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ISSUE 580 | October 10, 2019

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COVER STORY P21



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# Norske Skog sale to Visy closes 38-year history at Albury mill site

NORWEGIAN fibre giant Norske Skog has announced the sale of its Albury, NSW, assets to Australian papermaker Visy which plans to undertake a feasibility studies into the potential future uses of those assets on the site.

The sale is part of a broad strategic asset review of Australasian operations by Norske Skog's owner Oceanwood. The review confirmed the need to reduce newsprint capacity in Australasia. The sale to Visy addresses this issue.

Norske Skog's regional president Eric Luck said Norske Skog and Visy had signed a binding asset sale agreement and the Albury mill would cease newsprint production during December.

Immediately following the shutdown there will be a period of clean up and diligence in preparation for handover of the Albury assets to Visy early in 2020.

All employees employed by Norske Skog at the Albury will be made redundant. Any employee made



*Norske Skog's Albury mill... produced more than seven million tonnes of paper over 38 years.*

redundant will receive their full entitlements under the relevant policy or contract.

Mr Luck said the company would work with employees and their union representatives to make the process as smooth as possible. Counselling and outplacement services will be provided. He said the mill would continue to operate as per normal up until it ceases newsprint production.

"A positive aspect in today's announcement is Visy's plans to undertake multiple feasibility studies on potential future uses on the site in the

shorter and longer term. This provides the opportunity for future papermaking jobs in the region," Mr Luck said.

"The decision will be sad news for many people," he said. "However, it reflects the structural change in the newsprint industry and the need to address declining domestic sales, lower prices and increased reliance on exports into volatile Asian markets."

**“ STRATEGIC REVIEW OF ASSETS**

"I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone who has worked at and for the mill over the last 38 years. I also acknowledge that decision comes after what has been a very tough year for the mill and its employees, families and friends. I therefore want to again acknowledge and thank everyone for their efforts during this time."

The Albury mill commenced newsprint production in 1981 and has produced more than seven million tonnes of paper during its 38-year history.

Newsprint production will continue at the Boyer mill in Tasmania and the Tasman mill in New Zealand.

Visy Industries was established in Melbourne in 1948 and has since grown to become one of the world's largest privately-owned paper, packaging and recycling companies. Today, Visy employs more than 9500 people in Australia and the US States (where it is known as Pratt Industries USA), with total sales exceeding more than \$5 billion.



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# Stage set for gala TABMA awards judging: 56 finalists, 10 categories

THE stage is set for the 2019 timber merchant 'Oscars' – the TABMA Australia national awards to be announced at a gala dinner in Sydney on October 18.

Fifty-six finalists from across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia are competing in 10 award categories.

Held at the Doltone House-Hyde Park ballroom, the event will be attended by multiple stakeholders in the forest and forest products industry.

The finalists were announced after an exhaustive two-month selection process by David Little, TABMA Australia CEO, and Alicia Oelkers, general manager, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, who travelled thousands of kilometres to visit and interview contenders.

"Again, there were many discussions over the quality of the finalists and how to differentiate between them," Ms Oelkers said.

"In particular, meeting with entrants for Students of the Year and Trainee and Apprentices of the Year was very heart warming. We were impressed by the calibre of talent, passion and dedication these young people are bringing to our industry."

Finalists and categories are:

**Best Timber Wholesale Operation:** ITI Australia (NSW branch), Tilling Timber (NSW branch), Dindas Australia (Queensland), Meyer Timber NSW, John Cook & Sons NSW, and



*Finalist... Mitch O'Mara of Tradeware Building Supplies in Brisbane (left) is presented with a certificate in the Best Timber Merchant category by Alicia Oelkers and David Little of TABMA Australia.*

Country Truss and Frames, Fleetwood Timbers.

**Host Employer:** Williams Group Australia, New Line Building Supplies Frames & Truss, Fewings Joinery, H2 Custom Joinery.

**Sales Representative:** Michael Branton, ITI Queensland, Mike Hill, John Cook & Sons, Daniel David, Meyer Timber NSW, Marcus Fahy, ITI NSW.

**Student of the Year:** Hudson Summerfield, Northwest Frame and Truss, Josh Holzemer, Petries Mitre 10, Seana Brees, Williams Group Australia, Ra Seres, HQPlantations, Terry Kemp, HQPlantations

Cont P 4

GunnerSEN (Victoria branch).

**Most Innovative Organisation:**

Langs Building Supplies, Meyer Timber NSW, ITI Australia.

**Best Timber Merchant:**

Tradeware Building Supplies, Bone Timber, North Shore Timber and Hardware, Ramiens Timber Co, Barrenjoey Timber, Midcoast Timber Centres.

**Best Building Materials:**

Swadlings Timber and Hardware, Hardware and General, NHS, Johnson Bros Mitre 10, Bretts Timber and Hardware.

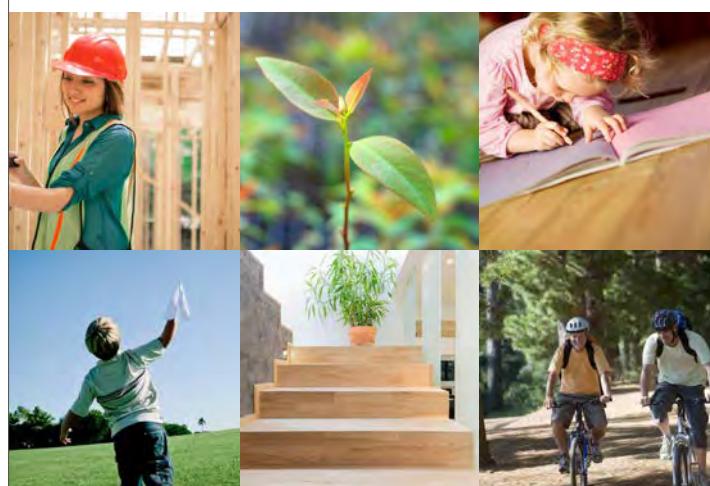
**Best Timber Manufacturer:**

Stockwells Joinery, Heritage Profile and Moulding, Programmed Timber Supplies, Parkside Timber, H2 Custom Joinery.

**Best Timber Frame and Truss:**

Langs Building Supplies, Footers Structural Timber, Heyden Frame and Truss, Belmont Timber, High

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# Partnership builds first plantation hardwood CLT plant in Tasmania

A NEW purpose-built hardwood CLT plant is to be constructed in Tasmania's northwest industrial centre of Wynyard.

Stirling Machinery was selected by CLTP Tasmania to supply state-of-the-art machines for Stage 1 of the project, due to be completed before the end of this year.

Both a domestic and international game changer, this new partnership will help deliver the first commercially available hardwood CLT timber panels.

Significant innovations established in the project include whole-of-log sawing to deliver the entire spectrum of structural characteristics from all parts of the tree,

not only low grade, delivering a superior engineered outcome over softwood panels; creation of a new structural product from a plantation species that is otherwise only processed as high-quality chips for the pulp and paper industry; a 'plantation to project' approach by utilising 15 to 20-year-old old sustainably grown Tasmanian plantation hardwood Eucalyptus nitens (shining gum).

With Australia currently running an annual wood and wood products trade deficit of nearly \$2 billion, replacing presently imported wood products with Australian



**Stirling Machinery managing director, Craig Honeyman, and CLTP Tasmania CEO, Chris Skeels-Piggins.**

grown and processed plantation hardwood timber will support a sustainable timber industry and assist in Australia becoming internationally competitive.

The project will require cross-lamination timber building systems, CNC to specification cutting and glue lamination and finger

jointing lines.

"We are obviously delighted to be on board with this project," Stirling Machinery managing director Craig Honeyman said.

"It's going to bring huge benefits to this regional community, and it will reinvigorate the manufacturing industry. Our partnership with CLTP Tasmania is important not just to us but to investment in Australian business as well."

The Wynyard plant will involve a considerable capital investment in laminating machinery at the outset and with a strong focus on technology and automation, employee costs will be significantly reduced.

*From P 3*

#### **Trainee/**

#### **Apprentice:**

Lachlan Falson,  
Ryder Shop and  
Office Fitting,  
Kim-Louise  
Hodge, Petries  
Mitre 10,  
Isabelle Kocsis  
ITI Queensland,  
Bodie Bacon,  
Bretts Timber  
and Hardware,  
Rachel Leicht,  
Gunneren  
Victoria.



**Best Timber Manufacturer finalist... Warwick Drysdale, managing director, Programmed Timber Supplies, Sydney (right), receives the certificate as a finalist in the category from David Little, TABMA Australia.**

Award dinner  
\$180 p.p. or \$1700 table of 10. Inquires and award dinner registrations visit [tabma.com.au/events/](http://tabma.com.au/events/)

Meanwhile, TABMA

is gearing for its annual Brisbane dinner at the Eagle Farm Racecourse, Ascot, on October 26. Special guest at the casino-themed event is state Minister for Agricultural Development Mark Furner.

For bookings contact (07) 3456 7065. Mob: 0418 449 031. Email: [alicia@tabma.com.au](mailto:alicia@tabma.com.au)

**“ MINISTER GUEST AT BRISBANE DINNER**





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# Golden eucalypts new fortune for historic mining city's family home

MANY of those flocking to the Victorian goldfields to seek their fortune initially set up tents made of thick canvas that offered little protection from the elements and surrounding wildlife.

Even families who spent time setting up a more permanent home were basically living in huts made of rough wood, canvas, hessian bags and wallpaper made from newspapers.

Huts like these populated the oldest part of the gold rush city of Ballarat. Unlike the grand Victorian mansions and civic buildings of West Ballarat, the east had what historian the late Weston Bate described as "a restless larrikin quality," whereas the city's west represented "what British migrants hoped for in Australia" in terms of material wealth.

In large part, the poverty of the area discouraged the kinds of development experienced in other suburbs of Ballarat, especially in the 1970s and 1980s. As a result, much of the residential and business architecture of Ballarat East



*Ballarat East house... designed to be a seasonal, 24-hour experience.*

still exists from the 1860s through to early 1940s despite the suburb becoming integrated into the city of Ballarat in 1921.

Yet despite this region's rich local history it was not a heritage overlay that governed the design of one striking new house on the fringe of Ballarat's eastern suburbs but a planning overlay protecting koalas. Nestled among native vegetation in a location overlooking the regional city sits a family home which in the words of Porter Architects "engages every element of the site".

The strict planning overlay protecting the surrounding native vegetation and its resident koala population dictated the small footprint of the building which is organised into four areas: a central 'transitional' entry zone, a public living zone, private sleeping/amenity areas and a large courtyard which all the other spaces can access.

Designed to be a seasonal, 24-hour experience, the house provides light and expansive views during winter and in summer, a raised platform and large open areas within, encourage cooling

cross ventilation.

The interior courtyard is protected from the elements and can be used as a second living space.

At night the lights of Ballarat can be seen through large windows through the surrounding eucalyptus trees.

These eucalypts have provided the backdrop and the inspiration for this house. It has been wrapped in vertically-clad native Australian hardwood board and batten cladding which was locally sourced and satisfies the guidelines of Responsible Wood certification. This certification was also a requirement in achieving the home's 6-star green star rating.

Internally, a consistent focus on texture is applied. Australian recycled Tasmanian oak floorboards were found from an old Ballarat demolition yard bringing part of the history of Ballarat into the house.

•*The Ballarat East house is a finalist in the Australian Timber Design Awards to be presented in Melbourne on October 17.*

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# Building industry compliance: a simple way to fix the problem

## A pathway back to public trust and industry health

GREG BLAIN

THE building industry seems to be in a mess.

Some buildings are failing with occupants evacuating or running for their lives. Inquiries search for answers and everyone has an opinion. It all seems too hard, but the path back to public trust and industry health may be very simple.

The resolution, in very basic terms is: let architects design and let builders build. Over time it seems to have gotten all mixed up; architect leadership has dropped to the level of secondary consultant, and builders are getting



involved long before it's time to build.



- 1/ Let builders build... time to ease off the accelerator and concentrate on quality.**
- 2/ Greg Blain... due diligence another very important thing to consider.**

A quick look at recent history will help explain things.

Traditionally, a building started with an owner hiring an architect to design a building. Once the design was done, the architect documented the building into construction drawings and specifications. Then the architect put the project out for pricing (tender) with few carefully selected tenderers (builders).

With a builder selected, they built the building while the architect did full contract administration (as the owner's representative). On bigger building jobs, the hiring of a clerk of works added more quality control.

The traditional building process is a beautiful thing and in my opinion, nothing beats it. Going back to using traditional procurement is how the industry might easily regain integrity.

So this idea – let architects design, and let builders build

– used to be common and obviously can work very well. Architects generally can't become architects without a passion for design quality. The gruelling training and graduate years tends to filter out low standards.

Builders are amazing at construction, especially when they have good plans and specs and they don't have to think about the owner or design. When builders cross over to design, some practical and efficient design concepts can get misunderstood and sometimes unintentionally compromised.

**“TRADITIONAL BUILDING IS A BEAUTIFUL THING”**

Looking back, the 1970s saw alternative building procurement methods emerge, apparently introduced with the goal to reduce time and costs. Achieving this goal for a specific project may or may not be achieved and additionally, building design likely can suffer. Nevertheless, alternative procurement methods are common today and seem to be used more frequently than the traditional method.

With alternative procurement methods, the architect no longer leads design. The reason for this could be put down largely to two faults of architects in general. The first is that



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**OCTOBER****17: Institute of Foresters of Australia, Innovation in Forestry Seminar – Library at the Dock, Docklands, Melbourne, Australia.**

Seminar will cover: latest developments in drone use and mobile data collection in native and plantation forests; adaptive harvesting and regeneration practices in native forests; harvesting performance monitoring in plantation forests, and innovation in log measurement and payment systems. To register to attend see: [www.forestry.org.au/Forestry/Events/Innovation\\_in\\_the\\_Forestry\\_Sector](http://www.forestry.org.au/Forestry/Events/Innovation_in_the_Forestry_Sector)

**17: 20th Australian Timber Design Awards presentation dinner – The River Room, Crown Melbourne, Australia.**  
People's Choice voting closes September 30. All category winners including the 'Grand Prix' winner will be announced

during the presentation evening on October 17. Enjoy a three-course meal and drinks all while being entertained by MC Peter Maddison, founding director of Maddison Architects and host of Grand Design Australia. Contact 0420 232 253 or email [inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au](mailto:inbox@timberdesignawards.com.au)

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

**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)

**31: Rural Press Club of**

**Queensland: A conversation on the future of agriculture and activism – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane.** Club members \$125 p.p. (gst inclusive) or \$1200 for table of 10. Non-members \$135 p.p. (gst inclusive) or \$1300 for table of 10. Speakers: David McNamee, Lemontree Feedlot and Rowan McMonnies, managing director, Australian Eggs, in conversation with ABC Radio's Craig Zonca. Wide relevance to Australia's forest industry. In March 2017, the McNamee family made headlines when more than 100 animal activists illegally entered their feedlot near Millmerran. The flow-on effect has been unprecedented scrutiny of the interface between activism and primary production and a suite of proposed new measures to clamp down on

unlawful entry to agricultural land. Contact: Rural Press Club on (07) 3221 9222 | or email [admin@ruralpressclub.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralpressclub.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 30. 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)

**15: Victorian Association of Forest Industries annual industry dinner – Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Vic, Australia.** Tickets available at [www.vafi.org.au](http://www.vafi.org.au)



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**OCTOBER****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 exporting 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)**28-30: Fastmarkets RISI 34th annual North American Conference – Seaport Hotel, Boston, USA.** Forum covers all aspects of the forest products industry. Industry experts will discuss latest trends, challenges and opportunities. For further information see: [www.events.risiinfo.com/north-american-conference/](http://www.events.risiinfo.com/north-american-conference/)**NOVEMBER****11-12: 8th International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management – Tokyo, Japan.** For further information see: [www.biodiversity.conferenceseries.com/events-list/forestry](http://www.biodiversity.conferenceseries.com/events-list/forestry)**11-15: PEFC Forest Certification Week 2019 – Würzburg, Germany.** For further information see: [www.pefc.org/events-training/pefc-forest-certification-week-2019](http://www.pefc.org/events-training/pefc-forest-certification-week-2019)**18-30: CLEM2019, IV Latin American Conference on Timber Structure – Montevideo, Uruguay, LATU, Latitud, the Architecture faculty of Universidad ORT Uruguay, and the Engineering faculty of UDELAR.** For further information about the event see: [www.clem2019.uy/](http://www.clem2019.uy/) or contact Stephany Arrejuria De Giuda: [sarrejuria@latitud.org.uy](mailto:sarrejuria@latitud.org.uy)**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-](http://www.europeansttc.com/20-november-2019-conference-)

exploring-pathways-to-verified-sustainable-tropical-timber/

**DECEMBER****3-4: Climate change and new challenges in the production of high quality and well adapted forest reproductive material – Jastrebarsko, Croatia.** A European Forestry Institute event in collaboration with the Croatian Forest Research Institute (CFRI) celebrates the 60th anniversary of organised forest seed science in Croatia. The conference will provide a valuable contribution to the multidisciplinary look at seed science and connection of wide circle of scientists from the field of biotechnical sciences. For additional information see: [www.efi.int/events/climate-change-and-new-challenges-production-high-quality-and-well-adapted-forest](http://www.efi.int/events/climate-change-and-new-challenges-production-high-quality-and-well-adapted-forest)**16-17: Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe – Belgrade, Serbia.** Informing on the Bonn Challenge (launched in 2011 and extended by the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, a global effort to bring 150 million ha of deforested and degraded land into restoration

by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030), and to gather input for a study on forest landscape restoration.

For further information see: [www.uneca.org/](http://www.uneca.org/)

**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)**AUGUST 2020****24-27 : World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE Santiago 2020) – Santiago, Chile.** Topics include Sustainable Forests for timber production; wood products, connections; timber engineering' timber architecture; building and environmental impacts; policies, education and future trends. For further information see: [www.wcte2020.com/](http://www.wcte2020.com/)

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

From P 6

architects tended to lose control of project costs, and second, architects tended to let their preference for aesthetic novelty interfere with building performance and cost. Fix these two faults (and it's not that difficult, the detail of which is for another discussion), bring back traditional procurement and bets are on that the industry gets back to better health and owners and occupants can once more feel like they are being looked after.

The solution is not regulatory (we are already overwhelmed with regulation), it is contractual. Produce good plans and specs (based on a

good design of course), get a good builder to build off these, and have a checks and balance system in place with the architect doing full contract administration and perhaps a clerk of works engaged on larger projects. Time can be saved perhaps with separate early works contracts being let for things like demolition, bulk excavation, site drainage and the like.

Due diligence is another very important thing to consider. We are all



*Tradition... architects generally can't become architects without a passion for design quality.*

professionals and capable of making good decisions. Due diligence is necessary in the building procurement process, but it will suffer when speed and costs reductions become a primary focus.

Our modern society has created a hectic pace of life which can cause excessive stress and sometimes

breakdown. The building industry is no different in this regard and we are seeing the breakdown.

There is something steady and comforting about working on a project which is traditionally procured. Maybe it's time to ease off the accelerator and concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

**• Greg Blain is a leading architectural specification writer. He began architectural studies at Queensland University of Technology in 1978, graduated in 1987, gained architectural registration in 1989. With more than 35 years' building industry experience, he obtained a commercial builder's license in 2000.**

(Sourceable industry news and analysis).

# Industry welcomes state's action on farm invasion laws

INDUSTRY has welcomed the NSW government proposed complimentary legislation supporting the federal government's greater protection for forest industries under tough new 'farm invasion' laws

The Australian Forest Products Association and the Australian Forest Contractors Association have embraced the NSW government's inclusion of forestry and forest product processing operations in its new laws to crack down on farm invasions, mirroring the recent inclusion by the federal government in its similar regulation.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the inclusion of forestry in both federal and proposed state law rightly recognised that forestry and forest product processing operations on private and public land were carried out in a completely sustainable and legal manner, just like other sectors of the rural economy.

Mr Hampton said forestry operators had enormous empathy for farmers who are finding at times that groups of poorly-informed activists are not just making their views heard at the gate, but actually invading legitimate workplaces.

"Our shared concern comes from the fact that our sector has been dealing with this for decades," Mr Hampton said. "Small numbers of people, who usually live nowhere near the forestry operation, have been disrupting legitimate forestry work by aggressively invading harvest and



**Ross Hampton**



**Stacey Gardiner**

regeneration sites."

General Manager of AFCA Stacey Gardiner added: "This has had at times disastrous financial and emotional consequences for our businesses, many of whom are small rural businesses that are family run. They deserve the right to have their operations and livelihoods protected especially given that Australia has some of the most sustainable, highly regulated forestry practices in the world. Particularly when every stick of timber from public native forest is certified to the world's largest global standard Responsible Wood (under PEFC)."

Mr Hampton said if passed by the Upper House, the NSW Bill would seek to prevent deliberate trespass through clear boundaries for the purposes of damaging the rural operation.

"This Bill will support the already enacted federal laws which cover the use of carriage services to promote, incite and organise an invasion of a rural workplace," he said.

"We all, of course, respect the right of any individual to engage in protests and make their views known. All we are saying is that this activity should not disrupt another Australian's legitimate work."

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# The IMPORT-ance of IMPORTS

## Building eases but market remains buoyant for timber products

ISSUES impacting on the business performance of timber product imports and wholesalers were a key focus at the Australian Timber Importers Federation board meeting in Brisbane last Thursday.

Top of the agenda were the challenges associated with the treatment requirements for the brown marmorated stink bug during the current high-risk season, and issues related to port congestion and additional charges.

In response to the rapid expansion of the bug throughout Europe and North America, the Department of Agriculture has strengthened seasonal measures to manage risk of the pest arriving in Australia. The department has also worked closely with the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries on the 2019-20 measures to ensure seasonal measures in both countries are consistent.

The ATIF meeting also discussed the present attention being paid to timber and other building product compliance and the state of



**ATIF board members meeting in Brisbane...Chris Woodhouse, managing director, Woodhouse Timber, Glyn Davies, independent, John Halkett, general manager, Jacinta Colley, national sales director, Vida Wood Australia, Nils Koren, chairman, Brenton Christopher, CEO, John Cook & Sons, Robert Cairns, Frostpine, and David Meyer, managing director, Meyer Timber.**

the current timber products market.

The board endorsed Jacinta Colley, national sales director, Vida Wood Australia, and Darrin Wheeler, CEO, Stora Enso Timber Australia, to fill board member vacancies.

Chairman Nils Koren acknowledged the valuable contribution to the organisation by retiring board member Brenton Christopher, CEO, John Cook & Sons, paying tribute to his almost 50 years of service to the timber industry and industry associations.

At the meeting, the board

approved ATIF membership for Evolution Forest Products and Newcastle Timber Trading.

ATIF general manager John Halkett said import data indicated that housing construction and domestic timber product demand had been much more muted during the year to date with clear signs of house construction easing in

**“ LONG-TERM OUTLOOK BRIGHTER FOR IMPORTS**

eastern states accompanied by continuing evidence of oversupply of city apartments, falling prices for existing homes and tightening lines of credit.

"Timber imports have followed this trend," he said. "However, looking at the long-term, particularly structural timber and engineered products, the market is buoyant, but not at the remarkable 30%- plus growth rates of 2017-18."

Mr Halkett said imports of 'sophisticated timber' products were also likely to remain strong, caused in part by the growing appetite for urban 'infill' and the opportunities presented by mid-rise wooden residential and commercial building construction.

Cont P 10



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From P 9

Despite being significantly lower than a year earlier, Australia's imports of sawn softwood timber recovered ground in July. At 45,600 cub m, July's imports were

**RECOVERY OF TIMBER IMPORT VOLUMES LIKELY IN 2020**

almost exactly 50% higher than June's long-term monthly low of 30,400 cub m. However, annualised imports were 4.4% lower in July 2019 than for the prior month.

"Some good news is that lending for housing finance expanded 5.1% in July 2019, compared with the prior month, lifting to \$17.9 billion," Mr Halkett said.

"However, over the longer term, despite the monthly



*Joining the board of ATIF... Darrin Wheeler, CEO, Stora Enso Timber Australia.*

tick up, the total value of dwelling loans is still 11.8% lower than in July 2018."

He said a combination of housing and commercial construction recovering some ground, some easing of credit restrictions, and the running down of stock inventories built up over the latter months of 2018, should collectively see domestic timber demand and therefore the recovery of imported timber volumes in early 2020.

## Firefighters in all states brace for long, hot summer

THE bushfires in New South Wales and Queensland this month may be just a taste of an expected horror nation-wide fire season, as experts and former fire chiefs warn agencies risk being "overwhelmed".

Forecasters say many parts of the country face above average fire risk and there is

concern longer, overlapping bushfire seasons may prevent vital resource sharing between states during crises.

Experts and former fire chiefs are calling for a rethink of Australia's approach to bushfires, including community fire shelters, tougher building standards and a new role

for government and the Australian Defence Force.

"The conditions are getting worse," former NSW Fire and Rescue commissioner Greg Mullins told The Australian. "With overlapping fire seasons (between states) we are going to be caught short," he said.

"In the first week of September we had catastrophic fire conditions in NSW and Queensland, which was unprecedented. We are in the middle of a drought and all the seasonal outlooks from the Bureau of Meteorology are saying 'drier and hotter'."

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# Plantations management best left with NSW Forestry Corporation

## Sale to fund massive infrastructure program leaves a lot to be desired

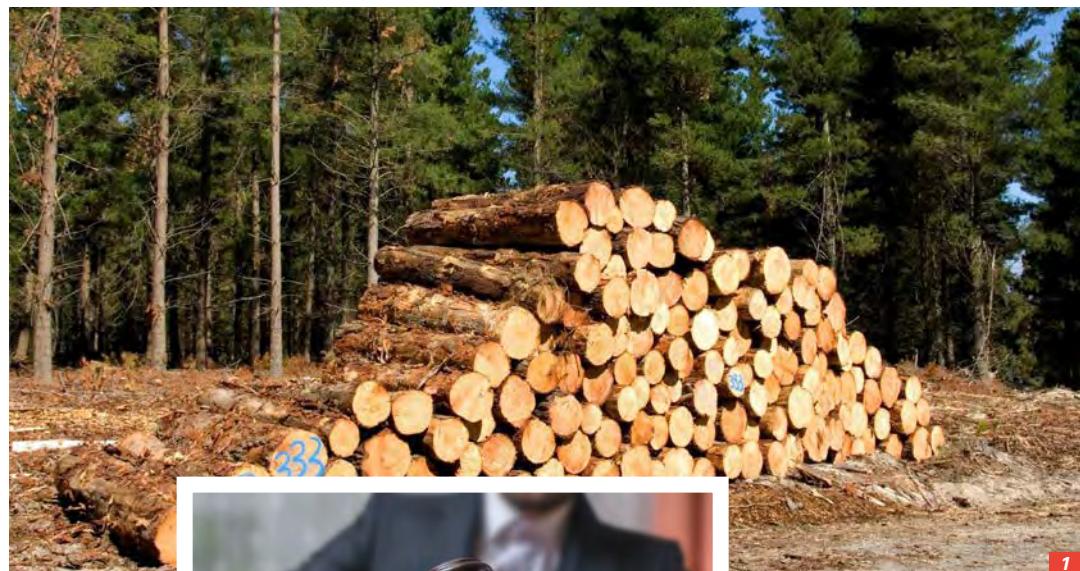
LOOKS like the sale of NSW pine plantations might be back on the agenda.

Interesting, unless I am missing something, the economy of the state appears to be in good shape and privatisation seems now to be unpopular. However, senior ministers in the NSW government are considering an assets sale program over the next four years to fund a massive infrastructure program.

In part, this assets sale program seems to be motivated by concerns about the level of state debt and support for a so-called 'assets recycling program' to fund infrastructure plans. So, among the privatisation ideas, putting the state's pine plantations on the sales block is one opportunity being touted. Talk is that at least half of the NSW cabinet is understood to be in favour of renewed 'assets recycling' within this term of government.

However, I reckon we have now worked out that the sale of publicly-owned assets to the private sector has resulted, not so much in generating performance efficiencies, but from straight-out extortion rackets. Park your car at Sydney airport for more than five minutes now if you dare and you have to almost mortgage the

**“ MANAGEMENT EFFICIENT AND SUPPORTIVE OF SUPPLY CHAIN**



farm to pay the parking fee. Ditto for freight charges though the Port of Botany, and household and business energy charges have gone through the roof since the NSW government flogged off the poles and wires. I recall when assurances were given that power prices wouldn't rise!

Even though I am a very proud private sector business girl – trying to keep my head above water – I reckon the management of the state's pine plantations is best left with the NSW Forestry Corporation. In my not-insignificant experience, their management is efficient and generally supportive of all of us in the supply chain.

Also, the sort of initiative by the NSW government at the state budget, I think a



*1/ No guarantees... plantation sale could mean no new plantations are established, log prices could increase and much-needed wood processing investment is stymied.*

*2/ On the block? Proposal to set pine plantations motivated by concerns about the level of state debit.*

### TRUNK LINES



**With CHERYL FORREST**

couple of years ago now, to hand the Forestry Corporation \$24 million to kick-start new plantation planting would have been most unlikely if the existing plantation assets had already been in the hands of the private sector in what some ministers are now describing as 'asset recycling'.

Yes, clearly, we need a big chunk of new plantations and strengthened confidence to encourage investment in wood processing innovation and capital works. I think both will be much less likely if the NSW government sells its plantations to a company or companies solely focused on the bottom line and shareholders. I reckon such action would guarantee no new plantations are established, plus log prices will increase, and much-needed wood processing investment will be much less likely.

That is what I think anyway – what about you? Catch up again next month.

**Cheryl**

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# Labor takes 'last stand' on forestry jobs

THE Labor Party says Bathurst stands to lose nearly 60 jobs if local member Paul Toole doesn't stand up for his community.

While in Bathurst on Sunday, NSW Labor deputy leader Yasmin Catley and opposition spokesman for natural resources Paul Scully declared that Labor would fight to protect the city's Forestry Corporation jobs.

They said that 57 local jobs were at risk if a scoping study were to support the long-term lease of Forestry Corporation's softwood division.

Mr Scully said these job losses would impact the Bathurst economy.

"The Bathurst electorate has the highest number of people working in forestry and wood products manufacturing in the state – around 650 people according to the last

census," he said.

"They're direct jobs. Generally there is about double that in terms of the indirect jobs that are supported through services the Forestry Corporation buy in, the spending of those people and their families within local communities."

"That's the order of magnitude we're looking at here and that order of magnitude is a huge hit on a regional economy."

However, Mr Toole said that the Labor Party was "no friend to the forestry industry", while the Liberals and Nationals were committed to retaining the jobs.

"Those in the industry haven't forgotten that [Labor] went to the last election with a plan that would have devastated the timber and timber manufacturing industry



**Yasmin Catley... fighting to protect Forest Corporation jobs.**

and cost hundreds of regional jobs," he said.

"The Liberals and Nationals have invested in the forestry sector, including putting money into growing our plantation estate."

"The current scoping study is just that - a study to look at the viability of a long-term lease of our softwood plantations."

"The Deputy Premier and current minister in charge of forestry, and myself, have been very clear it will only proceed on the basis it posed no risk to regional jobs."

Should plans for privatisation progress, Ms Catley said it would be "completely unsustainable".

"The flow-on effect for regional communities is far greater than jobs in metropolitan Sydney," she said.

The Labor Party hopes by speaking out in support of workers, it will put pressure on the Liberal and the Nationals parties to retain jobs in regional NSW.

"Hopefully the government will see the good sense that our forestry estate throughout NSW should remain in well-managed public hands," Mr Scully said.

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# Virtual reality brings forests to classroom

FASCINATING new projects seeking to bring the seemingly opposing worlds of virtual reality and forestry together are outlined in the latest episode of Forest and Wood Products Australia's WoodChat podcast series.

Listeners will hear about an initiative demonstrating how field operators can accurately perform assessments in an immersive, VR environment, with benefits ranging from improved safety, to ease of access and reduced labour costs.

As part of an FWPA-supported research project,

**“CHANGING WAY YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT OUR FORESTS”**

a team at the University of Tasmania has used data acquired by helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to investigate the potential of VR to replace current forest inventory fieldwork approaches.

Lead researcher Dr Winyu Chinthammit of the University of Tasmania's College of Sciences and Engineering said the project was prompted by the fact forests were becoming more difficult to evaluate manually, due to increasing safety concerns and access problems.

“We were looking to work with people who didn't have any experience of VR, but who would traditionally go into forests to assess trees, in order to test how people who already have skills



**Dr Winyu Chinthammit... testing forestry skills inside a VR environment.**

in forestry might perform inside a VR environment,” Dr Chinthammit said.

“This project provides evidence that a field crew can indeed operate inside a VR environment and perform some of the same basic tasks they would normally complete as part of their

everyday operations on the ground.”

In addition, the WoodChat hosts learn about a series of new VR tours for teachers and school children, which could completely change the way young people learn about Australian forests.

Teachers from across the country were given the opportunity to experience and learn about innovative VR teaching resources developed by ForestLearning, a program of FWPA.

The ForestVR toolkit for schools will educate students on the renewable cycle of forestry and wood in an immersive and engaging way, while overcoming the problems around the inaccessibility and safety of visiting physical forests and manufacturing plants.

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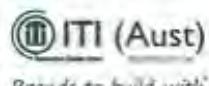
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# Forester's wife responds to Richo's 'nonsense' story

## Time for responsible land utilisation policies that ignore the 'green myths'

JULIE TADMAN

I READ an article in The Australian (20/9/19) by Graham Richardson [former senior minister in the Hawke and Keating governments and now a political lobbyist] titled 'World needs more people of common sense and conviction' with some wonderment.

I have actively disliked and disregarded Mr Richardson because of his part in the heritage listing of the North Queensland rainforests.

For many years as the wife of a now deceased forest scientist, I heard and saw many things which disproved the myths shoved down the necks of our populations by journalists and politicians about the way the natural world works. The fact that Richardson mentions his lack of a degree explains many things to me. I wonder if he was so impressed by Dr. Keto at that time that a lack of knowledge of the subject led him to believe all the nonsense she put forward.

We were always curious about the influence Dr. Keto had over the Labor party. It became pretty obvious in Queensland that she only had to say jump, and the party said 'how high?'

I do not have a degree in anything other than life, but I do know that acquiring a degree in one field does not make you an expert in everything. The foresters in Queensland were good, hardworking and decent men, with academic degrees



*Lost in the wilderness... how foresters manage forests.*

and years of experience in their fields, yet a person who had absolutely no academic qualifications or experience in the subject became a 'world expert' to the ruling party of the day.

The North Queensland listing started what I can only describe as a 'cascade of green myths' over subsequent years. Any ratbag could and does stand up and make hugely inaccurate prognostications about the natural world to an unquestioning media which spreads the disinformation far and wide. The sad part is that a lot of the public believes anything put forward, so 'common sense and conviction' don't get a look in. Look at the likes of Tim Flannery.

So where are we now? In Queensland no harvesting of our native timbers when good management of areas

suitable for harvesting will keep them thriving. Don't even mention control burning or bushfire control in connection with national parks or agriculture. Most forests in Queensland are converted to national parks, beekeeping in state forests is to be banned in 2024, when 70% or so of our honey in Queensland comes from this source.

### “ A CASCADE OF GREEN MYTHS

A dreadful cascade effect is that the forestry profession is practically a dead duck Australia wide, all their knowledge and experience expunged. Something to be proud of?

Nobody wanted to listen to the experts, the foresters – and how they had preserved,

conserved and managed the forests back then – especially Dr. Keto and the media. Why? Political expediency?

Some 90% of the NQ rainforests which had been there when Captain Cook sailed up the east coast was still there somehow when the World Heritage listings were promulgated, but of course that was never taken into account. Guess who made that happen. It certainly wasn't Dr Keto. Or the information about how foresters would manage those forests, using one percent of one percent in perpetuity for harvesting timber, while caring for the rest.

An inconvenient truth, just ignore it, and so the public jumped on the World Heritage misinformation bandwagon in spades.

*Cont P 10*

From P 18

A political means to an illogical end.

Another sad fact is that all the knowledge and experience which should have helped nations manage rainforests in Asia and the Pacific Islands was thrown out with the bathwater.

Hundreds of thousands of acres of rainforests were destroyed to bring timber to the world markets from these areas. Great stuff ... something to be proud of and a direct consequence of political actions.

Common sense tells me to put our country first. Among other urgent requirements we need dams, a national



*Flashback... newspaper headlines from the fight for World Heritage listing (1981-1988).*

energy policy which puts the good of the people first, plus a media which gives both sides of the argument. The Australian seems to be the only paper in Australia which bothers to give more than one point of view. So much for freedom of speech, and don't mention the ABC.

A major achievement

There is much more, but somehow I suspect there are two chances for common sense – Buckley's and none.

It is a bit rich for 'Richo' to proclaim common sense at this stage when his past actions helped start the mess we are in today nationally.

• Julie Tadman is the wife of late forester John Tadman who worked in forestry across the state, including North Queensland and was respected for his knowledge of land management and land-use science. She operates a honey bee enterprise at Wamuran, near the Beerburum West state forest on the Sunshine Coast.

**Editor's note:** Mention could also be made of the lack of fuel management in national parks and of forest management restrictions on freehold land as the green brigade fails to distinguish between biomass and biodiversity.

**“ FORESTRY PROFESSION PRACTICALLY A DEAD DUCK**

would be a responsible land utilisation policy which ignores the blandishments of the green movement. Look at the idiocy about tree clearing and retention, and the Great Barrier Reef among other policies which are coming from the Queensland government at present.

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# Forestry firefighters fit for purpose

REGIONAL Forestry Corporation of NSW staff have completed the first stage of their annual fire season preparations, passing gruelling fitness tests that simulate the strain placed on the body during firefighting.

Many of them are trained as firefighters and must pass an annual fitness test, which involves walking 3.22 km in less than 30 minutes wearing an 11.3 kg vest.

"Getting ready for the fitness test not only helps firefighting, but it also has benefits in preventing injuries for our teams out in the bush and increasing general wellbeing," Ms Wedding said.

"Some of our staff even volunteer for a more arduous fitness test required for overseas deployment or remote area firefighting, or



**Fit fire fighters...** Forestry Corporation staff Mike Beardsell, softwood plantations division general manager, Peter Stiles, sales and procurement manager, Silvia Grant, radio technician, and Dean Anderson, new regional manager.

in my own case, just as a personal challenge," said Adele Wedding, southern planning manager based in Tumut and one of the many trained firefighter preparing for the bushfire season.

"This involves walking 4.83 km in less than 45 minutes wearing a 20.4 kg vest, or

15.4kg vest if you are under 68 kg in bodyweight," Adele said.

"Firefighting is a very difficult job under extreme conditions and staff do it very well. The fitter they can be, the less likelihood there is of an injury.

National Parks and Wildlife and Hume Forests have

also undertaken fitness walks in Tumut, Batlow and Tumbarumba conducted by Forestry Corporation's Belinda Wielinga

"This cooperation between agencies during fire season preparations develops relationships which assist once the season is in full swing," Belinda said.

Adele Wedding says bushfires are a big risk to forests and communities. "As one of the state's firefighting agencies, our firefighters have been on the frontline of significant fires in the region in recent years."

Forestry Corporation is responsible for more than 2 million ha of native and plantation forests and has been formally involved in firefighting for more than 100 years.



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# Salisbury forest products team bonding with new research on engineered wood

JIM BOWDEN

THE key to successful engineered wood products is reliable and consistent adhesive bonds and the forest product innovation team in Brisbane has developed extensive experience built on a proven track record in identifying adhesive solutions for Australian timber species across a range of product designs.

The team at the Salisbury Research Facility aligns to the horticulture and forestry science group within the Queensland government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and has an extensive project portfolio that includes local, state, national and international projects.

Recognising the many benefits that engineered wood products offer to the forest, forest product and the construction industries, significant investment in new equipment has been made to ensure that the research team at Salisbury is able to work closely with growers, veneer, plywood, LVL and glulam manufacturers, sawmillers, architects, engineers, construction companies

and industry associations to develop market-ready engineered wood products suitable for domestic and international markets.

The facility has also built extensive experience with bonding wood to many other materials including steel, aluminium and glass-fibre reinforcements.

Using specialised laboratory equipment such as highly instrumented micro-press systems, anatomical analysis and 3D imaging techniques, different adhesive systems can be rapidly screened and developed.

Like many of the focus areas at the research facility, the team is able to upscale adhesive development work to a semi-industrial scale, and in many cases can manufacture engineered wood products at full-industrial scale.

The team is currently working with industry partners to commercialise veneer-based edge components, cypress pine glulam beams, hardwood glulam posts and exotic softwood glulam products.



**Dr Rob McGavin... a mix of new adhesive technologies.**

"A mix of new adhesive technologies and innovative manufacturing approaches is providing a range of opportunities," says Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager.

"Investment in a new method to prepare timber surfaces prior to applying adhesive has recently been made with a new machine now on its way from Europe.

"We anticipate that this new technology will enable many 'difficult-to-glue' timbers to be used in engineered wood products."

Stay tuned for more developments at Salisbury that

include veneer-based bridge girder development with the Big River Group in Grafton, spindleless lathe installation by Super Forest Plantations in northern New South Wales to produce vineyard posts and bollards from plantation hardwoods; and cypress glulam and trusses used in relocatable house construction by EcoCottages.

Super Forest Plantations, established in 1999, is an innovative, sustainable, mixed farming enterprise. Over 10 properties totalling 2862 ha, beef cattle are integrated within mixed species stands of plantation timber which is purpose-grown for sawlog production. A range of sustainable, high-quality timber products will be produced from these forests.

Eco Cottages is a Queensland-based modular homes company established in 2007.

**On the cover: Innovative team at Salisbury... Dr Adam Redman and Tony Dakin, principal research scientists, Dr Rob McGavin, research facility and project manager, and Bill Leggate, team leader.**

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## HEAD OFFICE

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

## PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187  
johnh@timberandforestrynews.com  
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764  
dennnis@timberandforestrynews.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087

## ADVERTISING

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

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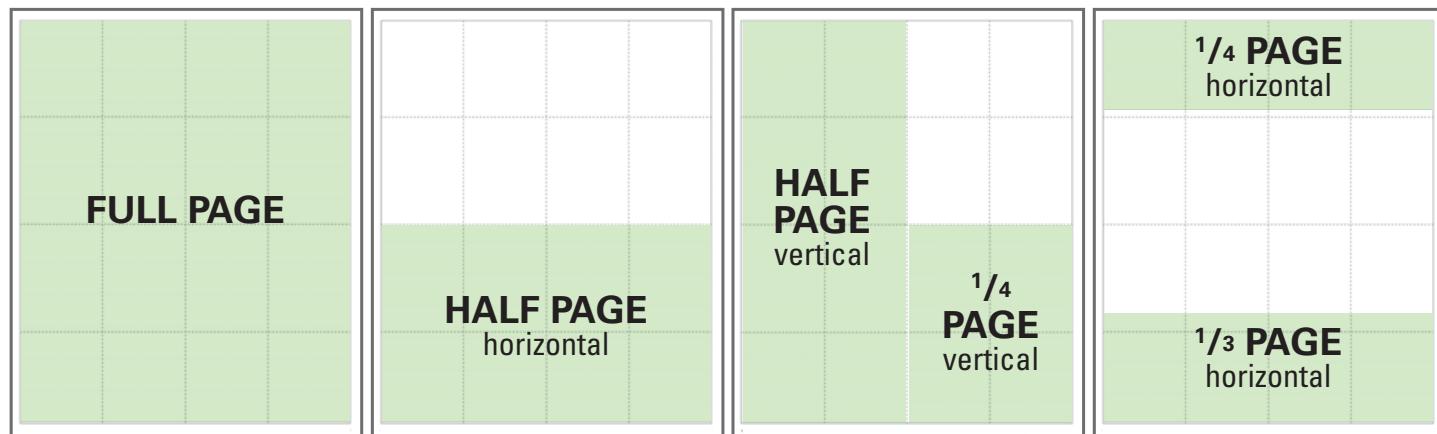


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#### **PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking**

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%

### **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.

Timber&Forestry enews is published by Timber & Forestry enews  
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

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.

### **WHO TO CONTACT**

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

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