic conifer with attractive, unusual dark green foliage and bubbly bark. It can grow up to 40 m high in the wild with a trunk diameter of over a metre. It is one of the world's oldest and rarest plants dating back about 120 million years to the time of the dinosaurs.

With less than 100 adult trees known to exist in the wild, the Wollemi pine is now the focus of extensive research and conservation effort to safeguard its survival. You can assist in its effort by growing your own Wollemi pine seedling (now available at many nurseries) to become part of one of the most dramatic comebacks in natural history.

Wollemi is an Aboriginal word meaning “look around you, keep your eyes open and watch out”. The scientific name *Wollemia nobilis* is a reflection of the pine's majestic qualities and honours bushwalker discoverer David Noble.



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Scania's Green Truck title a hat-trick

TO win any award just once is regarded as an achievement, but, to win the award for three successive years is really something special. Scania now has that coveted three-peat.

The Scania R 450hp six-cylinder engine held off rivals to secure its Green Truck of the Year title, based on its low fuel use and emissions, using technology that Scania applies across its range of vehicles.

Green Truck 2019 is a German comparison fuel test sponsored by trade publications which focuses on the lowest fuel consumption. Thirteen vehicles competed for the title and the best economic value. The Scania R 450 won with the lowest average fuel consumption of 23.25 l/100km of diesel and the lowest greenhouse



Scania has delivered its 20th truck to Tabeel Trading in Mount Gambier, SA. The trucks are used in log and wood chip haulage. The latest truck is an R 620 V8 XT model, one of the first of this type delivered in Australia.

gas emissions (CO₂e) of 738 grams per km, and the highest average speed of 80.42 km/h over the same 353 km test track.

Many Scania trucks sold in Australia can run on biodiesel, while a compressed natural gas-powered truck was shown at the recent Brisbane Truck Show.

Scania is also bringing

ethanol-powered trucks to Australia.

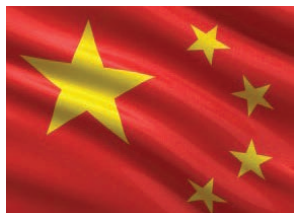
Scania's sustainable solutions manager Anthony King says that irrespective of the application, Scania can deliver a low emission solution available across the range of trucks offered in Australia.

"We have signed MOUs with alternative fuel suppliers

across Australia to be able to deliver convenient refuelling options for operators who have taken the decision to switch to low emissions vehicles," he said.

Mr King said Scania was the leader in driving the shift to a sustainable transport solution in Australia, and that more and more operators across a wide variety of applications and industries were turning to Scania to help them drive down their emissions.

All new truck generation Scania vehicles are designed to reduce diesel fuel consumption by between 5% and 10% compared with the models they have replaced, and V8 powered trucks have been consistently delivering 10% savings for Australian operators over the past year since launch.



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X marks the spot for Toyota's new Rugged 4x4 twin-cab ute

IT was a frigid morning in Sunny Queensland as the youngest daughter climbed into the heated front passenger seat.

"Roomy and I like the leather," she said. Then it started: "So this is the Rugged? And why did it get an X rating? And why did the ragged rascal run around those rugged rocks?"

"Oh, I don't know," I said, setting the compass for Currumbin Beach. "Maybe he was running away from the renegade Russian rogue Rumpelstiltskin who was really ready to give him a right royal rough-up."

She responded: "Rugged ... it can mean a lot. Why not brawny, burly, strapping, lusty, hunky, craggy? Like Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. Now there's a rock I'd like to run around!"

"Can we get on the road?" I pleaded.

The 2019 Toyota HiLux Rugged X is a big broad twin-cab – in a 4WD version only – and comes with big rugged dimensions – overall length of 5330 mm, width 1855 mm, ground clearance 279 mm, wheel base 3085 mm, towing



Big broad twin-cab... Toyota's HiLux Rugged X.

capacity 3500 kg and wading depth 700 mm.

The reversing camera helps keep an eye on the tail end but up front you've got a solid roo bar, part of a package that adds a few more inches up front and that's when you really appreciate the sound of those sensors.

A redesigned grill and that winch-compatible heavy-duty alloy front bar with integrated bash plate give extra protection from any oncoming obstacles and wildlife.

Further protective and recovery features include a snorkel, handy side rock rails that are able to support a fully laden vehicle, front and rear recovery points and a new heavy-duty steel rear bar with

step and integrated tow bar and 7 pin flat trailer wiring harness.

Rugged X runs on 17 in. alloys with high profile 265/65 R17 tyres that sit inside black wheel arches and body side mouldings. Other cosmetic exteriors include gloss black exterior mirror caps and door handles, matt black tail lamp surround, black tailgate handle with integrated camera and dark grey HiLux badges and Rugged X decals. Five colours to choose – ours a burnt Olympia Red.

A redesigned instrument

“PACKAGE INCLUDES SOLID ROO BAR

cluster has a newly-designed combi-metre instrument cluster incorporating speedometer, tachometer and 4.2 in. multi-information display.

Safety features includes 7 SRS airbags; active traction control; anti-lock braking; traction control; hill-start and down-hill assist; and trailer sway control.

The cabin designers have been busy – grab handles everywhere, pull-out cup holders, chilled top glove box and the 220V inverter in the central console bin

The Rugged X maintains the standard HiLux 2.8L high-torque turbo-diesel engine. This produces power of 130kW at 3400rpm and torque of 420Nm at 1,400 rpm (MT) and 450 Nm at 1600 rpm (AT). The driver has a choice between normal, economy and power for the transmission. These really do make a difference by recalibrating the match between gears and engine revs.

The Rugged X is priced from [manufacturer's suggested retail price] \$58,990 and \$63,690 for the automatic. Metallic paint \$600 extra.

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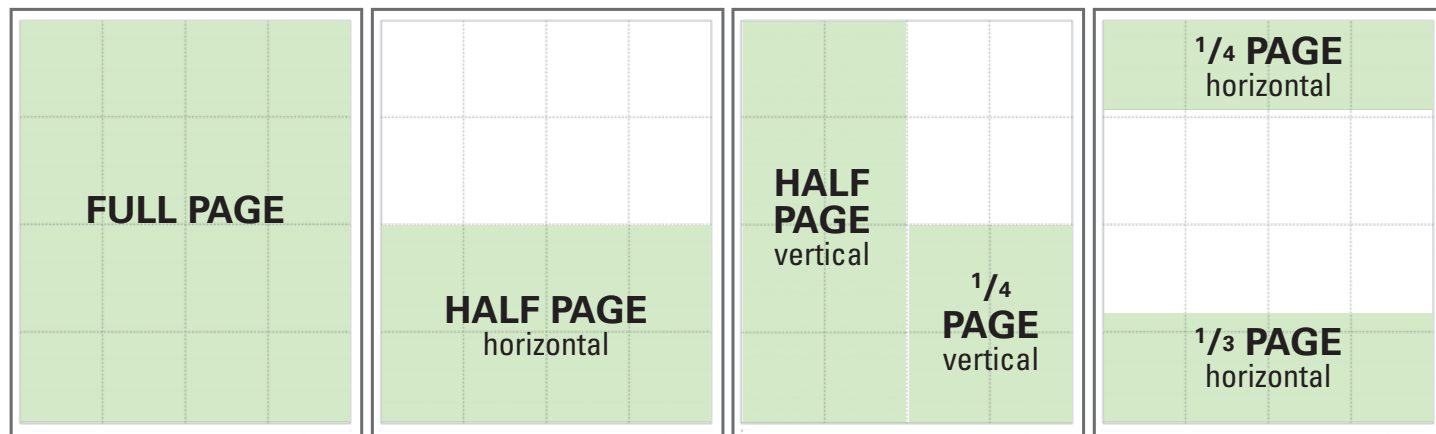
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* Publishers' claim. The publication draws on a new data-base vault of more than 15,200 emails – a number that grows weekly.

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