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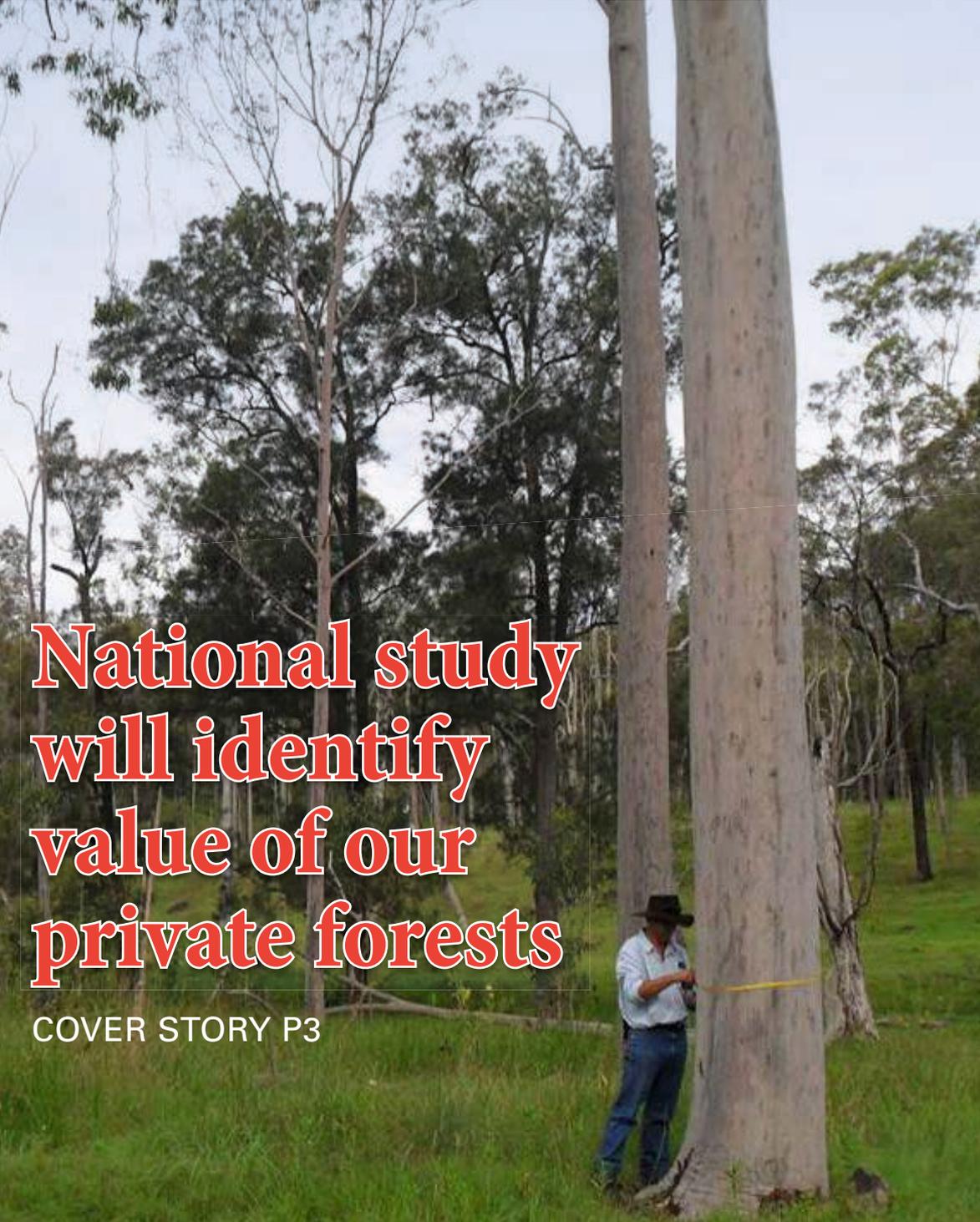


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National study will identify value of our private forests

COVER STORY P3



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\$2.2m investment in forestry hubs a clear recognition of growth potential

Region could potentially treble its production value by up to \$300m a year

THE Queensland forestry industry is being boosted by a \$2.2 million federal government investment in regional forestry hubs.

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries Senator Jonno Duniam said establishing two new forestry hubs in southeast and northern Queensland would drive new investment in the sector and create new jobs.

“The two new hubs will not only improve the productivity and efficiency of the Queensland forestry industry, they will lead to new opportunities for investment and job creation which is vital to supporting each region and our regional economy,” Mr Duniam said.

“All industry stakeholders, including local communities, growers, harvesting and transport operators and mills, will be working together to unlock new opportunities for the sector and I am delighted we are partnering with Timber Queensland to deliver these hubs.



Jonno Duniam... hubs will drive new investment in the sector.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said this was a clear recognition of the industry’s growth potential in the state.

“The Queensland forest and timber industry contributes billions of dollars to the economy each year and supports 25,000 direct and indirect jobs,” Mr Stephens said.

“There is already a well-established industry in southeast Queensland with a diversity of softwood and hardwood processing and value-adding operations,



Mick Stephens... opportunity to grow a sizeable timber industry.

while in north Queensland, there is the opportunity to develop and grow a sizeable timber industry.”

Timber Queensland will be working to establish a regional advisory committee for each hub over the next few months and will be advertising to recruit regional coordinators to work with local industry

and stakeholders to identify priorities and projects that can support industry growth.

Federal funding of \$1.1 million (GST inclusive) will be available for each hub through to mid-2022 and these funds will be used to leverage key priority needs and projects.

Mick Stephens said the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia study into the Top End forest products industry found the region could potentially treble its production value to up to \$300 million a year and create 600 new jobs over the next five to 10 years.

“We believe the north Queensland hub will be an important mechanism to assist in realising the identified growth potential of the industry,” he said.

“It is important that the sector continues to grow, not just for the employment and wealth generation it offers, but also because of the high order environmental outcomes that wood provides.”

“ APPOINTING REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES



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National study will identify value of private, indigenous managed forests

Strategic coordination to support regional economic opportunities

A NATIONAL study will identify the wood resource characteristics of private forest estates (private native forests and farm forests) and indigenous managed forests suitable for commercial uses.

Led by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), the study supports the National Forest Industries Plan 2019-20 and 2020-21: Growing a Better Australia – A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth.

The study will enable strategic coordination to support regional economic opportunities for private forest owners and indigenous communities through the sustainable use of this under-utilised forest resource.

ABARES is seeking the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders including forest industry associations, farm forestry organisations and cooperatives, indigenous community bodies and individual landholders to assist with the identification of any available resource information that describes any of the three estates – private native forests, farm forests and indigenous managed forests.

Together, this information will inform the development of policies and industry initiatives to support landholders and regional communities, including indigenous communities, to become a vibrant and sustainable part of the Australian forestry industry



Claire Howell, National Forest Inventory, ABARES.



Dr Miah Daian... brings extensive background in wood technology.

with ABARES to ensure the study is as extensive as possible.

The ABARES contacts for the study are Claire Howell, National Forest Inventory, ABARES, who holds a Bachelor of Forest Science (University of Melbourne), and Dr Mihai Daian, who holds a PhD in engineering from Swinburne University of Technology, and has

and processing sectors.

Commercial plantation information is not being sought as these data are already collected through the National Plantation Inventory.

It is acknowledged that the summer bushfires of 2019-20 affected large areas of forests in many parts of Australia, with the impact continuing to be felt by regional communities.

existing information relevant to private native forests, farm forestry and indigenous forests.

A number of forestry consultants are working

holds a PhD in engineering from Swinburne University of Technology, and has

Cont P 4

“ INVITING THE SUPPORT OF ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS ”

An outcome of the ABARES private forest study is to support the development of economic opportunities in regional Australia.

The information sought for the study includes current and historical datasets and maps, reports and studies from state government databases, private industry, forest owners and managers, associations and forestry experts, and any other

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

professional experience in international development projects gained at the University of Melbourne.

“ENSURING STUDY IS AS EXTENSIVE AS POSSIBLE

Both are keen to hear from anyone who has, or knows of, any resource information for areas of private native forests, farm forestry or indigenous forests, or is interested more generally in the project.

Contact Dr Mihai via email



ABARES study embraces trials that include red mahogany (*Eucalyptus pellita*), a medium to tall tree species endemic to north-eastern Queensland.

Photo: Steve Read

on mihai.daian@awe.gov.au or phone 0431 660 887.

Prior to join the University of Melbourne, Mihai obtained a PhD degree in engineering from Swinburne University of Technology where he dealt with the development of novel microwave-wood technologies. This research was part of the Cooperative Research Centre for Wood Innovations program. Mihai holds a Masters in Economics and Management Sciences and a Bachelor of Wood Technology.

On the cover: Private Forestry South Queensland forest officer Bill Schulke measures spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*) in Queensland's Wide Bay region.

Forests secretary to promote mass timber in BC buildings

THE British Columbia government has appointed its Parliamentary Secretary

for Forests, Lands and Natural Resources to lead the expansion and use of mass

timber in buildings.

“As our economy bounces back from the COVID-19 crisis, we want to do everything we can to support forest workers,” said Premier John Horgan after the appointment of Ravi Kahlon.

“By focusing on mass timber, we have an opportunity to transition the forestry sector to high-value over high-volume production,” Mr Horgan said. “This will mean opportunities for local workers, strong partnerships with First Nations and greater economic opportunity while making a significant contribution to advancing CleanBC.”

Last year, government announced its intention to encourage the increased use of mass timber building products in its capital construction programs.

“These are high-value wood products that are shining examples of our government’s commitment to create jobs using our publicly-owned natural resources,” said Doug Donaldson, the

Minister of Forests.

In mass timber buildings, the primary load-bearing structure is made of solid or engineered wood. These buildings can be one-fifth the weight of comparable concrete buildings, while still meeting performance standards for safety, structural resilience and fire protection.

As part of Kahlon’s new mandate, he will engage with local governments, industry and the construction sector. He will also work with Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and a new assistant deputy minister of mass timber implementation.

“Mass timber is key to diversifying and creating a more resilient forest sector,” says Kahlon. “I look forward to working with my government colleagues, COFI and the forest industry, construction sector and local governments to promote ‘Made-in-B.C.’ wood products and their use in our public and private sector buildings.”

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Buy Aussie Timber First campaign to support local manufacturing jobs

THE Australian Forest Products Association has launch a new campaign – ‘Buy Aussie Timber First’ – which will communicate and promote the many benefits of using renewable, locally-made timber framing products.

CEO Ross Hampton said COVID-19 had caused a significant forecast drop in new homes and associated renewable timber framing product demand, which had put immense pressure on timber product manufacturing jobs and people’s livelihoods.

“Those of us involved in the renewable timber industry have understood for a long time how incredible our home-grown timber is, and the positive environmental and socio-economic impacts it has,” Mr Hampton said.

“The new campaign highlights the benefits of

“ WEBSITE GIVES MANY LINKS TO WHY AUSSIE WOOD IS BEST



Buy Aussie Timber First... many benefits in using renewable, locally-made timber framing.

buying Aussie timber framing, reaching out across our supply chain partners to fabricators, builders and consumers.”

The ‘Buy Aussie Timber First’ messaging is linked to the successful ‘Timber Framing – The Ultimate Renewable’ campaign but focuses on why buying Aussie timber framing at this crucial time is so important to support manufacturing jobs and the supply-chain’s post



pandemic recovery.

The centrepiece of the campaign is a ‘Buy Aussie Timber First’ website with testimonials from timber workers, and includes the opportunity to upload a photo and share your support.

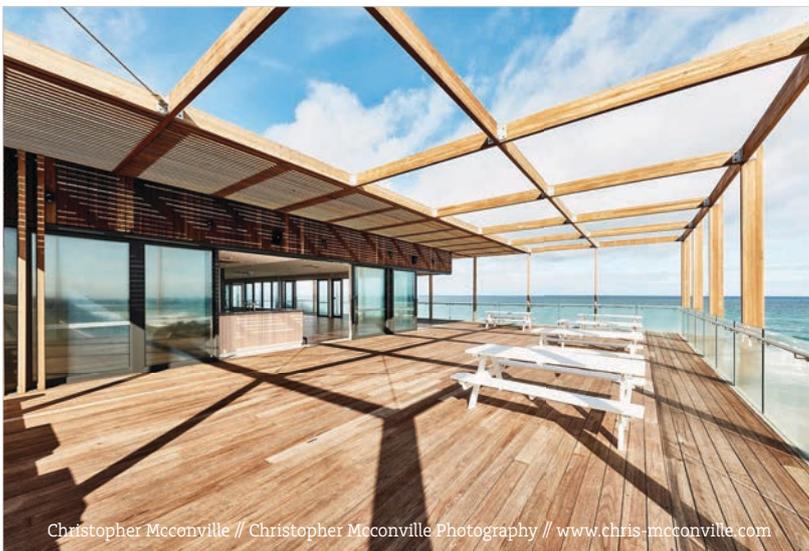
There are also links to the many reasons why renewable Aussie timber framing

should be chosen, which include supporting local manufacturing jobs and communities; durable and treated against termites; renewable and responsibly sourced; and storing carbon ... just to name a few.

“Aussie timber is a proven and popular renewable framing material that provides comfort and security for hundreds of thousands of Australian homes. When Aussie timber framing

is manufactured today it’s replanted for tomorrow, supporting a whole supply chain of jobs and communities. That’s why it’s the ultimate framing material,” Mr Hampton concluded.

More information on ‘Buy Aussie Timber First’ can be found at www.buyaussietimberfirst.com.au



Christopher Mcconville // Christopher Mcconville Photography // www.chris-mcconville.com

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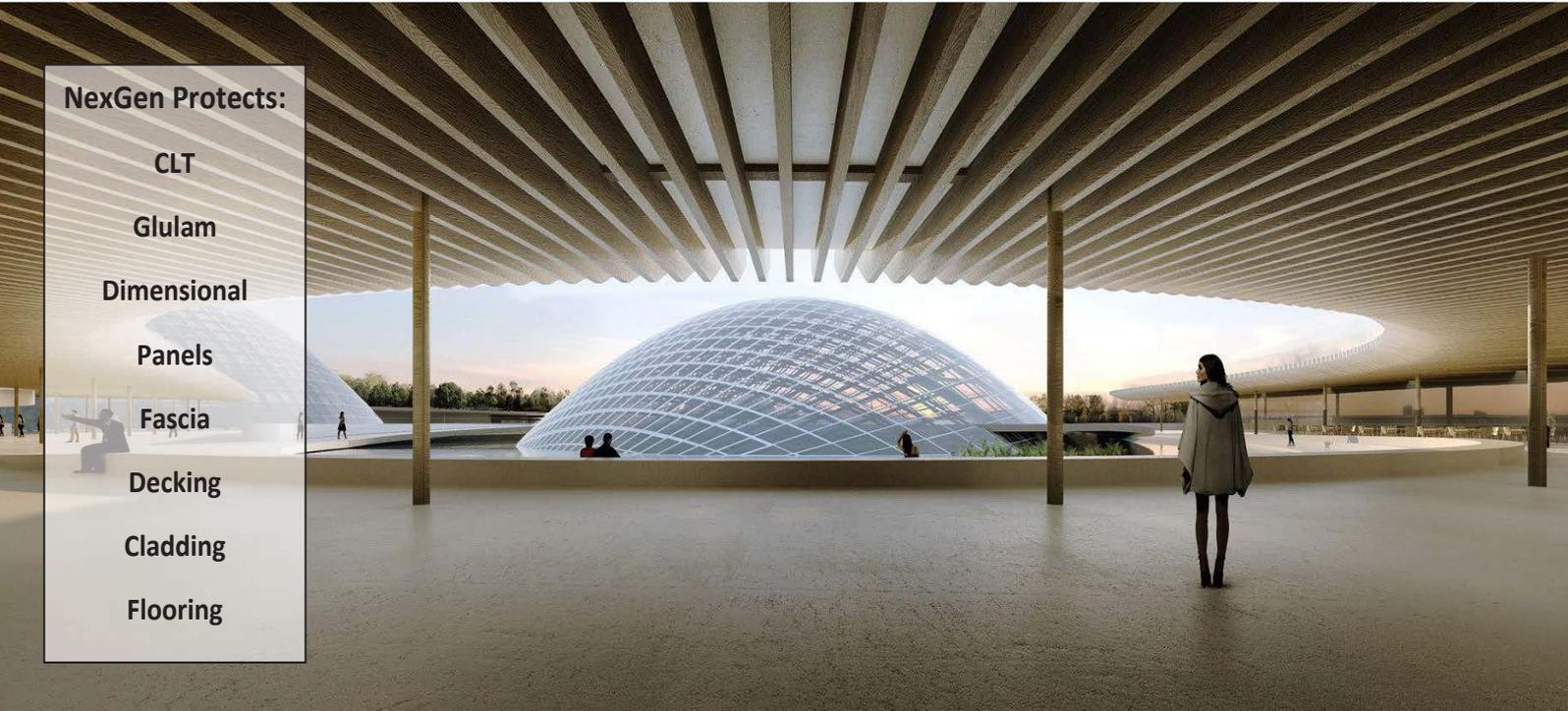
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Competitive Analysis:

	NexGen	Frame Guard	Smart Guard	CBR	Borate P.T.	Standard P.T.
Fire Resistance (Class A) With 3rd Party Warranty	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Mould Resistance With 3rd Party Warranty	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Rot Resistance With 3rd Party Warranty	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Resists All Wood-Boring Insects With 3rd Party Warranty	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Warranty is for 30 or 50 Years	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Eco-Friendly & Non-Toxic	✓	No	No	Yes	No	No
Interior & Exterior Use	✓	No	No	No	No	No
Topical Application (no pressurization)	✓	No	No	Yes	No	No
Air Dried (no kiln drying)	✓	No	No	Yes	No	No
Non-Leaching Product	✓	No	No	No	No	No

Only a single coat is required to get this incredible protection, and it can be applied either on the jobsite by brush, roller, or sprayer, or at a coating facility using a flood coating machine.

Best of all, NexGen coatings are amazingly inexpensive as all this protection can cost as little as 5 cents per square foot of coated area!

NexGen coatings come either perfectly clear (you can't see, smell, or feel the coating once it has cured to the wood's surface), or it can be custom tinted at no additional cost.



Application:
Roll/Brush/Spray/
Flood Coat/Dip



Mixing:
Add NGDI To
Water, Then Add
NG Concentrate



Coverage:
~300 ft2 /
Gallon of RTU
Material



Cure Time:
1 - 3 Hours



Clean Up:
Water ONLY
Do Not Use Solvents

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/ or contact Julie Bell 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

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/

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

EVENTS LISTS MAY HAVE BEEN, OR ARE LIKELY TO BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS TRAVEL, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES.

SEPTEMBER

27-30: Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting – POSTPONED. Visit 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

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

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 or contact 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/

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

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Lack of hazard reduction blamed for density of 2019-20 summer bushfires

Communications failed catastrophically: Rural Fire Service claim

AMONG countless harrowing stories of survival and heartbreaking recovery during the 2019-20 bushfires, the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements in Canberra this week listened to the frustrated voices of the Black Summer heroes – volunteer firefighters from across the country.

Incendiary debates centred on whether a lack of prescribed burning had contributed to the fires, which burnt more than 18 million ha across Australia.

Steve Read, acting assistant secretary at ABARES, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, confirmed the summer bushfires in eastern Australia burnt 10.3 million ha of land, of which 8.5 million ha was forests.

The commission presented more than 1000 submissions authored by members of the public.

In an emotional joint statement, Rural Fire Service Snowy River brigade captains David Fletcher and Simon King said a lack of hazard reduction created



Experts agree... fuel reduction reduces intensity of bushfires.

high fuel loads and more intense fires.

“A lack of hazard reduction burning across all land tenures resulted in high fuel loads, increasing fire intensity and making firefighting efforts more difficult,” they said.

It was exacerbated by a severe lack of well-kept fire trails and delays caused by

“SEVERE LACK OF WELL-KEPT FIRE TRAILS

“problems with permission to work in national park land”, they said.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife, however, consistently says it is increasing the amount of hazard reduction. In five years they conducted 1000 burns across 635,000 ha of bushland, according to their website.

The director of fire safety and training at private company Fire Support NSW Timothy Wainwright said both the NSW RFS and Fire and Rescue NSW were too restrictive in how they

issued permits for fires and hazard reduction burns.

“Fire permits are very difficult to obtain and are usually highly restricted and restrictive,” he said.

“We are forced to provide 20 pages of prescribed burning plans for each simple burn.”

He called the systems of both agencies “unfair and unworkable”.

The commission’s own research paper that summarises studies of pre-emptive burns, grazing and vegetation clearing, found experts agree fuel reduction reduces

fire intensity, impacting also on homes and the natural environment.

“A large body of evidence suggests that altering and reducing the fuel load through prescribed burning can reduce fire intensity,” the paper says.

Experts were divided, however, on whether the fuel load or the weather determine the behaviour or more extreme fires.

RFS captains Fletcher and King put the Black Summer’s

Cont P 9

From P 8

intensity down to other factors as well – such as a hotter and drier climate. But they also pointed the finger at their own organisation.

The RFS Incident Management Team that took over the fight in their area, was “overwhelmed” by critical local knowledge that created “slow, frustrating and cumbersome experiences”.

Other brigades made similar criticisms.

Michael Roze of Bulga Plateau RFS said “communications failed catastrophically” when those sort of fires hit the mid-north coast in November.

That meant accurate communications from the RFS regional incident controller were “patchy” and “informed decisions could not be made”.

“The brigade was sent on goose chases when there were more immediate needs,” he said.

University of Tasmania Professor of Environmental Change Biology David Bowman said all fuel management approaches should be seen as “giant experiments that we're



1/ **Professor David Bowman... fuel treatment heavily depends on the environment.**

2/ **Tim Wainwright... forced to provide 20 pages of prescribed burning plans for each simple burn.**

still evaluating”.

“We can see benefits of fuel treatments, not only prescribed burning but also vegetation manipulation, and creating defensible space around houses in close proximity to where people live,” Professor Bowman said.

However, the outcomes heavily depended on the environment, he said.

“People should avoid

“REJECTING BLANKET HAZARD REDUCTION TARGETS



falling into the ‘trap’ of assuming fuel management meant prescribed burning,” Professor Bowman said.

“It could also mean thinning vegetation or creating defensible space near assets.”

Professor Bowman also shot down the idea of blanket hazard-reduction targets.

“Using simulation modelling in Tasmania, we're able to show that you get a much better benefit if you concentrate your fuel

management around where your assets are,” he said.

The commission also heard evidence of how unusual the 2019-20 summer fire season was.

The number of so-called “black swan” events where pyrocumulonimbus clouds developed during the fires, creating a fire storm, doubled last summer when compared to records stretching back more than 30 years.

The Royal Commission has released a background brief on land management and hazard reduction that looks at the effectiveness and benefits of mechanical fuel reduction in detail. It draws heavily from AFPA's publication 'Using fire and machines to better fire proof our country towns' and AFPA's submission to the commission.

CEO Ross Hampton will be before the commission today (Thursday) to discuss AFPA's submission in more detail. It will be streamed live on <https://webstreaming.lawinorder.com.au/rcnda> and is scheduled to start at 10 am.




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COVID-19 and climate change the ‘perfect storm’ for expanding forests

Planting billion of trees across US will generate thousands of jobs

AMERICAN forests offers a tree planting plan to tackle COVID-19 and climate change that Australia would do well to emulate to reignite tree planting and plantation expansion.

President and CEO of American Forests Jad Daley said that rarely in the history of the US had the country faced the challenge of simultaneously managing crises on the scale of COVID-19 and climate change.

“This perfect storm demands quick-start solutions that address both simultaneously,” he said.

Mr Daley suggested that one such solution was something political parties, as well as many corporations and non-profit organisations, supported – planting billions of trees across the country



US joins World Economic Forum’s one trillion tree planting initiative... US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump French President Emmanuel Macron participate in a tree planting in front of the White House.

to naturally capture carbon emissions while generating thousands of new jobs.

In January, President Trump announced the US would join a new global effort to plant and conserve a trillion trees by 2030. Congress has matched the president’s ambition with new legislative

proposals, such as the Trillion Trees Act, Reforestation Act of 2019 Climate Stewardship Act and TREES Act.

With more than 40 million Americans filing unemployment claims over recent weeks, this kind of federal leadership has an urgency not seen since the

Great Depression.

“In those dark times, American Forests worked with President Franklin Roosevelt to establish the Civilian Conservation Corps, which planted three billion trees and employed three

“ WE NEED TO TURN TREES INTO JOBS ”

Cont P 11



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From P 10

million Americans, primarily in our national forests," Mr Daley said.

"It's more apparent than ever that we, once again, need to turn trees into jobs."

Trees in America are already a powerful engine in the country's economy. There are more than 2.5 million workers in the forest sector, which accounts for 1.5% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Mr Daley has outlined a strategy to make trees an even more powerful economic engine. America has almost 9 million ha of public land in need of

reforestation, enough to employ hundreds of thousands of Americans planting six billion trees.

Removing the cap on the US Forest Service Reforestation Trust Fund would free up an additional \$90 million annually from existing tariff receipts that were originally set aside for reforestation.

This would employ almost 4000 people in rural communities to plant trees in national forests.

"Trees can clean the air and shade homes while delivering home owners more than \$7 billion in energy savings," Mr Daley said. "We can help cities and



Jad Daley... a plan to plant billions of trees across the US to naturally capture carbon emissions while generating thousands of new jobs.

small towns by providing federal matching grants for planting trees matched with pre-employment funding to help people impacted by COVID-19 job losses transition into urban forestry positions with city agencies and private tree care companies."

He added: "To reach reforestation goals, we need trees. But there are not nearly enough tree nurseries in America to meet rising demand for tree planting. We can solve this by creating more nurseries and nursery jobs. The nursery sector already employs almost 250,000 people. We can create thousands more jobs by granting federal funds to states, tribes and local governments to reopen and expand dormant nurseries and establish new ones.

"With the impact of COVID-19 job losses and climate change bearing down on us, this is the moment for America to be bold with our public investments and actions, just as we were during the Great Depression.

"The impact on America's people will be immediate, and the impact on our land, air and water will be lasting."

“MOMENT FOR AMERICA TO BE BOLD ON THE PUBLIC PURSE

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MPs move against interference in NZ grower-buyer log supply agreements

Fears government may use powers to set a volume quota or cap on prices

THE New Zealand forestry sector has had a small victory over its minister with parliament's environment committee limiting the potential for a new industry regulator to interfere in commercial agreements between growers and log buyers.

New legislation intended to establish a register of log traders and forestry advisers is heading back to parliament after being rushed through a truncated select committee process under Budget urgency.

Forestry Minister Shane Jones claimed the measures were required to improve

the quality of advice to small woodlot owners and improve the ability of local processors to compete against export log buyers.

One of the most contentious aspects of the Forests (Regulation of Log traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill was a clause that would allow a new forestry authority to set practice standards on everything from land preparation to harvest planning, emissions trading and even sales and purchase agreements for domestic or exports sales.

Many of the hundreds of submitters on the bill



Phil Taylor... bill has encouraged debate about the future of New Zealand forest sector.

had been concerned the government may use those powers to set a volume quota, or a cap on log prices, for domestic processing – potentially breaching World Trade Organisation rules.

In its report back to parliament, the committee has recommended an amendment spelling out that any such rules must not impose conditions or requirements that are "properly a matter for commercial agreement between parties".

That and other amendments make it "clear that price controls would not be able to be imposed by rules," the committee said in its majority report. "In light of this, the committee is confident that this bill is compliant with New Zealand's international obligations."

Forestry and wood processing comprise the country's third-largest export earner. But despite years of talk from successive governments, domestic processing capacity has not kept pace with the growing harvest profile. Older, smaller

mills have also closed as Chinese demand has pushed up log prices and 'big box' hardware chains have come to dominate domestic timber purchasing.

The committee heard that New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world that doesn't subsidise domestic sawmilling or allocate log volume to it. Greater volumes of European logs and wood products are also making their way into traditional markets in Australia, Asia and west coast USA.

While highly critical of the proposed legislation, Forest Owners Association president Phil Taylor said the bill had at least encouraged debate about the future of the NZ industry and the importance of local processing in that.

POTENTIAL TO BREACH WTO RULES

But he said that discussion had to be broader than just an argument about the costs of one input – logs.

For processing to develop there had to be greater demand, and the government's stalled 'wood-first' policy for public construction could be a big part of that.

Mr Taylor said there also needed to be greater examination of the type of products that could be produced in New Zealand and how to capture the most value from them, right across the supply chain.

Non-Executive Directors

Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited (FWPA) is seeking to appoint two Non-Executive Directors to its skills-based Board at their upcoming AGM. FWPA are seeking interest from individuals with skills in the following areas:

- Conservation and management of natural resources.
- R&D experience, innovation, technology transfer and commercialisation of R&D outcomes, particularly in respect of agricultural products.
- Commerce, including domestic and international market development, domestic and international trade.

Prospective Board members will be able to demonstrate strategic thinking and an understanding of financial statements at a director level. Previous Board experience and/ or AICD qualifications will be considered favourable. An independent Director Selection Committee will consider proposals for candidates and recommend to the FWPA Board persons for nomination for appointment as a Director. The Committee is required to ensure that candidates will result in a balanced, skills-based Board.

For more information, please contact Richard Evans at Talent Nation on +61 3 9600 0115, or via email revans@talentnation.com.au To submit your expression of interest including a covering letter outlining your interest in this position and a short summary of the areas you believe you can add most value to the FWPA Board please **apply here**.



Expressions close at 5.00pm on Friday, 10th July 2020.

NZ government backs wood investment

THE New Zealand government is backing the forest and wood-processing industry to play a major role in the country's economic recovery, with the launch of the Invest in Wood Processing prospectus to encourage wider local and offshore investment.

"The government is confident that the future of the forestry and wood-processing sector will be bright," Forestry Minister Shane Jones said.

"Our products are held in high regard internationally, and we want investors interested in being part of a sustainable high-value sector that helps support our goal to transition to a low-carbon economy."

Mr Jones said New Zealand

had an abundance of natural resources, access to growing markets around the world, and consistently ranked as one of the easiest countries in the world in which to do business.

The industry has faced some short-term challenges but the medium to long-term outlook is extremely positive as the sector embraces new technologies and looks to develop more high-value products.

"Products will be sold not only within New Zealand but to a much wider range of markets than our logs currently go to, reducing exchange rate risk and building market resilience," Mr Jones said.

"At present, more than 75% of wood from our



Shane Jones... developing more high-value products.

production forests is exported in different forms including logs, wood chips, sawn timber, engineered wood products and pulp and paper."

Mr Jones said the Log Traders Registration Bill which is currently before a select committee would introduce a compulsory registration system for forestry advisers

and log traders, help to lift professional standards, provide greater certainty for investors across the supply chain and ensure a more efficient market.

The release of the prospectus coincides with a new investment memorandum from Trust Tairawhiti, focused on wood-processing opportunities in the region. Due to its significant wood supply and ongoing expansion plans for regional wood-processing, the Tairawhiti region has been identified as one of the most attractive for investment.

The government has already invested \$19.5 million in the Tairawhiti region's Wood Processing Centre of Excellence through Trust Tairawhiti.



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Bushfire support key to Eden-Monaro

AN Eden-Monaro poll confirms bushfire recovery is a priority for voters, with 58% saying they are more likely to vote for a political party or candidate that stands for increased funding to help bushfire-affected communities.

The uComms poll of 800 voters across the electorate conducted on Tuesday night was commissioned by the Australian Forest Products Association to highlight the issues and priorities facing forest industries, which are the biggest employer in the region and were hit hard by the Black Summer bushfires.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the poll results showed that supporting the forest industries in Eden-Monaro hit hard by the bushfires was a vote-winner for the July 4

by-election.

Forest industries are the largest single employer in regional Eden-Monaro, with more than 5000 voters working in the sector and generating more than \$2 billion in annual economic activity.

“More than 58% of those surveyed said post-fire support would make them more likely to support a candidate,” Mr Hampton said.

“This is a very strong result and carries a compelling message for all parties.

“Forest industries in Eden-Monaro suffered devastating losses during the Black Summer.”

Mr Hampton said the federal government had made a welcome commitment of \$15 million to help transport



Dr Fiona Kotvojs Kristy McBain

burnt timber to mills before it was no longer usable ... “but clearly the community is expecting more.”

He said Eden-Monaro’s forest industries faced years of rebuilding and urgent replanting, and mills faced decades of reduced timber supply for which they would need government support to retool mills and source unburnt logs from further away.”

With three weeks until polling day, Labor’s Kristy McBain is ahead at 52%,

two-party preferred to the Liberals’ Dr Fiona Kotvojs on 48%.

Voters seem split on the effectiveness of the government’s \$688 million HomeBuilder stimulus package with 48% believing it will be effective in stimulating the housing construction sector, while 43% don’t think it will be effective.

Mr Hampton said there were clear messages for the parties in these poll results. AFPA will help forest industries in Eden-Monaro through this difficult time.

Candidates will be briefed on an industry requests document, starting with Liberal candidate Fiona Kotvojs at a roundtable in Tumut with industry leaders today (Thursday).

2020 ASIA PACIFIC WOODCHIP TRADE REVIEW

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Sophisticated, practical: Exceed makes the cut in Mitsubishi's diamond pledge

CAN I use cash to pay for a new electric car? No, you have to charge it.

Oh, why did I give these two guys a lift?

The guff started as we took off in Mitsubishi's new Outlander Exceed PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) to inspect a renovated Old Queenslander in South Brisbane.

And exceed it does – a ground breaking vehicle that brings together the superior environmental performance and quietness of an electric vehicle, the stability and handling of an AWD and the every-day practicalities and safety of an SUV.

Sophisticated yet practical, Mitsubishi – one of the largest Japanese industrial groups and celebrating more than a century of making automobiles – has produced the ultimate in intelligent motion, taking it to the next generation of hybrid and electric motors.

The Outlander PHEV switches seamlessly between three drive modes to get the most efficient performance from its twin electric motors and highly



Mitsubishi Exceed... three drive modes for efficient performance.

efficient petrol engine.

Separately-mounted at the front and rear axles, they deliver incredible responsive AWD performance for driving stability and intuitive, linear handling.

The Exceed's battery is stored under the floor to maximise interior space and lower the centre of gravity for better safety and handling. The seats can be folded down to make extra room while storage space beneath the generous cargo area floor conceals the charging cable.

The Outlander switches seamlessly between three drive modes to get the most efficient performance from

its twin electric motors and highly efficient petrol engine.

The front electric motor is the same as before (60 kW/137 Nm), while the rear electric motor has had a mild boost to 70 kW/195 Nm. It still takes seven hours to charge the Outlander from empty on a household power socket, or 25 minutes to 80% of its capacity when using a DC charger.

The fuel tank holds 45 litres, enough to take you at least 500 km on an open road and 350-400 km in the city and suburbs.

Completing the circle is a trick transmission unit that lets the petrol engine do two

things – power the wheels directly and/or power the 80 kW generator that pumps charge back into the battery pack.

The original 2-litre petrol engine (87 kW/186 Nm) has been replaced by a 2.4-litre four-cylinder (94 kW/199 Nm) unit, while the battery pack has grown from 12 kWh to 13.8 kWh to boost petrol-free driving range above 50 km.

Features include: rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, forward collision mitigation, blind spot warning, lane change and hill start assist and adaptive cruise control.

While the sunroof renders the sunglasses bin deleted, you still get big door bins, four cup holders, six bottle holders and a decent console. Exceed's power tailgate conveniently opens and closes with the touch of the smart key.

Mitsubishi's three-diamond badge represents integrity, success and reliability and the hybrid Exceed certainly makes the cut.

Pricing starts from \$56,390.

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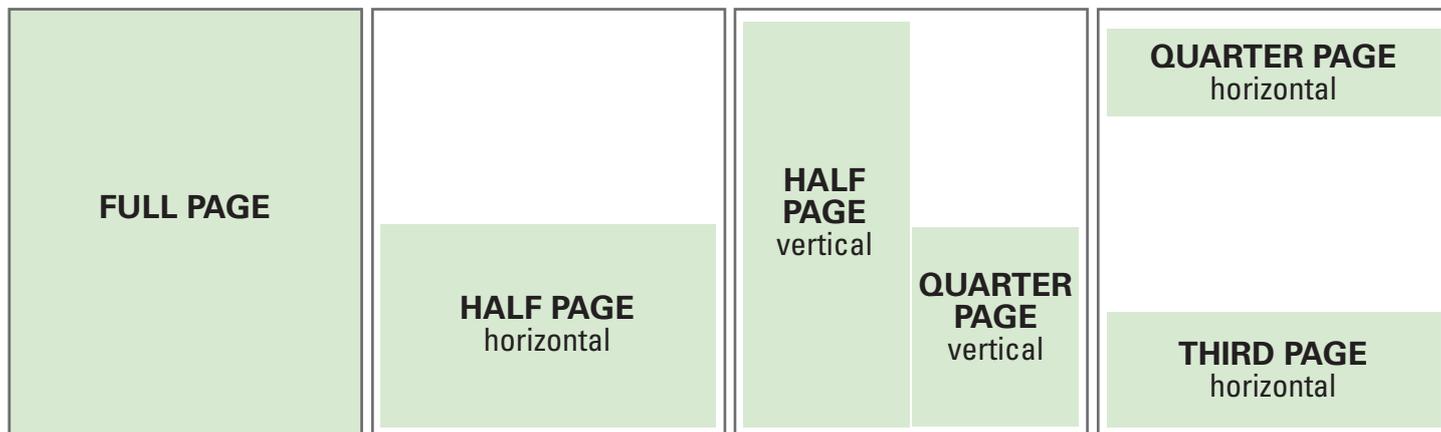
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