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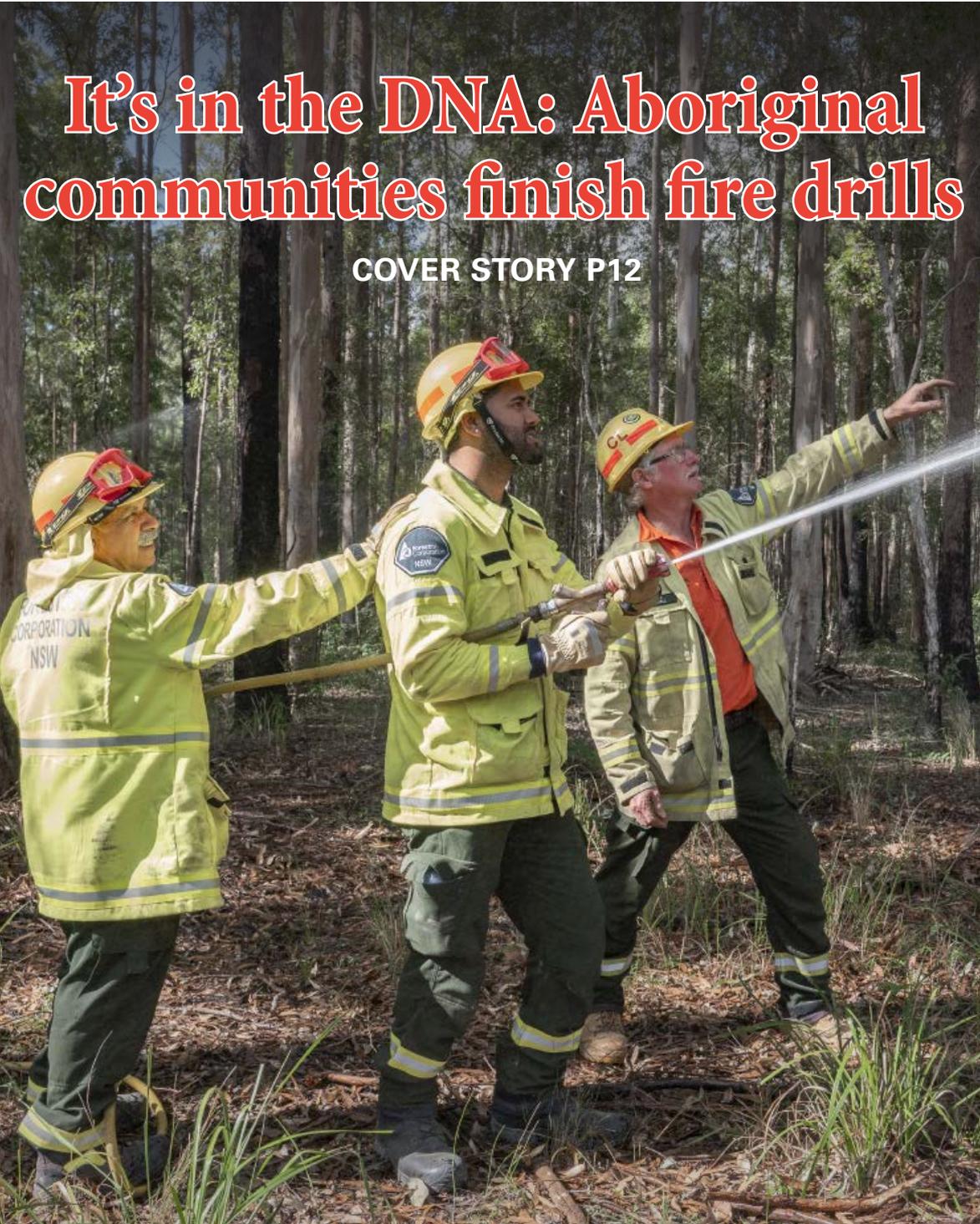
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It's in the DNA: Aboriginal communities finish fire drills

COVER STORY P12



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Big box caught out on non-compliance as union, industry fight for Vic. forests

Formply from China presented a safety issue for builders, says CFMEU

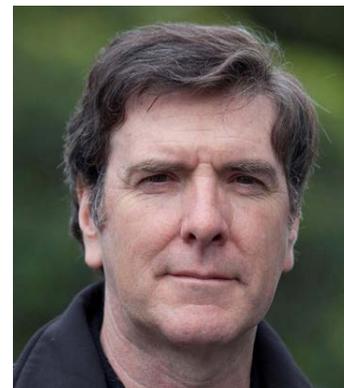
JIM BOWDEN

BUILDING products supplied by Bunnings Warehouse and claimed to be non-compliant have been “kicked off” a Queensland building site by Australia’s most powerful workers union.

The action by the CFMEU comes amid a furious rebellion by the union and the forest products industry against a decision by the ‘big box’ retailer to ban timber products from Victoria’s native hardwood forests, which it claims are illegally harvested.

Formply on the central Queensland building site, imported from China by Bunnings, failed to meet the specifications of the Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products-Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2017.

“THIS WAS A SAFETY IN THE WORPLACE ISSUE



Michael O'Connor... we now need to ramp up the numbers in opposition to the timber ban.

“This was a safe workplace issue,” Bluey Menon, southern coordinator, CFMEU said.

“The builder was unable to provide specs and design information on the formply delivered, which presented a danger to the lives of workers.”

Bunnings stopped using compliant Australian-manufactured formwork products a year ago, switching to imported products from China, which at best are questionable and at worst

non-compliant to Australian standards.

“This is certainly the pot calling the kettle black,” Mr Menon said. “Bunning can be assured timber products from Victorian forests are not only lawfully harvested, but they’re compliant and safe.”

On July 1, thousands of timber workers in Victoria were gutted when Bunnings announced it would stop selling “illegal” timber products harvested from state forests.

On November 7, Premier Dan Andrews announced “logging in remaining old-growth forests will cease immediately, protecting around 90,000 ha, with all logging in native forests across the state to stop by 2030.”

Andrews misled Victorians with his reference to “ending the harvest of old-growth forests.” The state-owned VicForests announced many

Cont P 3



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From P 2

months ago that it had ceased all old-growth forest harvesting from September 1, 2019.

These attempts to close a sustainable industry are an affront to the deep, detailed and honest appraisal of sound forest management in Australia by forest certification bodies such as PEFC, the world's largest forest certification scheme, representing more than 300 million ha of certified forests..

The operations of VicForests are certified under an exhaustive process by the Responsible Wood Scheme, the governing body in Australia for PEFC.

The Victorian government has announced it will review the Code of Practice for Timber Production, following last month's Federal Court decision against VicForests which has created considerable uncertainty for harvesting operations in the Central Highlands.

"The winning of this critical review proves what we can achieve when we act with unity, stick together, and have a go," CFMEU national secretary Michael O'Connor said.

"Now we need to pile the pressure on to turn this small win into something much bigger," he said.

CFMEU in March called for members and supporters to contact Labor MPs and demand they address the loophole in the code being exploited by opponents of the forest industry.

This followed the shock Supreme Court interim injunction which saw contractors and their crews ordered out of coupes which were earmarked by VicForests to supply timber to sawmills and Australian Paper.



Non-compliant... China's use of building products leaves a lot to be desired.

"Opponents of the industry are furious about the review and the fact that Bunnings' paper-thin justification for banning local timber is crumbling before their very eyes," Mr O'Connor said.

"Following the announcement of the review and the successful log-truck community protest at Bunnings last week, we now need to ramp up the number of emails in opposition to the timber ban."

AFPA has cautiously welcomed the review.

"While VicForests has confirmed it will appeal the

“ WE NEED TO RAMP-UP OPPOSITION ON TIMBER BAN ”

judgment, the court case has highlighted the need to reaffirm the intent of the regulatory framework and to avoid the endless lawfare that anti-forestry activist groups have waged in recent years to disrupt lawful timber harvesting operations," CEO Ross Hampton said.

"We urge the Victorian government to progress the necessary changes to the code and to work with the federal government on providing certainty to the RFA framework and for timber industry workers."

CFMEU's Bluey Menon, who worked in the NSW forestry industry for many years, was closely involved with the industry's restructure after Premier Bob Carr implemented a 1995 election pledge to prevent timber harvesting in southeast NSW by creating the South East Forest National Park.

"I was up to my eyeballs it," he said.

Before Carr took over, much of the coastal bushland now locked up in national park was prudently managed state forest, where fuel loads were kept down by logging programs, regular thinning and cattle grazing.

"Our view is that the forest industry is a renewable resource that employs thousands of people, particularly in regional areas," Mr Menon said.

"If you look at what's happening around the globe right now, no one can argue the benefit of supporting Australian manufacturing," he said.

"Why we don't have federal regulations that preference Australian-manufactured products such as timber over flawed imports that fail to comply with Australian government standards, astounds me."

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T&F enews busy and working through COVID-19 in a vastly different world

DESPITE the substantial challenges, Timber & Forestry enews continues to work hard during COVID-19 to bring you the latest industry news.

Restrictions on travel and face-to-face interviews are a reality of the pandemic, so a lot more phone calls and emails have of necessity been the order of the day.

Enews co-publisher John Halkett said he was extremely appreciative of the creativity and extra effort that editor Jim Bowden, along with other editorial contributors, had made during the Covid shut-down to continue to bring industry news to a widening readership base.

"We are also very thankful to our loyal advertisers for



John Halkett

continuing to support the publication during these tough business times," Halkett said. "They will benefit now and in the long-run."

“READY FOR FLAGSHIP EVENTS IN 2021”



Jim Bowden

Halkett said the obvious need to cancel all industry events during the year had had detrimental impact on the industry and trade publications.

"We are all hopeful of better times in 2021 and we are looking forward to some of the industry's flagship events such AUSTimber, FRAME, the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards, Timber Queensland conference and several other events already flagged for next year.

We will be there on the ground.

Jim Bowden, a veteran

agricultural journalist of more than 50 years who founded the Australian Timberman in 1977, said news, opinions and special features would remain at the front of T&F enews during the pandemic.

"It's a massively different world for everyone – and that includes the media," he said. "We're right in the middle of it – giving coverage to industry but also subject to government rules, regulations and guidelines.

"The media is classified as an essential service, but while our reporters and contributors may have the freedom to travel within their locations for news coverage, they are bound by the same 'stay home' regulations when not working.

"Timber&Forestry enews has been produced in 'isolation' for years with staff working from a home office while recognising social distancing. And that's the way it will continue as we come out on the other side of Covid."

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Construction trades 'balanced'

THE supply and demand of trades people in residential construction remains in balance despite the coronavirus, the latest data suggests.

The Housing Industry Association says its Trades Availability Index recorded a level of -0.07 in the June quarter, down from +0.03 in the March quarter.

At this level, trades are considered to be in shortage, but the level of shortage is considered to be moderate.

Seven of 13 trades examined are in shortage: bricklaying, ceramic tiling, carpentry, roofing, plastering, other trades and joinery. Meanwhile, six trades are in oversupply – general building, landscaping, electrical, site preparation, painting and plumbing.

Trades were in balance across most locations but were in shortage in regional South Australia and regional WA and in over supply in Perth.

Forestry more effective land user than farming, business report finds

Trees in New Zealand give greater employment, GDP contribution

NZ forestry has a greater economic impact per hectare than sheep and cow farming, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers business report commissioned by the government forestry agency Te Uru Rākau.

Economic Impact of Forestry in New Zealand compared the impact of the forestry and animal farming industries, including processing and other parts of the value chain using data from 2018.

The sheep and beef value chain created almost 124,551 full-time equivalent jobs (FTEs) annually, almost double that of the forestry industry at 64,889 FTEs, but takes much more land to do so.

Sheep and beef farming utilises 7.5 million ha in New Zealand while forestry only uses 1.7 million ha.

When broken down to an average equivalent basis, forestry creates 38 FTEs per 1000 ha, whereas sheep



Counting the numbers... New Zealand forestry has a far greater economic impact per hectare than sheep or cattle.

and beef creates 17 FTEs for every 1000 ha.

Similarly, sheep and beef farming contributes more to GDP than forestry, at \$12.8 billion and \$7.9 billion respectively, but not when based on contribution per hectare.

Forestry contributes \$4.6 million to GDP annually per 1000 ha, compared with \$1.7 million from sheep and beef.

The report said overall, the forestry value chain was a smaller industry than the sheep and beef farming industry but generated

significantly more value-add on a per hectare basis.

However, land use isn't entirely substitutable, with sheep and beef farming using large areas of low productivity land not suited to forestry.

The Forest Owners Association said it didn't want to comment on the report other than it vindicated the association's position that plantation forestry was beneficial for many rural communities both in income and employment terms.

Rural lobby groups, such as

50 Shades of Green, argue the conversion of pasture to forestry is detrimental to the "rural way of life," with fewer jobs and fewer residents in the regions.

However, their attention has mainly been directed towards carbon farming, where land is planted with trees and left, with carbon credits harvested and used to meet climate change obligations.

The report included different scenarios, including the value impact of permanent carbon forestry, integrating plantation forestry into sheep and beef farming and integrating carbon forestry into sheep and beef farming.

Unsurprisingly, the report found carbon farming had a much smaller economic impact, with an average annual impact of \$0.8m per 1000 ha across 50 years and an average of one full time job per 1000 ha across 50 years.

(National Business Review)



Hyne Timber Glue Laminated Structure at Mon Repos Turtle Centre, Queensland

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Qld building boom slams door on Covid

AS construction projects in southern states battle the Covid blues, Queensland is in the midst of a building boom as people chasing the Australian dream take advantage of up to \$45,000 in grants available to help them into their home.

The industry is reporting some companies are signing up twice as many new home contracts as usual as federal and state government grants give the construction industry a 'Covid boost'.

Master Builders deputy chief executive Paul Bidwell said that one major builder had signed 226 contracts in



Sign here... home building contracts go through the roof.

the past month, mostly in southeast Queensland and another in Rockhampton on the central coast had signed 60 contracts in that city alone.

Across the state's east

coast, the same major builder would normally sign about 1000 contracts a month but had actually signed 2028 contracts as "interest goes through the roof," Mr Bidwell said.

"The government stimulus is working really well."

At the moment the Commonwealth Homebuilder program provides couples

Cont P 17

“THOUSANDS OF CONTRACTS APPROVED”

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AUGUST/SEPT

Timber Queensland online training course.

Timber Basics: Application, Durability & Use. Building professionals – architects, building designers, engineers, builders and certifiers – should have an understanding of the properties of wood as a resource and how these impact on the use as building materials. TQ has developed this three-part webinar training course to provide a deeper understanding of timber application, specification and durability considerations.

Dates:

August 18, 11am-12pm.
August 25, 11am-12pm.
September 1, 11am-12.30pm.
Course must be booked as a whole, sessions are not separately bookable. This course has CPD points available. This is a ticketed course. Full course program and registration at www.timberqueensland.com.au/Events/Default.aspx?id=3098

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 – Marriott Hotel, Brisbane, QLD, Australia. State conference, workshops and innovation tour organised by Timber Queensland. Visit www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

APRIL 2021

DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and field trip.

Dates and venue TBA. To register interest as delegate or presenter please email admin@danaevents.co.nz

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

POSTPONED – Durban, South Africa.

Possible 2021 conference and field trip - Dates and venue TBA. To register interest as delegate or presenter please email admin@danaevents.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

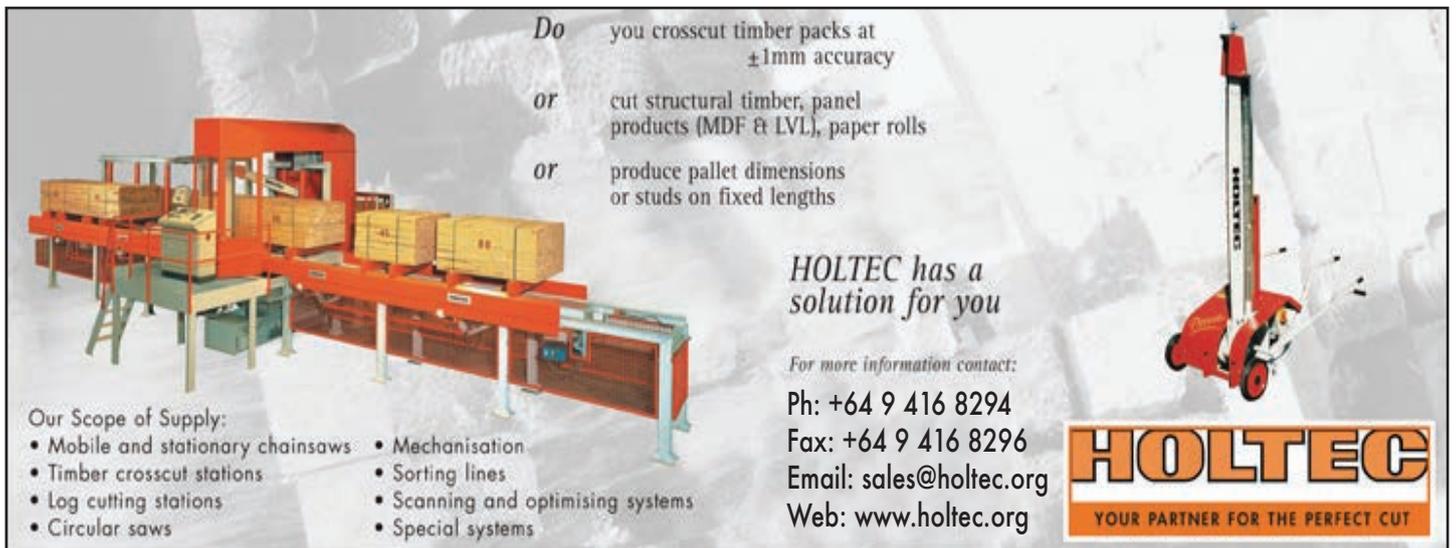
across the globe to discuss investment opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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.wcte2021.com/

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



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\$600,000 funds trees on Tassie farms

PRIVATE Forests Tasmania is leading a project that will see 212 ha of trees planted on farms across the state in the next 12 months.

The project is co-funded by Private Forests Tasmania, the federal government (through the Smart Farming Grant) and primary producers, seeking to develop a landscape-scale best practice integration of shelterbelts and woodlots into the agricultural landscape.

Private Forests Tasmania called for expressions of interest from Tasmanian primary producers to join the project. Applications were received from 17 farms

across Tasmania, which were assessed against 20 selection criteria.

The successful applicants will receive assistance totalling more than \$600,000 for activities that establish significant farm scale best practice integration of shelterbelts and woodlots into the agricultural landscape and demonstrate the multiple benefits of trees on farms.

“Seven of the 17 applications had good claims against all criteria and also met other essential and desirable requirements,” Private Forests Tasmania CEO Penny Wells said.

“The successful applications are dispersed across Tasmania including farms at Evandale, Dunalley, Montumana, Campbell Town, Ellendale and Westwood.



Penny Wells... trees can deliver increased primary production productivity.

Across the sites there is a 50/50 mix of shelterbelts and woodlots and a range of species including radiata pine, blackwood, southern blue gum, shining gum and other mixed species.

“The trees will be managed for wood products including sawlogs, poles and fibre and will provide a broad range of

other benefits including stock and pasture shelter through wind reduction, reduced water evaporation, carbon sequestration and prevention of farmland degradation,” Ms Wells said.

“Trees can deliver increased primary production productivity while simultaneously growing high-value timber products, delivering biofuel, improving water quality and efficiency, and improving the carbon balance.”

Planting will commence in late winter-spring 2021. The trees will be integrated into farming enterprises that currently include prime lamb, wool, grass seed, cereal grains, forestry, aquaculture, dairy, beef, cropping, seed growing and potential future horticultural crops.

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Bunnings demand for FSC certification an ‘impossible’ hurdle for native forests

If it’s FSC certified it’s not native: Sarah Rees, My Environment spokeswoman

BUNNINGS hardware chain is demanding all Victorian native forest timber is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council of Australia, which includes three directors opposed to native timber harvesting.

Australian Sustainable Hardwoods chief executive Vince Hurley said it appeared Bunnings had set VicForests an almost impossible goal, given FSC had not certified one Australian supplier of native forest timber and had three directors openly opposed to it.

“Those FSC Australia directors include MyEnvironment spokeswoman Sarah Rees, who has spent years campaigning against native forest logging and recently tweeted: “If it’s FSC certified it’s not native.”

Fellow director and Wilderness Society’s marketing campaigner Peter Cooper, along with Ms Rees, also signed a letter in June this year informing Nippon Paper that “FSC controlled wood



Vince Hurley... an impossible goal.



Damian Paull... no FSC stamp of approval.



Sarah Rees... FSC – nothing but.



Chris Taylor... critical of VicForests.

certification is not supported across the environment movement in Australia.” The third director is ANU academic Chris Taylor, who has issued numerous tweets critical of VicForests and written articles calling for an end to logging in Melbourne’s water catchments.

Yet while FSC Australia has failed to certify any local native timber harvesting, it’s a different story when it comes to its international arms. Overseas, FSC has certified thousands of tonnes of timber harvested from native forests across the globe, including merbau decking sold by Bunnings, sourced from West

Papuan rainforests under Indonesian military control. FSC Australia chief executive Damian Paull admitted no local native forest harvesting operation had been granted the FSC stamp of approval.

He said Sustainable Timber Tasmania was seeking accreditation.

As for the three directors Mr Paull said FSC “recognised some of our members have an advocacy role”. But he admitted those directors’ ongoing activities in opposing native forest logging were a “concern to some of our members”.

VicForests CEO Monique

Dawson has written to the FSC international arm in Germany calling for the FSC Australia directors to be removed, arguing the board was stacked against native timber forestry.

Bunnings notified the state’s timber industry earlier this month it would not take any more timber cut from logs supplied by VicForests, due to a Federal Court ruling that VicForests had breached the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014.

At least 170 Victorian timber workers face losing their jobs in the wake of Bunnings ban.

(Weekly Times)



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Boosting forestry knowledge among young online learners during COVID

WoodChat Episode 17 educates children about forest sustainability

THE latest instalment of WoodChat, the Forest and Wood Products Australia podcast series, focuses on a program of online learning options to educate children about the sustainable nature of forestry.

ForestLearning includes various resources developed to enable school children to engage with and understand the world of forestry, and even pay virtual visits to locations they would not normally have had access to ... all without leaving the classroom!

The current situation with COVID-19 has meant that teachers, parents and schoolchildren are seeking out new opportunities for remote learning. And for that reason, ForestLearning has continued to investigate, develop and roll out new resources.

The program includes everything from online work sheets and quizzes to opportunities to connect with foresters out in the field via Zoom, and the use of virtual reality to allow students to experience forest and mill

“OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH FORESTERS IN THE FIELD



environments first-hand.

During the episode, listeners will hear from Beth Welden, program manager of ForestLearning, who explains how the program is driven by the idea that engaging students early will help them establish informed opinions about the forestry industry.

“We hope to provide meaningful educational experiences, aligned to the Australian curriculum, that truly engage students on sustainable and renewable

1/ Schoolchildren... engaging with and understanding the world of forestry.

2/ Beth Welden... meaningful educational experiences.

TALKING TIMBER



With Eileen Newbury
National Marketing and
Communications Manager,
FWPA

forest and wood products,” Beth said.

“We are hoping that by accessing ForestLearning resources, today’s young people will grow up with an appreciation of the

sustainable and renewable nature of our forests,” she said.

“As the decision makers, voters and consumers of the future, it is important that today’s school children have an affiliation with wood and are fully aware of the benefits.”

During the episode, the hosts also hear from industry representatives involved with the initiative, teachers who have adopted the resources in their classrooms, and students who have experienced them.

This episode is the latest in the WoodChat podcast series and follows topics including new business models to inspire investment in trees on farms, building safely with timber in bushfire-prone areas and new technology that’s supporting the prediction of wood quality in standing trees.

WoodChat represents FWPA’s ongoing commitment to engaging ways of communicating news and innovations to the industry and beyond. Each episode includes in-depth conversations with experts on recent discoveries and current initiatives.

You can listen to WoodChat on SoundCloud, iTunes and Spotify.



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In their DNA: Aboriginal communities complete fire hazard reduction training

REPRESENTATIVES from the Bunya, Coffs and Biripi local Aboriginal land councils have completed basic fire training with Forestry Corporation of NSW in Wauchope, paving the way for increased traditional burning in state forests.

Aboriginal Partnerships team leader John Shipp said the training would enable more local Aboriginal communities to carry out hazard reduction burning using traditional low-intensity practices in state forests, in partnership with Forestry Corporation.

“Forestry Corporation has been working with local Aboriginal communities on the NSW north and south coasts to carry out cultural burning as part of our regular



1/ Training talk... Dave Randall, Forestry Corporation of NSW, with Aboriginal community representatives, outlines forestry fire training methods during a training session at Wauchope.
Photo: Forestry Corporation of NSW

2/ Discussing fire hazard reduction burning using traditional low-intensity practices... Malinda Harvey, Aboriginal community representative, and Rachael Cavanagh, Forestry Corporation of NSW.
Photo: Forestry Corporation of NSW



burning formed part of the ongoing hazard reduction program within state forests around the state.

“Managing fire is a year-long task and during the cooler months we have an annual hazard reduction program to reduce fuel loads in

hazard reduction burning program for several years

now,” Mr Shipp said.

“Traditional burning is not just about using cool burning methods to reduce fire risk, it’s also about continuing culture, improving ease of movement through country for cultural purposes and restoring a traditional forest structure, so it’s vital that traditional burns are carried out by local Aboriginal communities.

“We work closely with local Aboriginal land councils and Elders’ groups to facilitate traditional burning in state forests and ensure it fulfils both traditional and contemporary obligations of care.”

Mr Shipp said providing basic fire training and accreditation to members of local Aboriginal communities would provide even greater opportunities for them to be involved in traditional burning in state forests as both participants and observers.”

Forestry Corporation’s senior manager of forest stewardship Kathy Lyons said traditional

forests,” Ms Lyons said.

“Over the past few years, some hazard reduction on the north and south coast has been carried out by local Aboriginal communities using traditional methods and we’re excited to be paving the way for further opportunities to introduce traditional burning into forests,” she said.

Forestry Corporation is a statutory firefighting authority responsible for managing 2 million ha of state forests across New South Wales. Staff are accredited firefighters who also assist with bushfires on public land and private property throughout the state as well as interstate and overseas.

Visit www.forestrycorporation.com.au

On the cover: Dave Randall, Forestry Corporation of NSW (right) with Aboriginal community representatives, William O’Brien and Daniel McKechnie take part in basic fire training at Wauchope on the mid-north coast region of NSW. Photo: Forestry Corporation of NSW

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Australia's white cypress pine ... the tree from a Million Wild Acres

WHITE cypress pine is a small to medium-sized evergreen tree growing to a height of up to 25 m, with a trunk diameter of a bit more than half a metre.

Covering about 4.5 million ha, it is the most widely-spread native conifer in Australia. A large portion of the area originally covered by cypress pine forest has been cleared for wheat production and grazing.

More broadly, cypress pine, (genus *Callitris*), is a grouping of 15 species of coniferous shrubs and trees native to Australia that grow best in arid localities. White cypress pine (*Callitris columellaris*), sometimes called the Murray River pine, is the best-known and most important timber tree of the genus.

Cypress forests located in western NSW and central western Queensland provide versatile timber for regions well away from coastal forests. Cypress timber is recognised for its natural resistance to termite attack.

Celebrated author and regional history authority Eric Rolls (1923-2007) wrote more than 20 books. His best-known title, *A Million Wild Acres*, chronicles the Pilliga Scrub and its white cypress pine. In his masterpiece



title, Rolls argues that across much of Australia, Aborigines kept the forests open with their light, regular burning. He documents the prolific germination that always follows fire and is kept in check by the plentiful wallabies, possums, bandicoots and rat kangaroos.

Based on his intimate

“CYPRESS HAS A NATURAL RESISTANCE TO TERMITES

1/ *Cypress pine forests located in western NSW and central western Queensland.*

2/ *Eric Rolls... champion of the Pilliga Scrub bush and white cypress pine.*

cypress pine advocate, Rolls was buried in a simple coffin made of white cypress from the Pilliga Scrub.

The wood of white cypress pine is light, soft and aromatic. It can be easily split and is termite resistant. It is used to make furniture, indoor and outdoor panelling, and fence posts. Natural resins in the wood impart a distinctive odour to white cypress, and are believed to contribute to the timber's impressive natural durability. Tannin, sandarac resin, and fragrant oils can be extracted from cypress trees

The grain of cypress timber is generally straight with a very fine and even texture. The presence of numerous tight knots is a distinctive feature that produces a strikingly decorative figure on exposed faces. Decorative uses of white cypress timber also include turnery, joinery, carving, parquetry and linings. Other common applications include oyster stakes and jetty piles in low-salinity environments, as well as beehives.

For more tree stories see: www.talkingtrees.com.au

TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

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knowledge of white cypress forests, Rolls argues that without Aboriginal fire management, occasional wildfires erupted following European occupation. He says many of today's forests are different and new – exaggerated communities of plants and animals, volatile and vulnerable.

A champion of the bush and

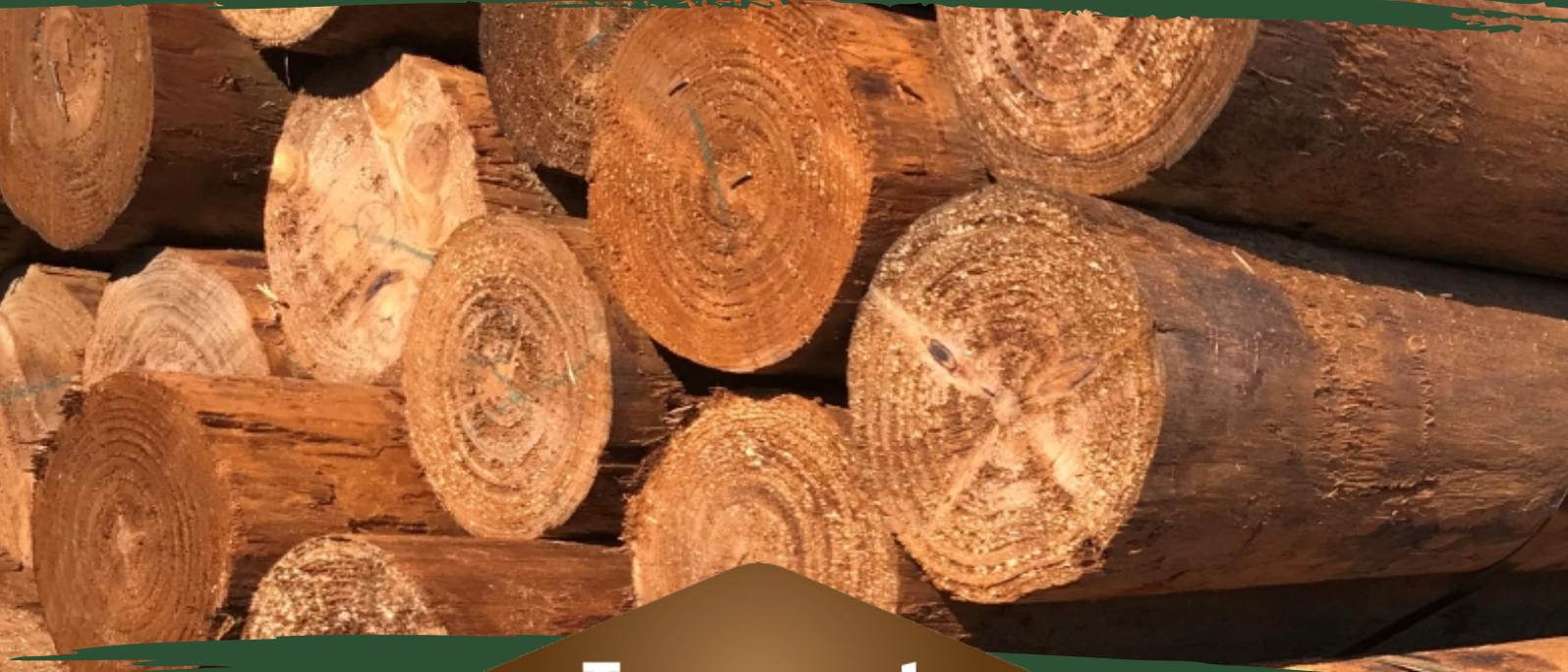


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NZ forest owners facing a hostile band of politicians from all sides

It's hard to find a party even mildly supportive of the sector

DENNIS NEILSON

THE closer New Zealand gets to its triennial general election on September 19, the less and less choice forest owners seem to have in voting for a political party that might be even mildly supportive of commercial forests – if not, downright hostile towards them.

Three years ago the left wing Labour Party 'won' a surprise election victory, but only after leader Jacinda Ardern formed a Coalition government with the Greens and New Zealand First [NZF] parties.

NZF demanded various policies, including one which (initially) thrilled all forest owners.

The government appointed the honourable Shane Jones as the Minister of Forests, who immediately instituted his 'billion-tree' policy – to plant a billion new land trees in the next decade (reduced



1/ **A pine forest ... definitely not polluting a waterway.**
 2/ **Jacinda Ardern... beams after Labour victory in 2017.**



However, as with most politicians, Minister Jones came with "a sting in his tail"

Last week he pushed through into law a bizarre bill called the Forests (Regulation of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill. It was promoted as being 'benign' and designed to make forestry consulting

and log trading a bit more professional'.

However, most observers in the industry conclude that it's a Trojan Horse to ultimately enable the government to determine which logs forest owners can sell, and to what buyers and at what price – a back-door manoeuvre by-passing international agreements preventing any restrictions or taxes on log exports.

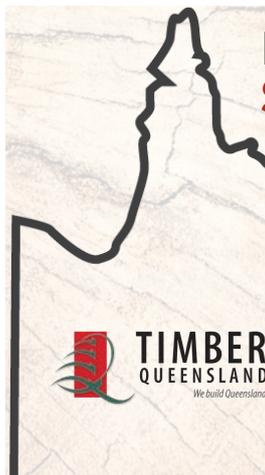
to 500 million when he discovered 500 million trees were already being replanted after harvest).

Also, the long-since dismantled NZ Forest Service was morphed into a new and rapidly-growing organisation called Te Uru Rākau (Forestry NZ). It streamlined overseas investment regulations (as long as investors planted

farms with trees) and changed the carbon trading legislation to make tree carbon farming much more attractive.

Cont P 17

“TRIENNIAL ELECTION DRAWS NEARER



REGIONAL FORESTRY HUB MANAGERS – SOUTH EAST AND NORTH QUEENSLAND

Timber Queensland, the peak body for Queensland's forest and timber industry, has partnered with the Australian Government to deliver on the implementation of two new Regional Forestry Hubs in South-East Queensland and North Queensland. The regional hubs are a key action under the Australian Government's National Forest Industries Plan.

We are seeking a self-motivated individual to undertake the role of hub manager in each region. Reporting to the Chief Executive and working with a Steering Committee of local industry and regional stakeholders, the successful applicant will manage the implementation of the relevant hub to progress further development of the industry in the region.

Relevant experience and/or skills in project management, stakeholder engagement and communications will be essential. A salary package will be negotiated with the right applicant, either on a full time or part-time basis. The position will be on a contract basis for two years initially with scope for extension depending upon funding. Positions descriptions are available at www.timberqueensland.com.au

As there are two separate positions, please indicate whether you are applying for the South-East Queensland or North Queensland position. The positions will be locally based in each region, most likely in Maryborough and Cairns (locations subject to negotiation).

Written applications, including a short curriculum vitae, nominating referees and a statement addressing the position description should be addressed to: Chief Executive, Timber Queensland, PO Box 231 Kedron Qld 4031 Email applications are preferable, and should be sent to: admin@timberqueensland.com.au **Applications close COB Monday 10 August 2020**

From P 6

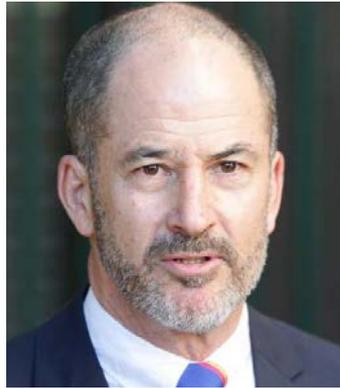
earning less than \$200,000 a year with a \$25,000 grant to build a new home they will live in or to substantially renovate an existing home, if they sign before December.

First home buyers can also tap into Queensland's \$15,000 First Home Owner's grant – an extra \$5000 if they build in regional Queensland.

The good news comes as the Property Council of Australia calls on the Queensland government to consider stamp duty concessions for people who buy new apartments and new town houses to try to counter a slump in this sector.

Treasurer Cameron Dick said the average first-home buyer already paid effectively zero stamp duty in Queensland because of discounts and low rates.

Meanwhile, the NSW government has announced there will be a temporary increase in stamp duty concessions for first-home buyers.



Paul Bidwell...stimulus is working really well.

HIA says the announcement is a very welcome move; it has been seeking changes to the stamp duty arrangements to better reflect the price of new homes in NSW and in particular in Sydney.

This initiative will have positive outcomes for the housing industry and the NSW economy as whole," said David Bare, HIA executive director NSW.

"From August 1, the changes will see the stamp duty exemption limit increased from \$650,000 to \$800,000 for the purchase of a newly-built home," he said.



David Bare... positive outcome for building industry.

"The stamp duty concession will also increase to cover newly-built homes from over \$800,000 up to \$1 million in value."

He said the changes to the stamp duty thresholds for land were also critical.

"The government is forecasting that this change will assist more than 6000 first-home buyers, which have traditionally been

“ BUILDING A NEW HOME IN NSW A REAL OPTION

under-represented in the NSW market, particularly in Sydney," he said.

"Following the release of the NSW Homebuilder details, the announcement makes sense and will support many first-home buyers to get into the property market sooner.

"Combined with the existing \$10,000 first-home owner's grant and the \$25,000 Homebuilder grant, first-home buyers in NSW should be looking to a new home as a real option to take up home ownership."

Mr Bare said more importantly, this 12-month package would provide a much-needed boost to an industry for which hundreds of thousands of people in NSW relied on for employment.

"The home building industry will play a critical part in NSW's economic recovery from COVID-19 related challenges and the state government should be applauded for listening to our calls for greater support."

From P 16

This has shaken forest owners, many of them natural centre-right National Party supporters who most likely would cast no votes for NZF anyway.

However, last week the new leader of the Party (the fourth since 2017), Judith Collins, reportedly told a gathering of farmers that "I hate pine trees ... and "trees pollute waterways"

The National Party has at best for decades only tolerated forestry, and has not lifted a finger to help the industry. However, this new revelation takes it to a new level of disdain for the sector. But no matter.



Shane Jones... a sting in his tail.

The latest political poll here puts Labour on 60% and National on 25%. If that occurred on election night, Labour could govern alone. That would mean NZF Minister Jones would be gone – and National Leader Collins, too.

So would NZ forest owners rejoice? Probably not.



Judith Collins... "I hate pine trees"



Eugenie Sage... hatred for forestry.

Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party is surging to an unprecedented level of support. But her Labour Party will almost certainly not win 60% of the vote on election night, and probably not even 51%, so it could not govern alone.

If not, its 'natural' coalition party would be the Greens

Party, which is almost certain to win several seats. If they join up, then the far-left wing Greens Party and current Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage would probably pick up the Forestry portfolio. Minister Sage is reputed to absolutely hate plantation forestry with a vengeance. It's rumoured she would, given half the chance, even spray radiata pine nursery seedlings with an organic poison to wipe them all out. So probably no joy there. So, where to for New Zealand forest owners on election night? Possibly nowhere. Except maybe to the NZ equivalent of the Ettamogah Pub.

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About Onetrak

Onetrak has rapidly grown into a major player in the Australian heavy equipment industry. Home to some of the largest brands within the earthmoving and construction, forestry, material handling and quarry industries, the business offers new and used machine sales, hire equipment, service and parts.

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Want more information about Onetrak?

For queries regarding the position please call our Tumut Operations Manager Brad Madden ph 0439 189 938 or Brisbane Operations Manager Mitchell Hills ph 0488 711 110.

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John Deere forest, construction dealers hit the ground running in New Zealand

TWO well-known and respected John Deere dealerships have hit the ground running as the new homes of John Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment in New Zealand.

Construction and forestry customers now have access to sales and service from AGrowQuip in the North Island and Drummond & Etheridge in the South Island, to offer the full line-up of John Deere equipment to operators and contractors across the country.

John Deere construction and forestry division managing director, Asia Pacific and Africa, Jeff Kraft, said both AGQ and D&E had been selected based on their proven track record of outstanding customer service, and commitment to the success of the industries in which they operate.

"AGQ and D&E are known and trusted John Deere ag & turf dealers with a longstanding reputation for working with customers to meet their unique needs and business objectives," Mr Kraft said.

"These qualities and skills, their existing client



John Deere in New Zealand... forestry and construction dealerships will increase machine uptime and support the business needs of customers.

support infrastructure and their in-depth understanding of the industries that are fundamental to building and growing nations means they will replicate the same level of service they are renowned for across the construction and forestry equipment sector."

Both dealerships will be further strengthened by John Deere's industry-leading remote diagnostics platforms, as well as the extensive parts portfolio held at the Australia and New Zealand distribution centre.

AGrowQuip, with four large branches already in the North Island, has plans to extend the network to ensure

construction and forestry customers and machines in all regions are fully supported. CEO Boun Khamwanthong said preparations for the company's move into construction and forestry equipment had been extensive.

"Our technicians have undergone extensive training, while many of our staff already have experience in the sector," he said.

“EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY”

AGQ has made key appointments to support the additional line-up, including Alex Kelly as general manager, who has previously worked with the Iconic Forestry brand.

Drummond & Etheridge has also made key industry-specific appointments, rolling out extensive staff training. Andy Carson, technical support manager, will ensure D&E has trained people on the ground to support the product range.

Peter Holton-Jefferys has been appointed logistics and sales operations specialist and Jason Huitema will manage construction and forestry products.

Additionally, D&E has committed to branch upgrades to ensure customers are fully supported from an aftermarket perspective, and made key appointments in Nelson and Southland, creating two additional workshop bays and a new parts distribution branch in Rolleston ... "to make sure we have parts on the ground overnight at branch level," D&E group aftermarket manager Steve Hadler said.

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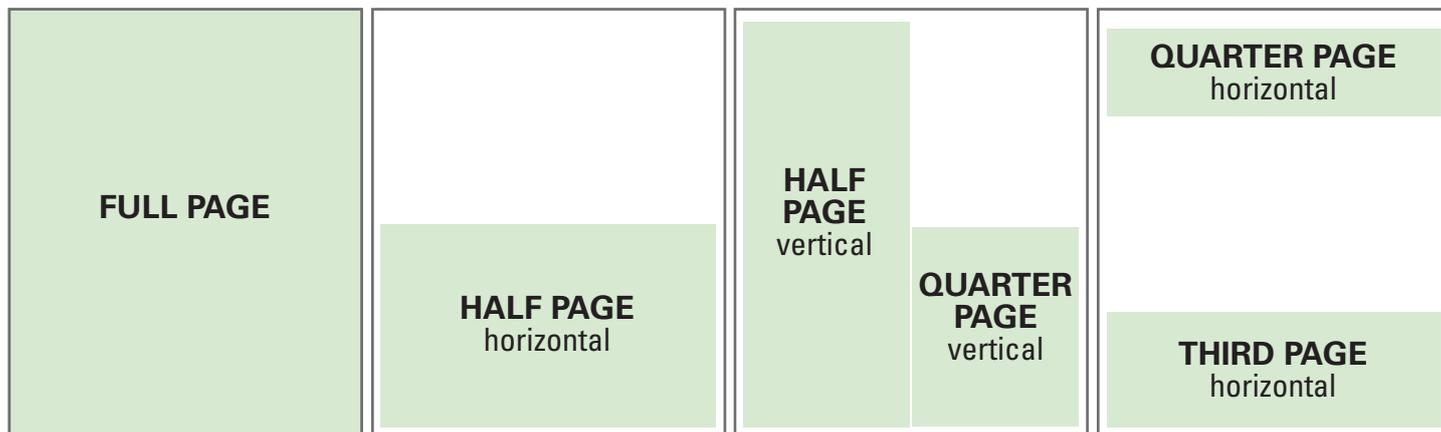
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