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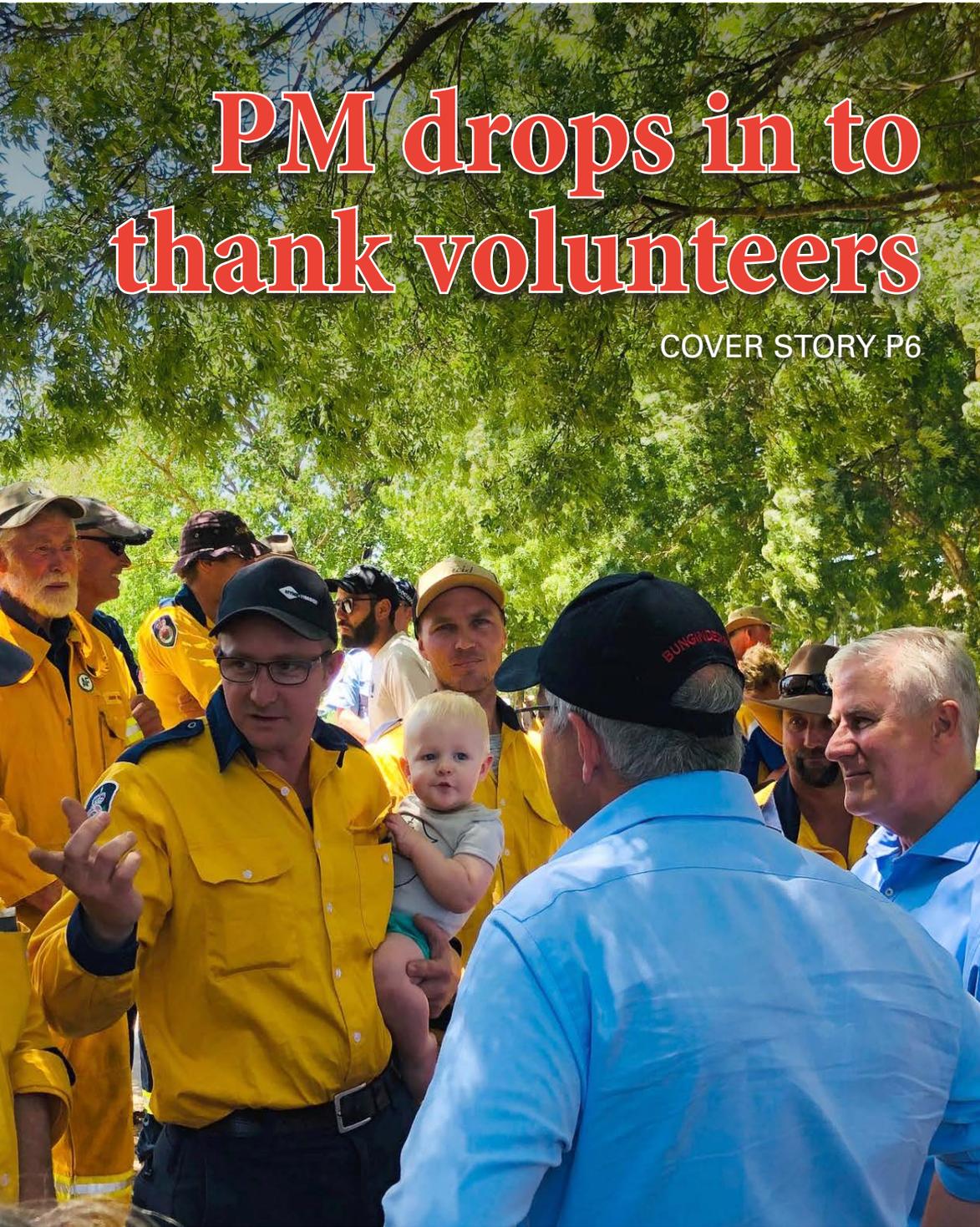
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PM drops in to thank volunteers

COVER STORY P6



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Berejiklian gets cracking on inquiry into NSW bushfires and fuel loads

WITH scant reference to the summer bushfires and prevention measures in Prime Minister Scott Morrison's address to the National Press Club in Canberra on Wednesday, the industry – in NSW at least – is encouraged by an independent inquiry stamped urgent by Gladys Berejiklian.

Announcing the inquiry this week the NSW Premier has appointed former NSW Police deputy commissioner Dave Owens and NSW chief scientist Mary O'Kane to head the six-month inquiry.

The inquiry will start within days, focusing on the impact of fuel loads, the role of hazard reduction, drought and climate change.

The inquiry, which will not hold public hearings but will accept submissions, will review the causes, preparation and response

“A FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF HAZARD REDUCTION



Feedback on bushfires... NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian is briefed by Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre's Karen Hodges and Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers.

to this summer's bushfires which have killed 25 people in NSW.

Ms Berejiklian said recovery efforts were ongoing and remained the government's focus.

“Unfortunately the fire season is not over,” she said. “While we are focused on the rebuilding process we are mindful of the remaining fire threats.”

The inquiry was announced a day after the Morrison government flagged a strengthening of constitutional and legal powers to allow prime ministers to declare national disasters and call in the defence force during a crisis rather than waiting for the states to ask for help.

The NSW inquiry's terms of reference include "causes of, and factors contributing

to the frequency, intensity, timing and location of bushfires in NSW in the 2019-20 bushfire season."

This will include the consideration of the role weather, drought, climate change, fuel loads and human activity played in the wide-sweeping bushfires.

Liberal MP Nathaniel Smith said: "My view is that the only

Cont P.3



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From P 2

thing we can control is fuel on the ground and that is why I am pushing for larger asset protection zones around villages and towns."

The inquiry will also investigate the preparation and planning by agencies, the government and the community as well as responses, including public warnings, resourcing, coordination and deployment.

Land use planning and management and building standards, including appropriate clearing and other hazard reduction, zoning and the use of indigenous practices will also be considered.

The issue of controlled burning has also split the NSW Coalition, with Deputy Premier and Leader of the Nationals John Barilaro accusing government agencies of being "ideologically opposed" to hazard reduction.

But this was countered by Energy and Environment Minister Matthew Kean who conceded more hazard reduction might be needed but warned it was "not a silver bullet".

“THE ONLY THING WE CAN CONTROL IS FUEL ON THE GROUND”



Dave Owens... experience in state emergency operations.

Ms Berejiklian said joint heads of the inquiry Professor Mary O’Kane, who is the chair of the Independent Planning Commission, and Dave Mr Owens had "an extraordinary breadth and depth of experience".

"I am confident their inquiry will be comprehensive and robust," Ms Berejiklian said.

"NSW is incredibly proud of the efforts of all our emergency services personnel and volunteers throughout this ongoing bushfire season, but the scale of these fires has been unprecedented and we must leave no stone unturned."

Mr Owens and Professor O’Kane will report back to Ms Berejiklian after their inquiry has concluded.

A Queenslander, Professor O’Kane is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and of the Royal Society of NSW and an Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia.



Mary O’Kane... human health and environmental impacts.

She established her own consulting practice that has completed work for government and private sector clients. The company completed reviews of the Cooperative Research Centres and the Bureau of Meteorology.

She was appointed the first NSW chief scientist and engineer in 2008 by then Premier Nathan Rees. Her work included conducting an independent review of coal

seam gas related activities, focusing on human health and environmental impacts.

Dave Owens was appointed state emergency operations controller by the NSW Governor in 2011, making him the longest serving appointee since the position was introduced in 1989.

This appointment, under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, gives oversight to the management of emergencies and disasters that occur within New South Wales.

Mr Owens oversaw response operations and supporting arrangements to a number of significant emergencies, both within NSW and abroad, including state resources to the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires in 2009 and the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.

Trump-eting 1 trillion trees plan

PRESIDENT Trump says the US will join a one trillion trees initiative launched at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

The initiative encourages countries to collectively plant the trees to absorb carbon dioxide.

Trump spoke about the importance of better managing trees and forests.

"We will continue to show strong leadership in restoring, growing, and better managing our trees and our forests," he said.

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They're back and at the worst possible time as volunteers put lives on the line

AS volunteer harvest contractors in Victoria continue to fight bushfires and clear roads, green antagonists have ramped up their attack on the industry.

"This emotional diatribe comes at a time when contractors are on the front line and their families are worried about the safety of their loved ones," says a bulletin from Friends of Forestry.

"Yet those far away from the fires are still laying the boot in to our industry."

At Warburton in the Yarra Ranges east of Melbourne, the local greens are organising protests against the industry.



Volunteers ... a picture tells it all.

"This is simply disgusting; governments must be pressured to act quickly

against these protestors," Friends of Forestry said. "Contractors who have been through so much in the past few months don't deserve illegal workplace invasions.

"And it should also be noted that there are calls for those who have fought fires to receive medals for their work. Let's hope forest contractors are not forgotten."

Friends of Forestry has recognised the work of the Australian Forest Products Association and Forest and Wood Products Australia in the bushfire crisis.

AFPA had taken a political role involving the federal government such as the round table raising industry issues in relation to the fires and the importance of well-managed forests.

FWPA had focused efforts on liaising with the CRC for Bushfire and Natural Hazards with the opportunity for them to get more involved with commercial forestry

landscapes and the built environment.

Other initiatives include developing a best practice guide for log salvage and storage for softwood logs; scoping a study for in-mill utilisation of fire-impacted softwood logs; promoting the use of timber in bushfire prone communities; and supporting the technical work for any potential review of the Australian Standard for Building in Bushfire Prone Areas (AS 3959).

Victorian Association of Forest Industries CEO Tim Johnston said although the bushfires had burnt significant areas, forests were not totally destroyed.

"In fact, a vast majority of our forests are still alive and will re-shoot, as eucalypts are resilient and adapt to fire," Mr Johnston said.

“GOVERNMENT MUST ACT QUICKLY ON PROTESTORS

"Salvage harvesting and the recovery of burnt trees is a legitimate and well-recognised aspect of the fire recovery process; it is a crucial element in helping state forests recover from bushfire.

"It also allows local communities to generate low-carbon timber products from burnt trees that would otherwise deteriorate."

Mr Johnston said large numbers of trees had been felled along roads and firebreaks to control fires and give safe access.



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Timber framing campaign gathers momentum: the choice of builders

THE ongoing bushfire season has brought heartache, devastation and challenges for many regional communities across Australia.

Through this, the timber industry is working hard to better understand the short, medium and long-term impacts of these bushfires to ensure timber framing solutions continue to be the material of choice for builders.

In December 2019, the timber industry was excited to see the extension of The Ultimate Renewable campaign: Timber Framing – The Ultimate Renewable.

With a heavy digital presence, timber framing advertising and social media could be seen on Fox Sports, Gumtree, Yahoo, Google, Perth News and the WoodSolutions Facebook Page, just to name a few.

During this time the woodsolutions.com.au/ framing website has recorded 6000 visitors since its launch over three impressions online. And, via YouTube, more than 90,000 completed



Timber framing campaign billboards... taking the Ultimate Renewable to city roads.

views of the video content.

Supportive builder testimonials are proving great value and the timber framing campaign will continue to develop a library of messages from builders that love timber.

Starting at the end of January, the Timber Framing – The Ultimate Renewable takes the campaign to the roads, with outdoor billboards featured at major locations across all capital cities.

The Outdoor Campaign builds on the digital campaign

of: 'Frame with Timber – Renew our Future', peeling back the external cladding of a home and reminding builders and consumer alike that "it's what's on the inside that counts".

The timber industry has garnered enormous levels of support across the industry and the level of collaboration over the last 12 months from across the supply chain has been tremendous.

Commencing this month, articles will feature across many publications spreading the word that Timber Framing

Timber Framing **The Ultimate Renewable**

is the Ultimate Renewable ... it is cost effective and flexible along with promoting the carbon-counting message to builders.

So, keep a look out around your city for the 26 locations where the timber framing campaign billboards are located:

- Victoria – nine locations at Moorabbin, Malvern, South Melbourne, Ringwood, Keillor East, North Melbourne and Oakleigh.
- NSW – five locations at Winston Hills, Sydney CBD, Strathfield, Liverpool and Greystanes.
- Queensland – five locations at Newstead, Coorparoo, Hamilton and Kedron.
- South Australia – three locations in Adelaide and at Thebarton.
- Western Australia three locations at Northam, Kenwick, and Kwinana.
- Tasmania – one location at Hobart.



Image courtesy of the _shoot_ project, the 2018 Responsible Wood Photo Competition Winner

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PM joins 'thank you' BBQ for volunteers

EMERGENCY helpers, including many Hyne Timber team members, were acknowledged at a Thank the Volunteers barbecue in Tumbarumba last week, attended by Scott Morrison.

The Prime Minister was joined by Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Fire and Rescue Commissioner Paul Baxter and local MP Justin Clancy.

All acknowledged their amazing efforts to protect the town and the Hyne mill at Tumbarumba at the western edge of the Snowy Mountains through the bushfire crisis.

The Australian Forest Products Association has paid



Hyne CEO Jon Kleinschmidt takes NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian on an inspection of the Tumbarumba mill.

tribute to the thousands of forestry industry workers and contractors who have been working tirelessly for months fighting fires.

CEO Ross Hampton said: "While we are all rightly applauding the volunteer firefighters who have battled the flames, we must equally

acknowledge that there are a large number of Australians wearing Hi Viz rather than orange firefighter clothing who have also given up their holidays to assist their fellow Australians.

"All around the fire areas, forest industry workers have used their expertise and

machinery to put out flames and push through vital fire breaks to allow firefighters to back burn," Mr Hampton said. "They have also been clearing roads of fallen trees to make it safe for holidaymakers to evacuate and possible for volunteer firefighters to access flanks of fires."

Mr Hampton said the tragic fire season would have been much worse however if we did not have a large number of highly-trained forestry firefighters and contractors with decades of deep understanding of how to manage the bush in place to assist the effort.

On the cover: Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Deputy PM Michael McCormack mingle with firefighting volunteers at the special 'thank you' barbecue in Tumbarumba.

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APRIL 2020**7-8: MobileTECH Ag 2020**

– *Rotorua, NZ.* International keynote Dr Mike Briers, CEO, Australian-based Food Agility. “We are on the cusp of the 4th agricultural revolution and unlike those that came before, this digital revolution will bring producers and consumers closer together,” says Dr Briers. “The real question, however, is who will be the builders and who will be the bystanders?” Jamie Azzopardi, the Oceania head of IBM’s The Weather Company, will also deliver an important keynote. The company is one of the world’s largest weather forecasters and has made significant advancements through IBM’s Watson Machine learning platform. IBM has just launched a new weather modelling service that uses supercomputing and big data to provide global forecasts down to an area as little as 3 km. The system issues 12 trillion pieces of weather data every day and process

forecasts every hour. Russell Craig, national technology officer, Microsoft NZ will return for the 2020 event. While artificial intelligence (AI) can be an overused buzzword, there is no argument that this will be a game-changer for the primary sector. MobileTECH Ag will be a great forum to understand how new technologies powered by data and AI are being adopted by agribusinesses. Cloud-based AI is the driving force behind Microsoft’s FarmBeats initiative, which has already seen action within New Zealand’s agricultural community. The system captures large amounts of data from feeds throughout the farm and uses AI and machine learning to translate that data into real insights for the growers. Contact Ken Wilson, program manager on +61 4 5226 2337 or email ken.wilson@innovatek.co.nz Visit www.mobiletech.events

JUNE 2020**15-16: Timber & Technology.****The Zero Carbon Future.****Timber Offsite Construction 2020 Conference & Exhibition – Crown**

Promenade, Melbourne, Vic. Australia. The only national event exclusively devoted to design, manufacture and construction of offsite timber and mass wood buildings. The theme reflects the emerging marriage of timber and technology, and the need for future net zero carbon buildings with timber contributing through carbon storage benefits. Program sessions will include world leading experts with award-winning architects, international and local engineers, major building companies, and prominent suppliers to offsite construction markets. Exhibition offers suppliers opportunity to access expanding construction markets with a booth display. Contact Kevin Ezard on 0419 538 638 or email kevin@

timberoffsiteconstruction.com New website: www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com

21-26: Gottstein Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury & Canberra. Australia. New extended wood processing site visits based out of Albury, followed by lecture series at Canberra at the ANU Fenner School. Formal course dinner and other networking events. Book early at www.gottsteintrust.org Inquires gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com

JULY 2020

23-24: Doing Timber Business in Queensland: Regional Opportunity. – Brisbane, Queensland. Third biennial event is Queensland’s forest and timber industry’s leading 2020 networking opportunity comprising one day conference, gala dinner, workshops and site tours. Full website and program will be released shortly contact admin@timberqueensland.com.au



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MARCH 2020

16-17: Asia Pacific Woodchip and Biomass Trade – Radisson Blu Shanghai New World Hotel, China.

Optional field trips: March 18-19 to Yangtze Basin region; March 19-22 (including travel) to Suifenhe on the Russia-China border in Heilongjiang province. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2020china or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

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

MAY 2020

19-20: FastMarkets – RISI-DANA 7th annual Forest Investment Conference – Convene Conference Centre, New York City.

Register at www.events.risiinfo.com/investment-conference/ or contact conferences@risi.com

26-27: Inaugural DANA Russia Forest Industry Sector Conference and field trip – Hilton Helsinki Strand Hotel in

Helsinki, Finland.. DANA joins with respected Russian information company Whatwood. Post-conference visits to harvesting and wood processing equipment manufacturers who sell to Russia (and in fact to the rest of the world); and to mills using some of this equipment. Visit www.danaevents.co.nz/2020russia or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

JUNE 2020

1-3: International Forest Business Conference and Tour – Sopot, Poland.

A two-day conference on megatrends that shape forest and wood industry sectors. The event will highlight the transformation of forest-related businesses towards a low-carbon bioeconomy, discuss tensions between sustainability and cost competitiveness, and call attention to new green innovations. Field trip on June 3 to IKEA and Egger mills. The event will welcome institutional investors from across the globe to discuss investment opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

1-5: DANA Europe Spruce Damage Seminar and Tour – Hamburg, Germany.

One-day seminar in Hamburg on the impact of spruce forest damage on Germany, Austria, Czech Republic,

Poland, Sweden, Italy. Website and full details available soon. Register interest with Dennis Neilson dana@dana.co.nz

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/

SEPTEMBER 2020

1-3: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and field trip – Emerald Hotel, Gisborne, New Zealand.

For further information see: <https://danaevents.co.nz/2020gisborne/> or contact Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

NOVEMBER 2020

1-5: 3rd DANA African Forest Industry Investment Conference and field trip – Durban, South Africa.

Planning under way. Two day optional field trip (November 19-20). Register interest with Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

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

Barnett retains forestry role in Cabinet re-shuffle

INDUSTRY has welcomed the re-appointment of Lyons MP Guy Barnett to the primary industries and forestry portfolio in a 'business-as-usual' Cabinet announced by the new Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein.

Mr Gutwein made the announcement while unveiling what he said was a ministry of "minimal change, continuity and stability".

"As the lowest net emitter in the country ... we have a very positive story to tell," said Mr Gutwein who retains his role of Treasurer.

"We have to accept we now have a more volatile climate ... obviously we



Peter Gutwein



Guy Barnett



Roger Jaensch

have challenges that we need to take on."

The Premier will also become the first Tasmanian Liberal Minister for Climate Change

Like his federal Liberal counterparts, Mr Gutwein pointed to the need for more fuel reduction in forests "through burning but also

through mechanical clearing".

The Minister for Housing Roger Jaensch will also take on environment and parks.

Jeremy Rockliff will retain his role as Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Training and Mental Health and Wellbeing and will take on the trade portfolio.

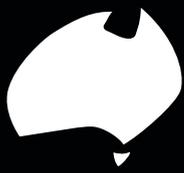
He said he hoped to

capitalise on the state's well established brand.

"We're a state that exports more than 90% of what we produce and so we have to be very proactive in the market place," he said.

The Cabinet reshuffle follows the resignation last week of former premier Will Hodgman. After almost 20 years in politics, he said it was the "right time... to allow for new leadership".

Will Hodgman became the 45th premier of Tasmania in 2014, securing the largest majority for any government since the 25-member parliament was established in 1998.



AUSTimber 2020

04-07 November

Important announcement

We have rescheduled... to November

The response and recovery efforts to the bushfire crisis are significant and many people from our timber industry have been directly affected or are working tirelessly to support impacted communities across Australia.

The decision to reschedule the show was the best way to support our timber industry and communities to continue the bushfire response, recovery and salvage efforts.

If you have already purchased tickets

All tickets will be honoured for November, the program remains unchanged. Remember to update any accommodation bookings.

Thank you

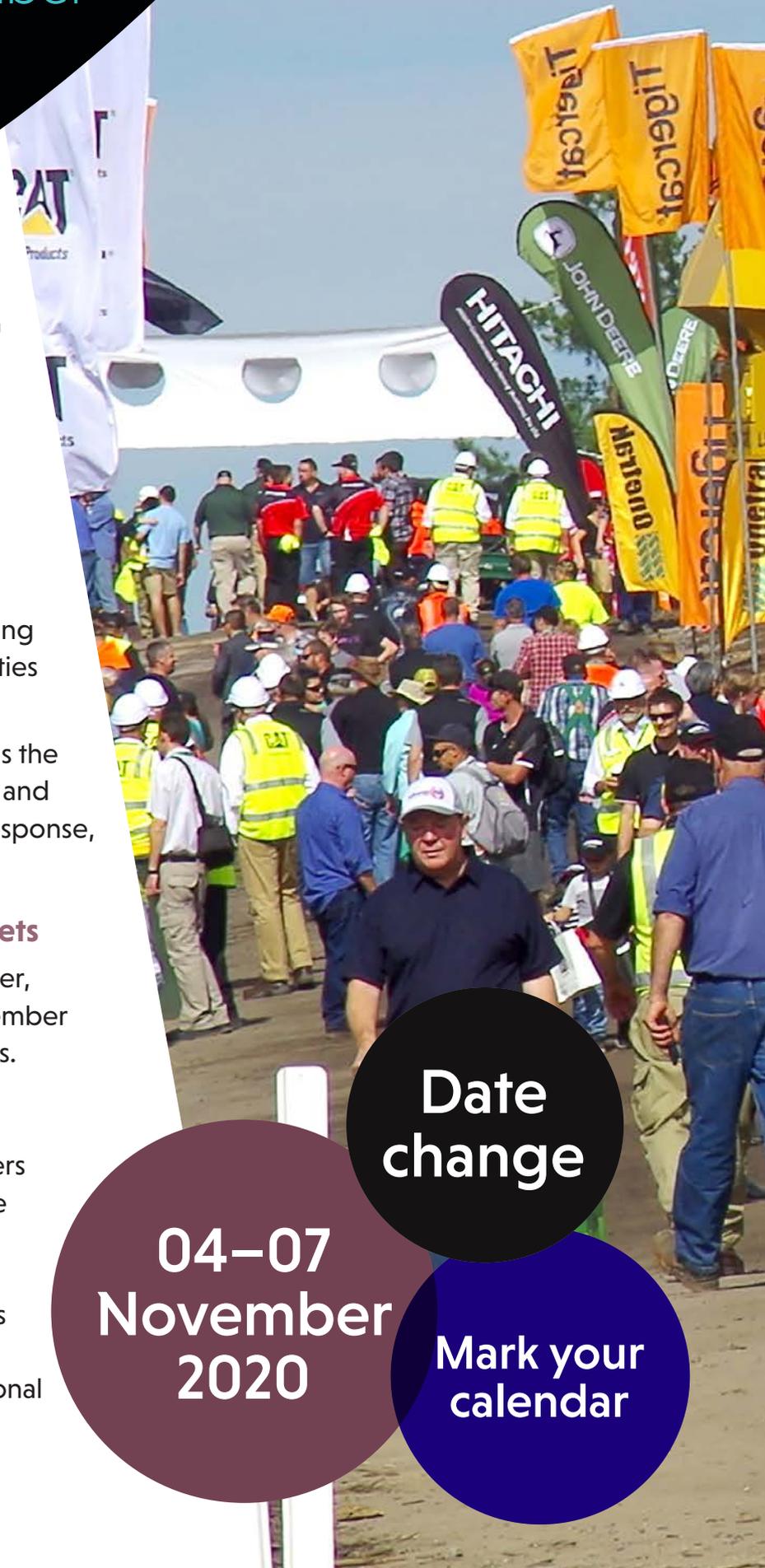
To our supporters, exhibitors and partners for their positive and proactive response to the decision to reschedule the show. It is their commitment to the success of the show that means our communities will still have the opportunity to benefit from over 10,000 national and international attendees visiting Gippsland.

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Fires: perpetuating the mistakes

Ignoring fuel build-up killer flaw in climate change blame game

A FORESTER with more than 50 years' experience in bushfire management and science has rejected the 'blame-it-on-climate-change' position taken by many green groups and academics over the summer bushfire crisis.

Roger Underwood, who was awarded an Order of Australia in 2018 for his service to forestry and bushfire management in Western Australia and in 1963 helped develop aerial controlled burning and oversaw the introduction of aircraft fire spotting, says the trouble with side-stepping accountability is that mistakes are perpetuated.

He adds: "There is a school of thought, mostly put about by state premiers, that the blame game is bad form. We should put the whole bushfire business behind us and move on, they say. Forget the past, the future will be wonderful.

"The same people go back

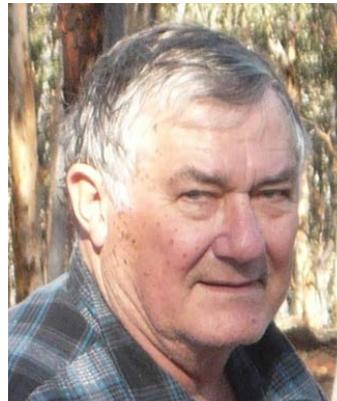
to business as usual, and the same disasters re-occur. If nobody has done anything wrong, as the premiers maintain, no changes need to be made."

Mr Underwood says this is the beauty of the blaming climate change; if climate change caused the bushfires, no individual can be pinned, not even those 'fire chiefs' who were in charge during the entire time the current disaster was incubating and who now suddenly know what was the problem.

He says the climate change position has two killer flaws: firstly, it ignores fuels, which are the main contributor to uncontrollable fires during a drought; secondly, it provides no practical solutions to the immediate problem.

"Both of these factors render the climate change argument utterly unsustainable, indeed ridiculous," he says.

"It is very obvious who the people are who should be held accountable for the current mess. At the top of the list are the premiers and



Roger Underwood AM... green approach to bushfire management can end only in tears.

ministers responsible for land management, such as it is, and bushfire policy, and the public servants in their departments with jurisdiction over forests and national parks.

"State governments in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have palpably failed to do the most important job they were elected to do – protect the lives and livelihoods of their citizens and the health of their environment. And their public servants have failed to do the job they are being paid to do – serve the public."

Mr Underwood says under

the Australian Constitution, land management, and therefore bushfire management, is the responsibility of the states; state governments decide how Crown land will be managed, and how the protection of communities and their assets from bushfire damage will be organised.

"Local government authorities are also high on the list of those accountable. And here again state governments bear responsibility; they never should have allowed them to get away with the nonsenses we have seen coming out of town halls over recent years with respect to vegetation clearing and building approvals," Mr Underwood said.

"The most significant concern is the blatant ignoring by premiers, ministers and agency bureaucrats of the warnings of bushfire scientists that a disaster was imminent and, on top of that, their failure to

“CLIMATE CHANGE PROVIDES NO PRATICAL SOLUTION

Cont P 11



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From P 10

study bushfire history.

“Over and over again, evidence shows bushfires will occur in Australia unless pre-emptive action is taken.

“Yet despite the science, the evidence presented by bushmen, the dramatic history of this containment’s relationship with fire, and the findings of numerous inquiries, successive governments in three states over the last 25 years have failed to prepare potential firegrounds in the expectation of the inevitable.

“Not only this, they seem to go out of their way to make things difficult – the cut-backs to fuel reduction burning, the closure of access roads and trails in



Controlled burning... academics have no understanding of practical bushfire management.

national parks, the decimation of professional forestry and fire management expertise, the turning of the blind eye to the creation of residential subdivisions incapable of being defended, the funding of ‘research’ in the universities that is aimed at making the job of the firefighter more difficult, and the erection of a complex

bureaucratic edifices that hinder sensible bushfire preparedness and make fuel-reduction burning almost impossible.”

Mr Underwood says one of the consequences of the deliberate destruction of the forestry profession and forestry district structures and crews has been that governments now have to fall

back on volunteers to fight forest fires.

“My heart goes out to the vollies who are being sent into our state forests and national parks to tackle high intensity forest fires burning amid heavy fuel loads. They are being asked to do the impossible.”

Mr Underwood said the anti-fuel reduction burning academics had no understanding of practical bushfire management.

“They are misguided, misinformed and, by my reckoning, dangerously mischievous,” he said.

“Bitter experience should by now have made it blindingly obvious that the green approach to bushfire management can end only in tears.”

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State's forestry contractors still on the front line and working around the clock

STACEY GARDINER

EAST Gippsland harvest contractor Reece Reynolds has been putting in 11-hour days to help contain the fires which continue to threaten the region.

Based at South Buchan, Reece is one of many forest contractors who have put their machines to work around the clock in an effort to clear roads, remove hazardous trees and black out smouldering fires.

"At the peak of the fires we were pulling 15-hour days but it's quietened down a bit," Reece said.

"The machines have been working pretty much non-stop since late November and there's still a fair bit to do."

His two harvesters, skidder and dozer are part of a pool of 200 mechanical resources used by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's forest fire management division at times of crisis. It's a resource critical to fire prevention and containment and it's a resource that will



Clearing the way... a contractor's point of view in bushfires battle.
Photo: Reece Reynolds

be considerably diminished if the state government makes good its promise to end forest management via native timber harvesting in Victoria.

"Any sort of forest management is better than none but locking it up is the path we are going down," Reece said.

"Forestry gives access to the forests as well as the machines which are capable of creating firebreaks and cleaning up afterwards.

"We work in national parks

as well. When there's fire, all trees are the same, no matter where they are on a map."

It's a frustration echoed by many forest workers who, just weeks after being told their industry will be shut down, have been in the bush saving property and lives. Reece's own property was lucky, the wind changed direction just as it hit his fences. But other contractors have lost nearly everything, and they are bewildered by the lack of recognition of their value in the bush.

"The CFA gets a lot of well-deserved attention for the work they do, but there's been no acknowledgement by the government at all for the forestry contractors," Reece said. "It makes you wonder how much people care about the forests. If you want to save an animal then the idea of locking it up gives wildlife no hope. We've seen wildlife taking refuge in areas harvested for native timber where the fire has stopped or cooled right off."

Reece said some of his work now was re-opening roads to landholders which were blocked by fallen trees.

The trees grow in 'wildlife corridors' which border properties along rural B-road easements, but Reece said they created a hazard in fire conditions.

"Because there is some heavy timber in them, they become fire corridors," he said.

• Stacey Gardiner is general manager of the Australian Forest Contractors Association.



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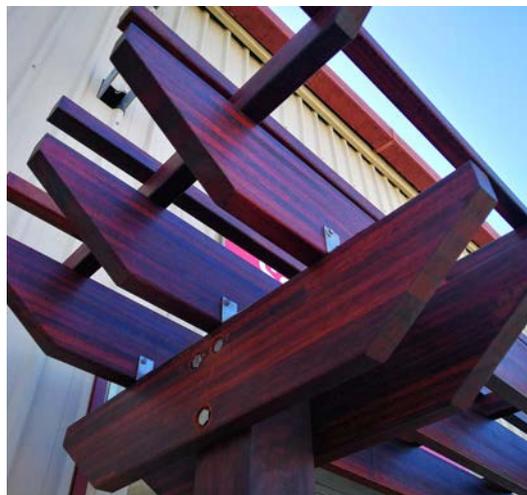


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IFA, AFG message 'clear and respectful'

THE bushfires across three states, while devastating and exhausting for many, was also an opportunity to communicate the science and solutions for effective forest and fire management.

In a joint statement, the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers said that their contribution in the coming months would be clear, non-political and respectful.

"We acknowledge that many of our members and the forestry sector are doing it very hard right now," IFA and AFG said. "They have lost animals, buildings, workplaces and forests and our thoughts are with them at this very difficult time.

"We are mindful that many of our members are

currently involved in active fire management and take this opportunity to say thank you for their incredibly hard work and acknowledge the very long hours, little sleep, high risks and the stress that firefighting and fire recovery causes."

The organisations said for Australia's future it was important that key messages were not marginalised or drowned out by the shouting match and blame game that was happening across many media platforms at the moment.

"We will be a fact-based, positive contributor to this very important working group to assist in its response to the catastrophic fires and compliment the work done by the forest fire management committee."



Bob Gordon ... to chair working group on bushfires.

The working group comprises Bob Gordon (chair), Bill Jackson; Lachie McCaw; Gary Morgan; Kevin Tolhurst and Jacquie Martin.

On Tuesday, IFA/AFG's Rob De Fégely and Jacquie Martin met with Victorian MPs David Limbrick (South Eastern Metro) and Tim Quilty (Albury). They spent

over an hour with the MPs and their advisers discussing forest science, bushfires, bushfire recovery harvesting and the Victorian native forest harvesting decision.

IFA/AFG president Bob Gordon met with Senator Jacqui Lambi the same day. The senator expressed her support for the forest sector.

The Forest Fire Management Committee has commenced work on the IFA/AFG's submission to the senate inquiry into bushfires and is mindful that this inquiry may become a royal commission, so they are preparing for both possibilities.

An IFA/AFG fire forum is planned for Albury-Wodonga in May with details to be announced on the IFA website.

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Now for the clean-up, but follow best guidelines on treated timber

All smoke and combustion fumes are a serious threat to health

WE are now all too familiar with the hardships experienced and the lives lost in this tragic summer bushfire season.

On behalf of TPAA members, I extend a huge thanks to the firies and the many individuals involved in helping their fellow Australians.

When it comes to cleaning up residues involving treated wood, some specific measures to avoid inadvertent exposure to fumes, smoke, preservative residues and contaminated ash should be considered.

Firstly, and very importantly, directions from firefighting authorities and other emergency services should always be followed. All smoke and combustion fumes, not just from treated wood, can be a serious threat to health.

Some of the smoke and fumes, especially from treated timber that has been burnt may also contain preservative residues. While CCA-treated wood is known to release arsine gas under certain

“AVOID DIRECT SKIN CONTACT WITH ASH AND FIRE-DAMAGED RESIDUES



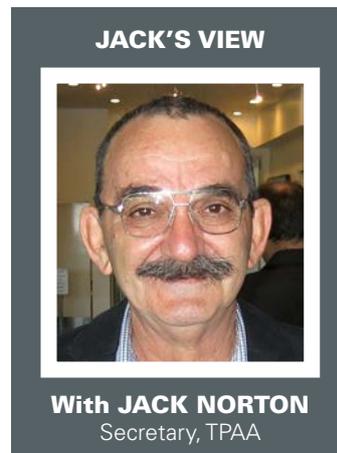
Treated timber... specific measures must be followed to avoid inadvertent exposure to fumes, smoke, preservative residues and contaminated ash.

combustion conditions, other wood preservatives such as ACQ and copper azole are less of a problem.

Firefighters should use breathing apparatus in all cases – not just for treated wood. Unprotected persons should stay up-wind and well away from the fire.

Combustion of treated wood products may make the chemical preservatives more available to leaching by water, or to inhalation and absorption from breathing in dust and fine ash residues. Avoid direct skin contact with ash and fire damaged residues and avoid breathing airborne dust and ash.

Wear a filter mask if airborne dust is generated



when handling or moving burned residues and debris. Use a light water spray to wet down the area and settle any dust. Remove large whole pieces mechanically or manually. Shovel or scoop up small pieces, debris and fine ash into sturdy plastic

bags for disposal. Wash your hands, face and any exposed skin after work and before drinking, eating or using a toilet. Wash contaminated work clothing separately to normal domestic clothing before reuse.

There is little potential for significant ground or site contamination once the burned residues, debris and ash have been removed. Removal or remediation of site soil is usually not necessary. Livestock should be separated from any large volumes of ash, particularly ash from burnt CCA-treated timber, as the ash may have a salty taste and be consumed.

For residential or other relatively small-scale incidents, burned residues and ash from structures containing treated wood should be disposed of together with other site demolition and clean-up wastes. Disposal should be via an appropriate waste disposal facility or licensed waste removal contractor.

Residues involving large volumes of treated wood from fire damaged industrial or commercial sites may require characterisation and assessment before disposal. Consult your local waste disposal or other authority for requirements and procedures.

'Unfair' trading blamed for NZ mill closure

SIXTY staff have lost their jobs with the closing of the Putaruru sawmill in the Waikato region of New Zealand's North Island.

The 30-year-old company, which exported finished timber to Australia and Europe, owed creditors around \$2-3 million.

The biggest shareholder has interests associated with the La Grouw family of Rotorua and Auckland. The family owns the Lockwood home-building company.

Two parties interested in restarting the operation have approached the receiver.

First Union is calling on the government to meet with industry stakeholders to intervene and coordinate the supply industry, from forest to construction, to ensure

that sawmills are able to survive and provide the wood that is needed.

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association says the NZ government is fully aware that the demise of wood processing firms is being caused by a highly distorted domestic market for logs. The prices for logs in New Zealand have been driven up to unprecedented levels over recent years by foreign buyers operating on subsidies provided by their own countries.

"These subsidies enable foreign buyers to artificially inflate prices here, effectively capturing the domestic log market by creating some of the highest softwood log prices in the world," CEO Dr Jon Tanner said.



Brian Stanley... foreign buyers artificially inflating prices.

"The fact that this grossly unfair market is occurring under Free Trade Agreements with these countries should be extremely concerning to all New Zealanders"

WPMA has urged the government to take immediate action to halt unfair trading conditions

and prevent the loss of jobs and community "to what is thoroughly unethical trade".

Continued government inaction would inevitably lead to further loss of wood processing jobs to blatantly unfair trade and dash hopes of building a future bio-economy around New Zealand's forestry sector.

Forestry Minister Shane Jones said he had witnessed the closure of a number of sawmilling operations. He said it was incredibly disappointed to hear about the closure and he was acutely aware of how important these employers were.

"It's an awful way to start 2020," he said. "We will be following up this closure to see what lessons could be learned."



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IMPORTANT UPDATE!

DANA-Gingko Asia Pacific Woodchip & Biomass Trade Conference and Field Trips on March 16 - 22 are all organised at www.danaevents.co.nz/2020china

BUT: The rapidly deteriorating situation in China with Coronavirus has forced us to relocate the conference to Melbourne, Australia with a Field Trip to Green Triangle.

New programme and Field Trip details will be launched ASAP with a website at www.danaevents.co.nz/2020melbourne

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JULIE BELL admin@dana.co.nz

Uni's answer to sustainable buildings

LONDON'S Metropolitan University is launching the city's first postgraduate program in timber technology aimed to address key skills shortages in the architecture and construction sectors, stimulate economic growth, and respond to the growing demand for sustainable building.

England requires an estimated 240,000-340,000 new homes a year in order to



Sustainability... London Metropolitan University is launching the city's first postgraduate program in timber technology.

emergency" with chief executive Alan Vallance stating: "RIBA council's commitment to the climate emergency declaration is an important moment for the institute and the profession – a catalyst for the further action and change that is needed to ensure that architects and the built environment sector are at the forefront of a zero-carbon future."

As the only widely available construction material that allows for carbon negative construction, timber will be central to future sustainable development of London, the UK and internationally, with many

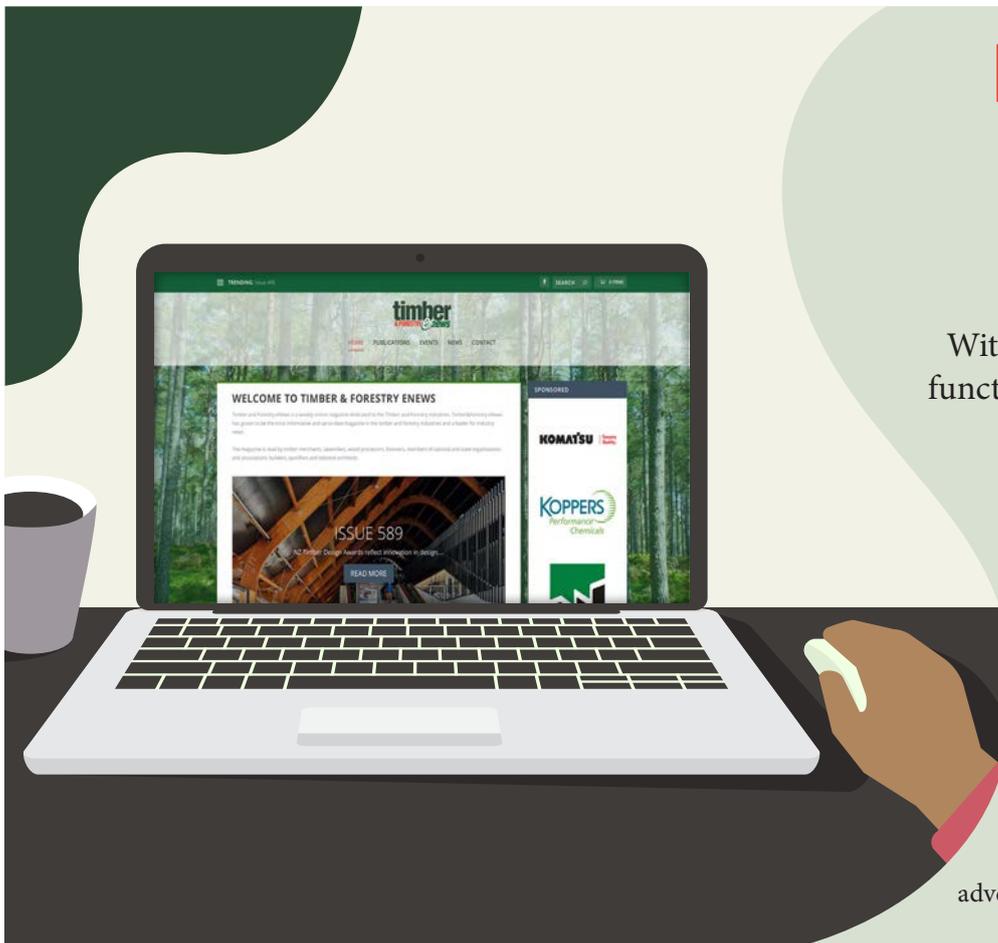
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“TIMBER-FIRST APPROACH TO CARBON-ZERO FUTURE”

tackle the housing shortfall. Research from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Timber Industry has identified timber as a potential solution to the housing crisis facing the country with all major

political parties committed to supporting the building of new homes.

In June last year, Architecture's Subject Standards Board RIBA declared a "climate



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From P 17

local authorities establishing a 'timber-first' approach to planning policy as part of a series of moves towards a green economy.

The MSc Timber Technology will equip graduates with the necessary expertise to directly shape these exciting shifts in design and construction.

Professor Christian Frost, head of architecture at London Metropolitan University says London is home to some of the largest timber buildings in the world, and has been an early adopter of mass-timber buildings in Europe.

"The skills and expertise of academic staff, who have had successful professional careers in architecture and design, make us well placed to offer the capital's first MSc Timber Technology," he said.

"The architecture sector is currently worth around £2 billion to London's economy, and has been growing year-on-year. The increasing demand for timber construction means students will have the opportunity to be truly innovative as they develop their skills, and we're looking forward to working with the first cohort on exciting new creative projects."



Alan Vallance... ensuring architects and the built environment sector are at the forefront of a zero-carbon future."

London Metropolitan University has an excellent reputation for delivering architecture courses with

practical application, and enjoys close links with the people and organisations that shape London.

In the last year alone, the university has seen significant recognition for its alumni and staff, including Gatti Routh Rhodes named as 2019 Young Architect of the Year; Dr Paulo Moreira shortlisted for the 2019 RIBA President's Research Award; and David Leech Architects, whose principal instructs at London Metropolitan University, winning the 2019 AJ Small Projects Award.

Michelle Corby of Mangan Logging joins AFCA board

THE Australian Forest Contractors Association has welcomed Michelle Corby of Mangan Logging to the AFCA board.

Michelle has worked

for the third-generation business for 13 years. It was started in 1961 by her grandparents and later run by her parents Michael and Suzanne Mangan.

The business is run by Michelle and her siblings Matt, Chris and Lisa as her parents transition into retirement.

Michelle has a background

in accounting and finance (Bachelor of Business (Accounting/Finance and a Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting).



New Zealand Forest Industry - Status and Outlook 2020 Conference and Field Trip

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SUV seekers will find it hard to pass this people-mover for style and comfort

"THE carnival is over," came Judith Durham's clear clarion-call voice through the eight-speaker sound system.

The Seekers' signature recording had us joining in: "The carnival is over, now the harbour light is calling. This will be our last goodbye ..."

But Kia's third generation Carnival Platinum is far from over. Since its Australian debut in 2015 it remains the top-selling people mover by a factory of 4:1. Only the smaller fashionably-shaped Sorento SUV outsells it by 2:2, even though they're close on price and specs.

The Carnival is available in S, Si, SLi and platinum trim levels, each with a choice of 206kW/336Nm 3.3-litre petrol V6 or 147kW/440Nm 2.2-litre turbo-diesel for an extra \$2500. It carries up to eight people in comfort and style starting with an eight-seat configuration, rear doors that slide open simultaneously, if you like, at the press of a button, collapsible middle seats, which makes for easy entrance to the rear row – and classy front seats in leather and cloth trim with adjustable lumbar (lower



Kia Carnival... a hefty two tonnes but light on the road.



Middle-row Carnival passengers a can enjoy the dual cabin chairs and abundance of space once they make their way through the electric sliding doors.

back) support.

Tipping the scales at a hefty two tonnes, it's still light on the roads.

Advances in car technology continue at a blistering pace and Kia is in the race with the safer, more efficient and more connected Carnival.

Every Carnival has six airbags, mandatory stability control, a reversing camera and rear parking sensors and there's auto-on headlights, which make you more visible in low light

Hill-start assist helps take-off on uphill slopes by controlling the brakes automatically and autonomous emergency braking, lane-departure

warning, adaptive cruise control, headlights that switch on automatically when it's getting dark and are all included in the Carnival techno-kit.

Autonomous emergency braking is also standard, along with lane departure warning, which alerts you if you begin to drift out of your lane on the highway.

There's an MP3 compatible sound system, a CD player, Aux and USB inputs, Bluetooth connectivity for audio streaming, and six speakers; a colour touchscreen for controlling cabin functions to connect a smartphone via Apple CarPlay or Android Auto; three USB charge points for

mobile devices (two for those in the front seats and one for the middle row), three 12V power outlets, including one in the cargo area and air-conditioning that can supply different temperatures to front and rear passengers.

Every Carnival drives through an eight-speed automatic gearbox. The petrol version used 10.8 litres/100 km on an official test – below the performance of the diesel but better pricing at a drive-away \$63,790, with optional extras such as premium paint at \$695.

True to form, there's a seven-year unlimited distance warranty – par for the course on every new Kia model.

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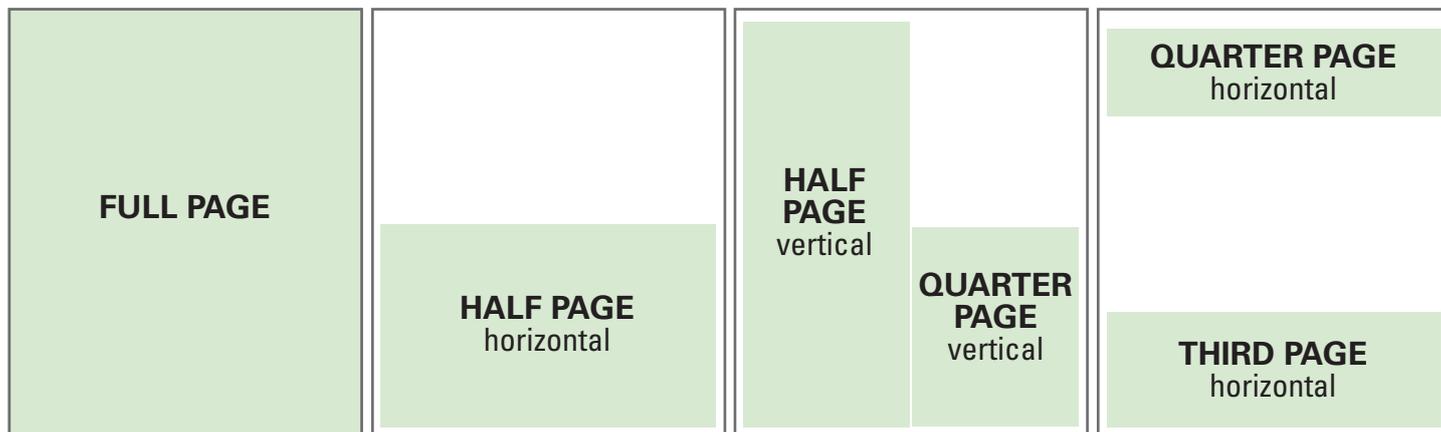
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