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ISSUE 609 | May 21, 2020

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## Big contract to manage plantations in Tasmania

COVER STORY P10



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# Construction the driver: AFPA supports Property Council's new housing boost

THE Australian Forest Products Association has backed the Property Council of Australia's seven-point plan to stimulate new housing to counter the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on new construction demand.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the federal government had effectively saved hundreds, if not thousands of lives by its speedy, sure-footed handling of the pandemic impacts.

"However, now comes the equal challenge of saving Australian livelihoods and avoiding a recession," he said.

"The PCA's plan provides a solution to that with construction the driver."

The council's seven-point plan for recovery, released yesterday by CEO Ken Morrison, says incentives for new housing construction, broad-based tax reform, improving the supply of affordable housing, and the renewal of our migration program are among the key areas for action.

Australia's timber processing industry has had



**Ken Morrison... big incentives for new housing construction.**

early indications of a major drop in associated timber demand, with some regionally based mills already reducing production and cutting staff.

"This is a difficult problem that needs a large and integrated policy response by federal, state and territory governments working in unison," Mr Hampton said.

"Big, bold stimulus measures are required to kick-start renewed housing demand in the wake of COVID-19, such as PCA's proposed \$50,000 'new home boost' scheme; broad-based tax reform including stamp duty and targeted tax



**Rebecca Casson... pushing shovels into the ground within weeks.**

relief; and improved housing affordability including the emergence of build-to-ten programs."

Mr Hampton added: "Timber processing companies are already feeling the impact of the slowdown in construction, as are companies right along the supply chain. We estimate sawn timber demand will drop by at least 50% over the next six months.

Meanwhile, the Victorian

**“NOW COMES THE EQUAL CHALLENGE**

government has launched the first part of its \$2.7 billion building works package, which the government says will generate up to 3700 direct jobs in construction and thousands more across supply chains including manufacturing, logistics, transportation, warehouse and retail.

At the centre of the package is \$1.18 billion in school infrastructure projects that will create space for more than 21,000 extra students. The package also includes 168 new public houses and upgrade of 23,000 more existing public dwellings.

Master Builders Association of Victoria CEO Rebecca Casson said the announcement was timely as the sector faced a slowdown in commercial work.

"The building works package is important because it includes hundreds of projects that have been selected precisely because they can launch quickly, pushing shovels into the ground within weeks or months," Ms Casson said.



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# Code of practice aims at level playing field for state's growers and processors

## Draft COP proposal under review by forestry ministers

A DRAFT forest industry code of practice – and attempt to resolve issues between growers and small processors in South Australia's Green Triangle – has been submitted to federal and state ministers responsible for forestry.

"In essence, the draft code proposes the means to ensure small processors can secure resources necessary to develop sustainable businesses," said David Quill, chief executive of the South Australian Timber Processors Association (SATPA), which presented the document to Senator

Jonathon Duniam, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, and Tim Whetstone, South Australia's Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Mr Quill said the proposal, agreeably accepted for deliberation by the ministers, aimed for better management of export contracts to limit the amount of quality logs going to Chinese processors.

"Because of low levels of supply of raw materials, processors in South Australia



1/ An issue of resource ... forest industry code of practice drafted in South Australia.

2/ Jonathon Dunhiam.

3/ Tim Whetstone.

information as commercial in confidence, supply agreements between plantation owners and timber processing operations or facilities should be negotiated with transparency as to the long-term availability of relevant fibre. The only wood fibre that is exported from Australia should be that which is

Cont P 4

are unable to employ more workers," he said.

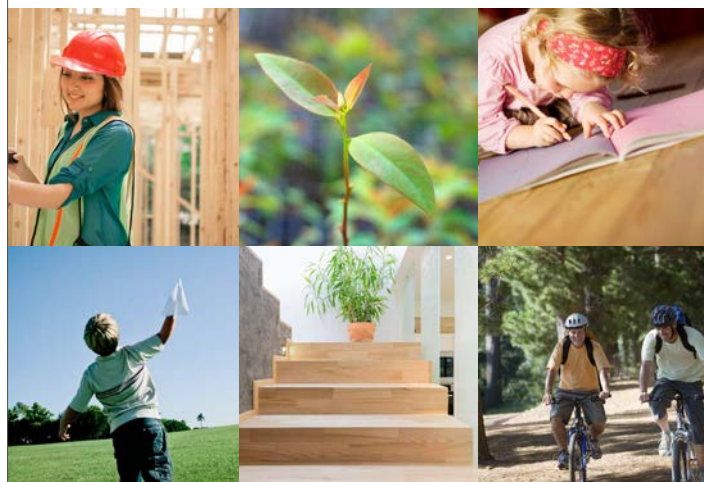
SATPA submits that this has been brought about following the significant increases in the export of wood fibre from the port of Portland since 2012, averaging 1.7 million green metric tonnes a year for the last five years where much of this fibre has been exported at the expense of current and potentially future domestic demand.

It is intended that the COP be mandatory and that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission regulates and enforces the code.

Objectives and rationale of the code include:

- Respecting the rights of all parties to retain

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From P 3

not required by the domestic processing industry.

- Current supply agreements with smaller processors lack the necessary term to cover financing costs associated with the purchase and installation of processing plant and equipment as well as providing appropriate training and job security for salaried staff and weekly paid employees.

There needs to be an independent arbitrator or facilitator appointed to ensure forest growers and processors adopt a consultative approach in determining a framework of terms that can be included into any COP.

Realistically, supply agreements should have a term of not less 10 years, and always subject to force majeure. Agreements of this duration could include

clauses that allow for variation in volume and price in any one year. Given that forestry is a long-term investment, a longer term must be beneficial to plantation owners.

- Over the last five years, owners have enjoyed high prices for the sale of fibre to the export market. The effect of this, particularly with product less than 200 mm small end diameter, has been to increase the mill gate prices for domestic processors.

The wharf gate price at Portland for pulpwood in April 2019 was \$94 per JAS and dropped to \$55 for July 2019. Transparency is required on export prices and the associated logistical costs along with arm's-length export terms in the best interests of fair market practices.

- The price of wood fibre in



**David Quill... COP an attempt to resolve issues between growers and small processors in South Australia.**

individual supply agreements between forest owners and processors will be influenced by the competition from the export market. Export wharf-gate prices should be published in a similar manner, taking into account variables such as: the conversion from

JAS to GMT; the transport differential between delivery to the relevant processor compared to delivery to wharf gate; export price risk (spot market vs long-term domestic contract with CPI and potential take or pay); any harvesting cost variations.

- All forest owners should be members of either Responsible Wood sustainable forest management or FSC forest standard certification. These certifications provide credible third-party verification that Australia's forests are sustainably managed, meeting international benchmarks for environmental management, social responsibility and the provision of economic benefit to the Australian community.

As part of the certification, forest owners must demonstrate support for regional industry and regional communities and include commitment to local processors and suppliers where possible.

**“SUPPLY AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN 10 YEARS**

## Forest owners keen to work with government post-covid

THE NZ Forest Owners Association says it's keen to work with government and the rest of the primary industries sector to implement government investment aimed at reviving the economy after the COVID-19 crisis.

President Phil Taylor says forestry will have an important role in both employment for exports and in supporting domestic processing.

"Forestry has a lead role in New Zealand's economic recovery. We are on track to earning \$7 billion a year in export receipts and we are a major employer, especially in

the regions," he said.

"We are keen that the \$500 million to support the primary sector announced in the Budget will include the forest industry. We will be a major contributor in using our trees in the fight against climate change over the next few years, and there is the need to integrate all land uses in this huge challenge.

The Budget also included free trades' training for an increasingly mechanised industry, improved access for Maori into training and a boost to Trade and Enterprise for helping access into overseas markets.

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# Indonesia withdraws SVLK ban under pressure from international timber trade

## 'Abolishing scheme would have made challenged Australian importers'

A SWIFT response from the Australian Timber Importers Federation and international traders has helped reverse a decision by the Indonesian government to end the country's SVFLK verification system, which was to take effect on May 27.

The Indonesia trade ministry announced in March it would scrap a requirement for wood exporters to obtain licenses verifying their wood comes from legal and sustainably managed sources.

The SVLK verification system took a decade to develop and implement and has been accepted by some of the most stringent market regulators for timber legality, including the EU.

The Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya has confirmed that, after a series of meetings with relevant ministries following the suspension of the SVLK regulation, the Ministry of Trade will withdraw the suspension



1/ Back on stream... Indonesia has retained SVFLK verification system.

2/ Nils Koren... SVLK scheme greatly assists timber importers to complete their mandatory due diligence requirements



until there is an agreement on revisions of the SVLK.

In a written statement, Siti said the SVLK (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu/ Timber Legality Assurance

System) continued to be applied. At the same time, she announced increased financial support for export-oriented small and medium timber businesses.

It was further announced that the process of revising the Ministry of Trade regulation would involve the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as well as the

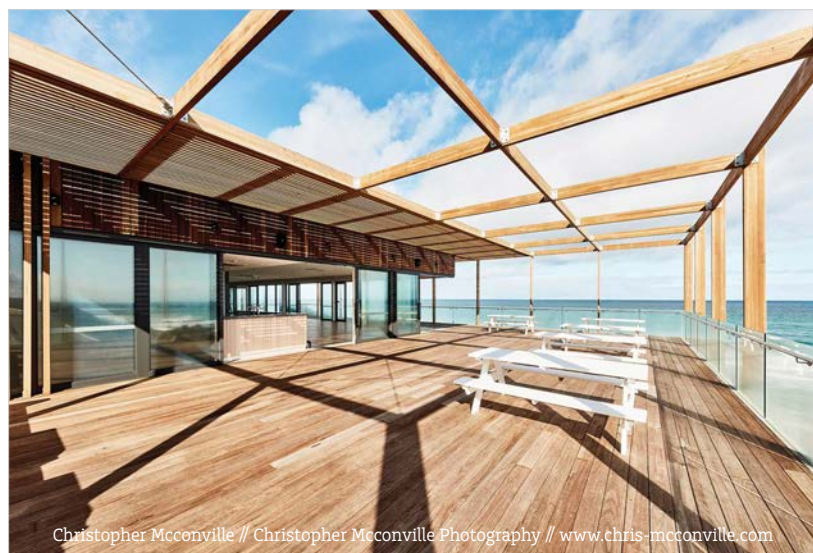
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Importantly, Minister Siti said Indonesia still wanted to maintain SVLK as a major investment for the long-term interests of sustainable businesses, as well as for the benefit of Indonesia's forests

ATIF has congratulated the Indonesia government on the decision "in the face of some opposing pressure from vested interest industry groups"

**VISIT TO JAKARTA ON THE AGENDA**

Cont P 6



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# Canada's forest awareness starts in the school room

CELEBRATING Earth Day and providing great 'school-at-home' resources, Canadian Women in Timber is encouraging the industry and the general public to explore British Columbia's forests.

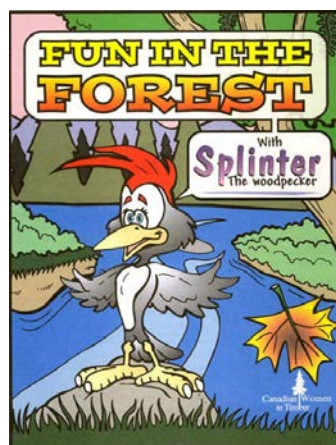
A non-profit charitable society, members have been working to enhance and foster public understanding of BC's forest resources and sustainable forest management for more than 30 years.

"We encourage sound management and wise use

of our forest resources," said board member Betty-Ann McDonald. "We believe a viable forest industry and healthy forests go hand-in-hand."

The society's mission is forest awareness through education, a good deal of which is focused on school children – the decision makers of the future.

The society has produced a unique suite of educational material geared to kids from pre-school to junior-high. Their products are colourful,



playful and factual. Each year, thousands of booklets are delivered to schools,

community groups and families eager to learn more about the forest industry.

Canadian Women In Timber works closely with allies and partners such as the Interior Logging Association and other industry associations and forest companies to promote forest education.

Members attend and display educational material at various public venues and forestry-related forums and volunteer their time to help other forest allies.

From P 5

General manager John Halkett said ATIF had joined with international trade associations and other interests to make representations to the Indonesian government. This had included a letter from ATIF chairman Nils Koren to the Indonesian ambassador in Australia Kristiarto Legowo.

Mr Koren said the Australian timber industry strongly opposed the removal, or any relaxation, of the SVLK legality assurance scheme.

"Abolishing SVLK

certification would have made it very challenging for Australian timber importers to continue to have confidence in Indonesian timber exporters," he said.

"ATIF holds the view that the SVLK scheme has worked well to date and greatly assists timber importers to complete their mandatory due diligence requirements under illegal logging legislation.

"Any moves to reduce the confidence Australian timber importers have in the legally-sourcing credentials of Indonesian timber would be a very serious backward step."

Following a series of meetings with relevant ministries, lobbying from international trade bodies and other relevant stakeholders, SVLK conditions will continue as a mandatory requirement for exporting forestry industry products.

ATIF maintains an ongoing dialogue with Indonesian timber industry associations and will be visiting Jakarta

**“ATIF TO MAINTAIN ONGOING DIALOGUE**

again for follow-up and ongoing discussions with timber trade groups when travel between the two countries is again possible.

Today, 100% of timber from both natural forest concessions and plantation forest concessions are SVLK certified, although a small amount of timber from illegally logged areas still enters the supply chain.

The SVLK system also helps improve the reputation of Indonesian timber, for decades widely considered illegal.

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## JUNE

**11: Innovation in Action Conference – Wellington, NZ.** Virtual conference online. Register interest at [www.colabprefabnz.com](http://www.colabprefabnz.com)

## SEPTEMBER

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

For further information see: [www.danaevents.co.nz/2020gisborne/](http://www.danaevents.co.nz/2020gisborne/) or contact Julie Bell [admin@dana.co.nz](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz)

## OCTOBER

**21st Australian Timber Design Awards – Sydney, NSW, Australia (date and venue to be advised).** Entries close June 1. Voting for the People's Choice Award is open from August to September.

Visit the new awards website for information and registration instructions. [www.timberdesignawards.com.au](http://www.timberdesignawards.com.au)

**30: Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards POSTPONED – Barn Palais, Mount Gambier, SA, Australia.** Nominations open 1 June 2020 and close 14 August 2020. For more information visit:

[www.gttia.com/](http://www.gttia.com/)

## MARCH 2021

**17-19: Doing Timber Business in Queensland – Hotel Marriott and Howard Smith Wharves, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.** State conference, workshops, innovation tour and gala dinner organised by Timber Queensland. Visit [www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com](http://www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com)

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## SEPTEMBER

**27-30: Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting – POSTPONED.** Visit [www.cofe.org](http://www.cofe.org) for update.

## OCTOBER

**21-23: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Annual Conference – Vancouver, BC, Canada.** The 2020 SFI Annual Conference will be focused on how forests can make a difference when it comes to so many of the most important sustainability challenges faced in the forest sector and communities. For additional information see: [sficonference.org](http://sficonference.org)

## NOVEMBER

**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](mailto:admin@dana.co.nz)

## DECEMBER


**7-9: 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 December 7 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](http://www.fba-events.com) or contact [karolina@forest-analytics.com](mailto:karolina@forest-analytics.com)

## JANUARY 2021

**11-14 : 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)



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# Back-door ‘Trojan horse’ Bill is ready to be shovelled through NZ parliament

DENNIS NEILSON

FOR almost three years Shane Jones (who holds the bizarre title of Minister of Forests) has been obsessively trying to get New Zealand log exports banned, tariffed and taxed to artificially support often-failing sawmills.

He has been repeatedly rebuffed by his colleagues because such restrictions would contravene the rules of the World Trade Organisation – and the NZ-China Free Trade Agreement.

However, it appears Mr Jones has finally stumbled upon a scheme to put the log export brakes on via the back door. In fact it is not even a back door. It is more like a Trojan horse.

Last Wednesday evening (the day the New Zealand budget was presented to parliament and debated), the Minister introduced a Bill under “super-urgency”. The title itself is benign, but its intentions are anything but. It is called The Forests (Regulation of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill.

Interested parties have been given only four working days to provide submissions to a (again bizarrely-chosen) environmental committee, which has nothing to do with either forestry advisers or log traders. Then it will return to the House to be rammed through into law under super-urgency.

The Bill itself is so bereft of any meaningful clauses that none of its three major drafters were able to answer



*A sorry Act... tied up in red tape.*

any fundamental questions put to them by industry leaders at a meeting last Friday. Instead, it will be later populated by ‘regulations’ which will added by decree – like governments do in Cuba and Venezuela.

The Bill intends to introduce regulations to require all ‘forest advisers’ and ‘log traders’ to become registered by the NZ Ministry of Primary Industries.

The Bill is entirely unnecessary. The NZ Institute of Forestry has for decades managed a registration board which vigorously regulates and administers member registration. In addition, there are a plethora of existing laws which hold any wayward forestry adviser or log trader to account, including prosecution by the police or customs for any unlawful activity, and for injured parties to take legal action.

Indeed, small, medium and large forest owners have more choices to

seek professional and competent forestry advice and have more options and opportunities to contract with domestic and export log traders than in any other country on the planet.

What the Bill excludes is the requirement for wood processing advisers or processed wood traders to be registered, which would be much more relevant.

**“THIS BILL IS ENTIRELY UNNECESSARY”**

Most of the failures of 55 sawmills in New Zealand from late 2003 until February 2020 have been the result of bad internal and external advice given to sawmill owners by several incompetent internal and external wood processing consultants.

Most NZ forest industry leaders already see it for what it is: a ‘Trojan Horse’ Bill and then an Act to

achieve the minister’s failed objectives by stealth – that will be to tie up forestry advisers and log traders with so much red tape, delays and expense, that no forest owner will likely be able to have the opportunity to enjoy log export returns ever again.

In fact, we would not be surprised that if any newly registered forestry advisers even mention the word ‘China’ to their clients; they would be deregistered on the spot.

If and when it is passed, this deceitful Bill will go down in the annals of New Zealand democracy as the day the New Zealand government formally adopted nationalisation of private property as its official policy.

However, like all bills pushed through the House under super-urgency, this one is very poorly drafted, and if passed into law, may yet turn to bite the very hands Minister Jones wants to keep on life-support: failing New Zealand sawmills.



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# SFM wins major contract to manage radiata plantation estate in Tasmania

## Resource supports Boyer mill, Derwent Valley and wider southern community

TASMANIAN-owned and operated company SFM has been appointed by New Forests to manage the timber plantation assets purchased from Norske Skog after a competitive tender process.

Now to be called Lenah Estate Pty Ltd, the Tasmanian plantations were bought by Australian-based international forestry investor New Forests on behalf of its Australia New Zealand Forest Fund 3 (ANZFF3) from Norske Skog in February.

"We are delighted to win this contract to manage such an extensive and quality resource that supports the Boyer mill, the Derwent Valley and wider southern Tasmanian community and local farmers," SFM managing director Andrew Morgan said.

"SFM has a strong track record in plantation management, with multiple management contracts interstate, so to be successful in our home state is very gratifying," Mr Morgan said.



**Managing and extensive and quality resource... SFM managing director Andrew Morgan (left) with SFM director David Wise.**

The Lenah Estate land area under management by SFM is about 27,150 ha across south-central Tasmania, predominantly the Derwent Valley. It includes 50 joint venture plantation projects with private landowners and Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

Some 18,000 ha or 97.5% of the 18,500 plantable hectares is radiata softwood plantations. Around 350,000-400,000 tonnes will be harvested annually, with the

majority going to the Norske Skog Boyer mill. Lenah Estate will replant 500-1000 ha a year.

SFM will open an office in New Norfolk employing a core team of eight full-time employees, supported by the broader SFM business with more than 20 FTE employees and more than 100 FTE sub-contracted truck drivers, plant operators and support services.



"In a competitive field of property manager proponents,

New Forests considered SFM's proposal attractive for its commitment to local staffing, its technical capacity and its local knowledge," director of operations Matt Crapp said.

"New Forests looks forward to working with SFM on the long-term management of the Lenah Estate, including its ongoing supply to the Boyer Mill and our shared intentions that the estate maintains third-party forest management certification," he said.

"New Forests aspires to build on the positive relationship that Norske Skog has had with its contractors, joint venture landowners and the general community. We see opportunities for continued investment in this significant plantation asset."

**On the cover: SFM managing director Andrew Morgan (left) with Sarah Courtney, Tasmania's Minister for Strategic Growth and Small Business, and Tasmanian Liberals Dean Young and Nic Street, MP, during a visit last year to SFM's Hobart Port log export operations.**

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# TABMA ... still going strong at 80

THE Timber and Building Material Association (TABMA) has turned 80.

Eight decades ... a remarkable milestone for a national trade association in any industry.

Chief executive David Little reports that TABMA was set to have a big celebration this year. However, all planned celebratory events have been deferred due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The postponement includes our inaugural conference and the Queensland and NSW awards and gala dinners," he said. "But we will celebrate even bigger next year, with multiple anniversaries."

Not only did TABMA turn 80 in March this year, the association celebrated being in South Australia for 10 years,



**David Little ... bigger TABMA celebrations in 2021, with multiple anniversaries.**

and next year celebrates its 20th year in Queensland.

TABMA Australia has been a stand-out national timber industry association. Over the decades it has had a major influence on training of the timber industry's labour force

and the development of other advanced support services.

Mr Little advises that as well as celebrating TABMA next year, "we want to celebrate the people who make the industry – industry legends, our star trainees and

apprentices, and our future leaders."

He invites industry participants to start thinking about who might be nominated for these awards.

"We would also like to call upon our members for any stories of how TABMA has helped shape a particular employee's journey in our industry, or any old photos or stories that can be provided," Mr Little said.

"We have a rich history and this includes the TABMA Timber Tally, TABMA Association, our Trade Credit Bureau, Group Training and now our Registered Training Organisation."

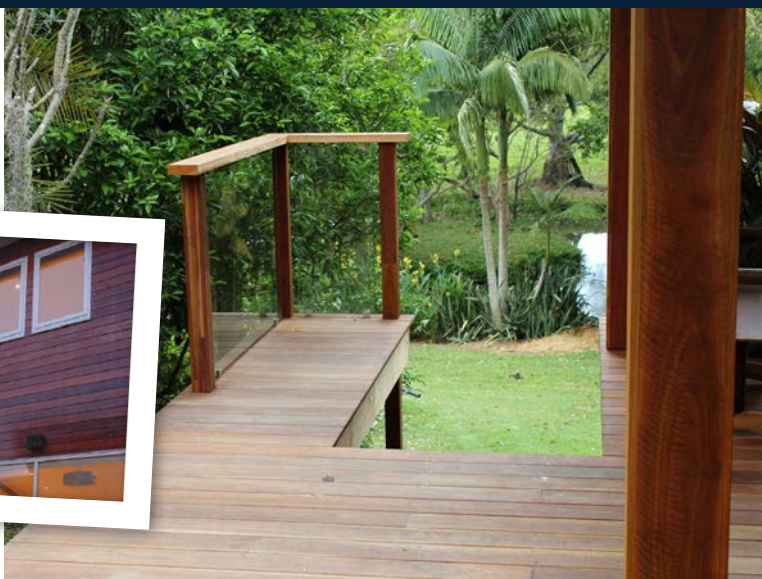
Nominations are open to TABMA members to submit an industry legend or a future star. Contact Alicia Oelkers at email: [alicia@tabma.com.au](mailto:alicia@tabma.com.au).

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# AFPA partners in Aussie-made campaign

THE Australian Made Campaign is partnering with the Australian Forest Products Association to support the growth of forest products industries.

Campaign chief executive Ben Lazzaro said the partnership was a timely one, as it supported the growth of one of Australia's most important manufacturing sectors.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, Australian renewable forest, wood and paper product manufacturers have been producing essential resources to keep

**SUPPORTING GROWTH OF FOREST INDUSTRIES**



Australia running," Lazzaro said.

"Forest products used include toilet paper, tissues, medical and sanitary products, the cardboard used for food and beverage packaging, and wooden pallets used for distribution operations.

"These manufacturers and forest growers are fundamental to our economic success. They create jobs and are often



**Ben Lazzaro... forest industries – one of Australia's most important manufacturing sectors.**

leaders of innovation, creating essential Aussie products that are both renewable and of the highest quality, sought after here and overseas."

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said: "Australia's forest products industries are exactly that – Australian. "They use timber harvested

sustainably from native and plantation forests and use that to manufacture renewable products using local workforces, many of which are based in regional areas."

The forest products industry is a one of Australia's largest manufacturing industries, with an annual turnover of around \$25 billion, and employs nearly 200,000 people both directly and indirectly.

"The third-party accreditation system ensures products that carry the logo are certified as 'authentically Australian'.

[Responsible Wood, the governing body for PEFC in Australia, joined the Australian Made Campaign in 2017].

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# CCA analysis in seconds: X-Ray device triggers an evolution in timber treatment

## The answer to faster wood analysis is in palm of your hand

JUST before COVID-19 became something to be worried about, Jeff Morrell from the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life and I had a play with an instrument that has the potential to revolutionise the in-plant management of timber treatment plants.

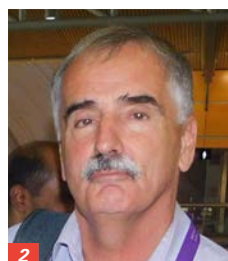
I'm talking about plants that use copper chrome arsenic (CCA), copper in ACQ or copper azole and tin tracers in light organic solvent wood preservatives.

The instrument is a hand-held X-Ray machine, which can carry out a full copper, chromium and arsenic analysis in seconds.

It's also very easy to use – you place the detector lens on the piece of wood and pull the trigger. The measurements were made using a Hitachi X-Met 8000 X-R fluorescence analyser (NewSpec Pty Ltd, Myrtle Bank, South Australia).

The device was calibrated for soil analysis and was able to analyse around 10 mm squares of surface area at a time.

The time taken to carry out an analysis on a treated



1/ *The Hitachi X-Met 8000 analyser... preservative distribution along the length of boards was relatively uniform.*

2/ *Jeff Morrell... successful testing of X-Ray analyser.*

wood product is a major hurdle in managing quality in a timber treatment plant. This instrument fixes that problem.

While the instrument is not cheap, back-of-the-envelope calculations indicate the instrument's costs can be recovered in less than three years if you analyse five CCA samples a month, and less than a year if you do 20 analyses a month.

The instrument needs to be registered with the State Health Department and users need to be trained, which usually can be done in less than a day.

TPAA technical committee meeting, we were told that wrongly using the instrument under the worst conditions for one hour a day over a year is the same as having two chest X-Rays and the dosage is 10 times lower than minimal acceptable X-Ray radiation.

Jeff and I carried out tests on three untreated control boards and 17 CCA-treated boards, treated in the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries experimental timber treatment plant at Salisbury in Brisbane. Test boards were 90 x 35 x 2400 mm. Unfortunately, we did too good a job with the treatment – the 17 boards averaged 0.53% CCA instead of the target 0.38%.

A comparison between net uptake and X-Ray-determined retentions suggested the X-Ray produced consistently lower retention values although the differences were sometimes slight. Admittedly, if the instrument is calibrated for wood rather than soil, the results could have been closer.

We cut seven 30 mm slices along each treated board and then used the hand-held X-Ray to measure CCA concentration across each slice. We did hundreds of determinations in an afternoon's work. We also

*Cont P 14*

### JACK'S RANT



**With JACK NORTON**  
Secretary, TPAA

What about safety? I hear you ask. It is after all an X-Ray machine. During a demonstration at the last

**“PORTABLE  
UNIT IS  
EASY TO USE**

# CHH shuts door on LVL supply to Oz

AUSTRALIAN wood processors will be hit hard by a Carter Holt Harvey decision to end exports of LVL, leaving a possible 70,000 cub m hole in supply.

CHH is the biggest supplier of LVL to Australia, and processors face a six-month shortage of the product while they search for alternative suppliers.

About 160 jobs are at risk after CHH proposed a restructure of its LVL business in Marsden Point.

This comes after the company decided to close its Whangārei mill in February, culling more than 110 jobs after consultation in January.

CHH chief executive Praful Kesha said the proposed restructure intended to end the LVL export business and refocus it to domestic operation.

"The proposal reflects our serious concern that the export part of the LVL



*End of the line... CHH closes export of LVL.*

business, which accounts for about 70% of our production and sales volume, is unprofitable and the business as it operates today can't continue," Mr Kesha said.

The LVL line had 325 workers, and it is understood about half were expected to be impacted by redundancies.

CHH said in a statement the sawmill's production would be replaced by its Kawerau and Nelson sawmills.

The decision had been made reluctantly, but the

sawmill had been facing log shortages for some time and the company's analysis was that "it's only going to get worse".

A company spokesman said the restructure was not a direct result of COVID-19. However, the pandemic had impacted the business.

Mr Kesha said Carter

Holt Harvey had started its consultation process with staff and was working closely with the union.

The Whangārei mill closure was disappointing and a "double-whammy" for the industry which was already under stress from coronavirus, Northern Amalgamated Workers Union secretary Maurice Davis said.

National MP for Whangārei Shane Reti said he would speak to CHH management to see what it was doing to save jobs.

**“HALF MILL'S  
WORKFORCE  
AFFECTED**

## Governments must develop covid action plan for building sector

THE commercial construction sector is facing a devastating downturn due to the impact of COVID-19 unless governments act to provide stimulus.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said commercial construction activity was forecast to severely decline.

"Compared to previous forecasts, we now expect commercial building activity to be 15.7% lower in 2020-21 and 11.5% lower in 2021/22," she said.

Some 43% of all projects cost more than \$50 million, 24% are under \$50 million and the cost of 33% of the

projects was unknown.

Master Builders is calling on the national cabinet to urgently develop a COVID-19 action plan for the building and construction industry, including measures to address the looming devastation to the forward pipeline in commercial construction.

"The lockdown has obliterated private sector demand in the economy and a gradual easing of restrictions is not going to replace that demand, so governments need to act," she said.

"The impact on the commercial construction sector (as well as residential

construction) is severe because the majority of projects are not publicly funded.

Mrs Wawn said there were 459 projects in Master Builders' reports on the current pipeline of potential

commercial building projects in Australia.

Most of these projects, 314 (68%) are private sector funded projects, 108 (23%) are public sector projects and 37 (8%) are public private partnerships.

*From P 13*

tested scan times between five and 20 seconds.

Overall, we were interested in determining the variability and reproducibility across, along, and between boards.

The portable X-Ray was very easy to use and provided reproducible results

on repeated analyses of the same sample. The device appeared to be sensitive to moisture content and more work needs to be done on this factor. The results also showed that preservative distribution along the length of the boards was relatively uniform.

All in all, it is a great piece of kit!



# The Great Escape from Camp Covid

SATURDAY, May 16 – and we planned The Great Escape from COVID-19.

Queensland's Step 1 allowances included a 150-km day trip, eating at restaurants and pubs, (max. 10 people) – and the opening of nail salons.

Checking that our cuticles were OK, we chartered a course for a food venue on the Darling Downs – an elegant little Korean restaurant at Kearneys Spring, about 110 km from Brisbane. What a most appropriate place to deliberate on the delights of our carriage, the new two-tone

Hyundai Venue Elite, while tucking into glazed duck strips, tempura prawn salad and kimchi, a side dish of mince and salted and fermented vegetables garnished with spring onions, garlic and ginger, topped off with a clear rice wine.

Most sorry, Vegans! But we are sure Chung Eui-sun, the South Korean billionaire and CEO of Hyundai Motor Company in Seoul, would be impressed.

Hyundai, by the way, was the first global car manufacturer to halt



1/ A taste of Korea... the 2020 Hyundai Venue Elite.



2/ The Great Escape... Steve McQueen shows us how to get over the coronavirus fence on a Triumph TR6 Trophy motorcycle, which began production in 1956, but was used in the 1963 movie disguised as a World War 2-era BMW R75.

production outside China after COVID-19 lockdowns prevented delivery of parts.

The 2020 Venue is Hyundai's most affordable car starting from \$19,990 for the entry Go model up to the top-spec Elite at \$25,490 (before on-road costs) and is a new runner in the small SUV segment.

The Venue Elite slots in neatly below the slightly larger Kona and features a suite of extras such as autonomous emergency braking, blind-spot warning, rear cross-traffic alert, cruise control, 8 in. built-in satellite navigation system

with Android Auto/Apple CarPlay, climate adjustment, LED tail lights and 17 in. alloy wheels.

The Venue's uniquely boxy design style emerges organically from a wide range of inspirations. All versions are front-wheel drive and powered by a 1.6-litre naturally aspirated four-cylinder engine with outputs at 90kW and 151Nm. An intriguing 'extra' is a mode dial which caters for

**“HYUNDAI'S MOST AFFORDABLE CAR**

conditions such as snow, mud and sand and modifies the traction control's behaviour to cater for surfaces other than tarmac ... a little more grippy when you venture onto loose and shifting driving conditions.

Hyundai's forward collision avoidance system has a windshield-mounted camera to detect if you are getting too close to the car in front. It can also pick up wayward pedestrians moving in front and will automatically apply the brakes in the case of a potential collision.

The seats were supportive – thick side bolsters – with part-leather fabric trim that, with the two-tone cream and charcoal blue body, added to the overall glamour look.

The Venue promises to be a 'best-of-both-worlds' proposition, combining the low running costs and manoeuvrability of a light hatchback with the high-driving position and rugged styling of an SUV.

The numbers: Price \$25,490; engine 1.6-litre four-cylinder petrol; outputs 90kW/151Nm; transmission; six-speed automatic, FWD; fuel economy 7.2L/100 km. Hyundai's extended new seven-year warranty applies to all Venue models.

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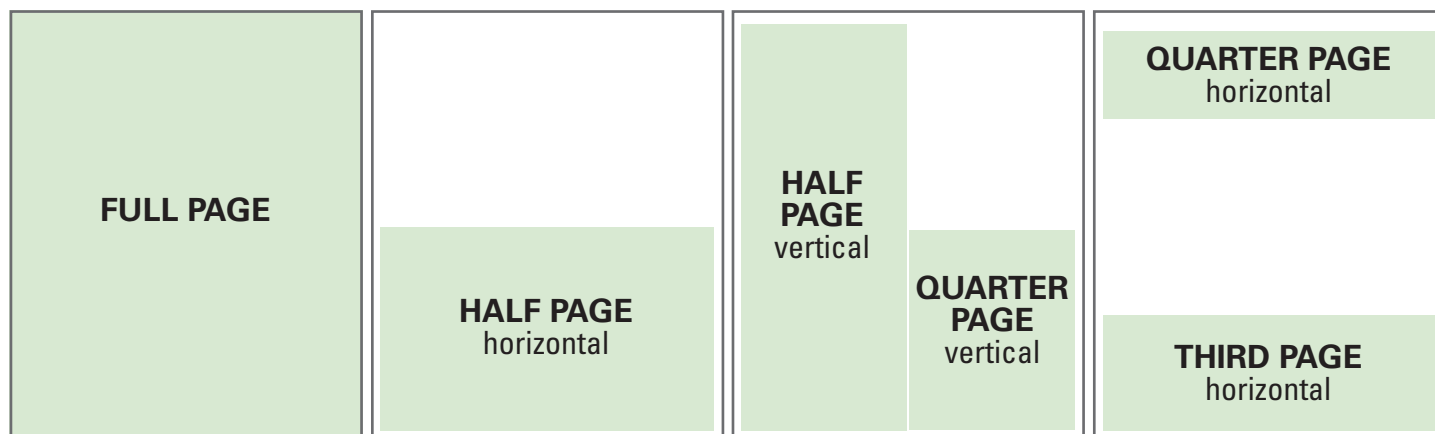
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Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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**PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking**

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