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COVER STORY P8

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Tradies hammered as Covid restrictions tighten grip on state's construction sites

COVID-19 restrictions on building sites in Victoria that limit tradies to just three sites a week could leave thousands of average Victorians and their families out in the cold during the remaining weeks of winter.

Housing Industry Association executive director Fiona Nield said the residential building industry had worked tirelessly to meet government Covid requirements to prevent its spread and protect the health and safety of workers, clients and Victorians.

"But with more than 60,000 homes under construction across the state, including up to 6000 new homes with their imminent completion now on hold, the stage 4 restrictions risk placing an additional financial and emotional burden on tens of thousands of families," Ms Nield said.

All of metropolitan Melbourne was plunged into stage 4 restrictions last Sunday, which includes a curfew from 8 pm to 5 am each night preventing people



from leaving their homes unless it is for work, giving or receiving care, or visiting a partner.

The construction industry is permitted to operate but will need to do so under more stringent conditions including reductions to the number of workers on site.

All businesses that remain open will need a Covid-safe plan which will focus on safety and outline prevention measures along with response measures in the event that workplaces are linked to the virus.



- 1/ **Playing it safe... the number of workers allowed on large construction sites in Melbourne will be slashed by 75%.**
- 2/ **Fiona Nield... builders working tirelessly to meet Covid-19 requirements.**

Large-scale projects (more than three storeys excluding the basement) can have a maximum of 25% of their normal workforce on site at any time

Small scale projects of less than three storeys may have a maximum of five workers on site including supervisors.

State and civil construction workers are exempt from staff reduction targets, but the government is going through project by project to

ensure they have the minimum practical number of workers.

Contract tracing will be required as part of Covid safety plans; there will be no blending of shifts and workers will be allowed to work at one site only.

An interruption in the supply of building materials is also expected as Victoria's key trading hub the Port of Melbourne

is at risk of being choked with imported containers, which cannot be delivered to businesses shut down under Covid-19.

Victoria remains under both a state of disaster and a state of emergency, after the government offered police greater powers to help enforce tightened restrictions in a bid to force down the worrying community transmission of the coronavirus.



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You're eligible: private forest growers win access to bushfire recovery grants

Covid-19 forces extension of royal commission deadline to late October

THE federal government has announced it will expand eligibility criteria and extend the application timeframe for the \$75,000 primary producer bushfire recovery grants.

Institute of Foresters of Australia vice-president and chair of the Australian Forest Growers committee Kevin Harding said the announcement was a win for private forest growers; many were previously ineligible for the grant due to not meeting off-farm income requirements.

"This announcement is a very welcome recognition that many small private growers need off-farm income to finance their very significant and long term investment in plantation establishment and management," Mr Harding said.

"The IFA/AFG has been working with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment since February, advocating for private forest growers by seeking an adjustment to the rules around the \$75,000 grant criteria that made many ineligible."

Mr Harding said the IFA/AFG recognised the important work of the department staff who researched and developed this much-needed policy.

"The grant was intended to support regional communities impacted by the catastrophic 2019-2020 bushfire season



to secure recovery funding but was initially focused on primary producers with regular annual farming income," he said.

"We're very pleased private forest growers have now been included in the criteria and will be given the same level of assistance as other primary producers to recover from the many challenges faced by industry this year."

Applications have been extended to December 15 in New South Wales and December 31 in Queensland,

“RECOVERY APPLICATIONS EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 15

South Australia and Victoria.

The \$75,000 grants are available in the defined disaster areas to replace or rebuild plant, equipment or livestock that have been directly impacted by the fire and where those needs are not covered by an existing insurance policy.

The grants can help with cleaning up, salvaging and harvesting damaged crops including tree plantations damaged by fire, smoke, ash and/or soot.

- 1/ **New directions... private forest growers on a field trip during a Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority conference in Tasmania.**
- 2/ **Keith Harding... private forest growers have now been included in the criteria.**

Cont P 10

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Research an oasis in knowledge gap on the effects of water on solid wood

JIM BOWDEN

A MECHANICAL engineer with the forest products innovation team at the DAF research facility in Brisbane is opening the door to a greater understanding of the effects of water penetration in solid wood materials and engineered wood products.

A review soon to be finalised by Dr Maryam Shirmohammadi, principal scientist at the DAF Salisbury research facility in Brisbane, identifies existing knowledge and the need for a better understanding of water ingress and egress dynamics in wood products.

Testing aims to determine water penetration



Water and wood... new research review by Dr Maryam Shirmohammadi, DAF Salisbury Research Facility, with project technician Dan Field.

characteristics through absorption and desorption in sawn timber boards, cross laminated timber

and laminated veneer lumber panel structures manufactured using Australian commercial wood species.

The results will lead to the development of an optimal experimental testing setup, detailed testing protocols and detailed understanding of water movement through wood structures.

The project is funded through the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life.

Dr Shirmohammadi's review compares work done in North America and Europe in identifying the effects of water intrusion (weathering and wet events) on known species used in EWPs.

"However, there is a lack of information on fundamental properties of Australian wood species used in mass panel production," said Dr Shirmohammadi who has developed an online survey aimed at prioritising water ingress/egress for Australian stakeholders who will benefit

from the research.

These include structural engineers, manufacturers, R&D engineers, building designers and architects, builders, academics and project managers, enabling them to identify priorities in water ingress/egress issues in timber buildings.

The survey also includes a focus on decay, mould, termites, surface discoloration, structural performance, dimensional instability, connection points, corrosion, and delamination.

IDENTIFYING THE EFFECTS OF WATER PENETRATION

A review paper is now in the final stages of reformatting and adjustment and will be sent for publication in the near future.

Future directions and expected outcomes include:

- Defining key wood properties essential for understanding the movement of water in wood structure. Properties to be measured include density, liquid permeability, bound water diffusion, sorption/desorption isotherms and porosity.
- Investigating heat and mass transfer properties associated with panel glue-lines. Properties will be characterised through a series of diffusivity tests (i.e. understanding the effect of multiple glue-lines, structural glue types and veneer thickness on LVL panels.



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Western cypress curve heads north as timber merchants clamour for timber

But concerns remain as pipeline building projects begin to dry up

JIM BOWDEN

MOST of Melbourne may be in lockdown during the Covid 'Dan-demic', but the curve of timber orders from wholesale merchants has gone through the roof.

"It's crazy times," says western Queensland cypress sawmiller Mitchell Goodchild.

"Merchants are climbing over themselves for wood, with lead times up to four and six weeks for supplies," he said. "And cypress is getting a good share of this market."

Sounding a cautious note, Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said fortunately the market, particularly for cypress, had held up through the initial



Gathering at a cypress certification meeting in western Queensland... Todd Lewis, Walker Cypress, Mitchell Goodchild, Yuleba Cypress, Roger Brent, Hurfords, Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland, Vic Gersekowski, Vic's Timber, Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, Ian Wilson, Injune Cypress, and Ian Homick, Hornick Cypress.

impacts of the coronavirus.

"However, we are still concerned about future impacts as pipeline projects begin to dry up with the added uncertainty over future restrictions and the drag on general economic activity in key markets for cypress such as Victoria," he said.

Mitchell Goodchild

says the cypress industry has never had it better with merchants from the Gold Coast to Melbourne contacting every cypress sawmiller for every measure

“INDUSTRY HAS NEVER SEEN IT BETTER

of timber – from house frames, heavy-end sections and posts to garden landscaping.

"DIY home owners are coming out of the blue, starting or finishing renovation projects in their spare time while they're in lockdown," Mr Goodchild said.

The family's Yuleba Cypress

Sawmills at Miles, about 330 km from Brisbane, which processes about 5000 tonnes of sawlogs a year and is certified by Responsible Wood, has seen turnover in the last three months increase by 25% month on month.

In 2013, the LNP's Minister

Cont P 19



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

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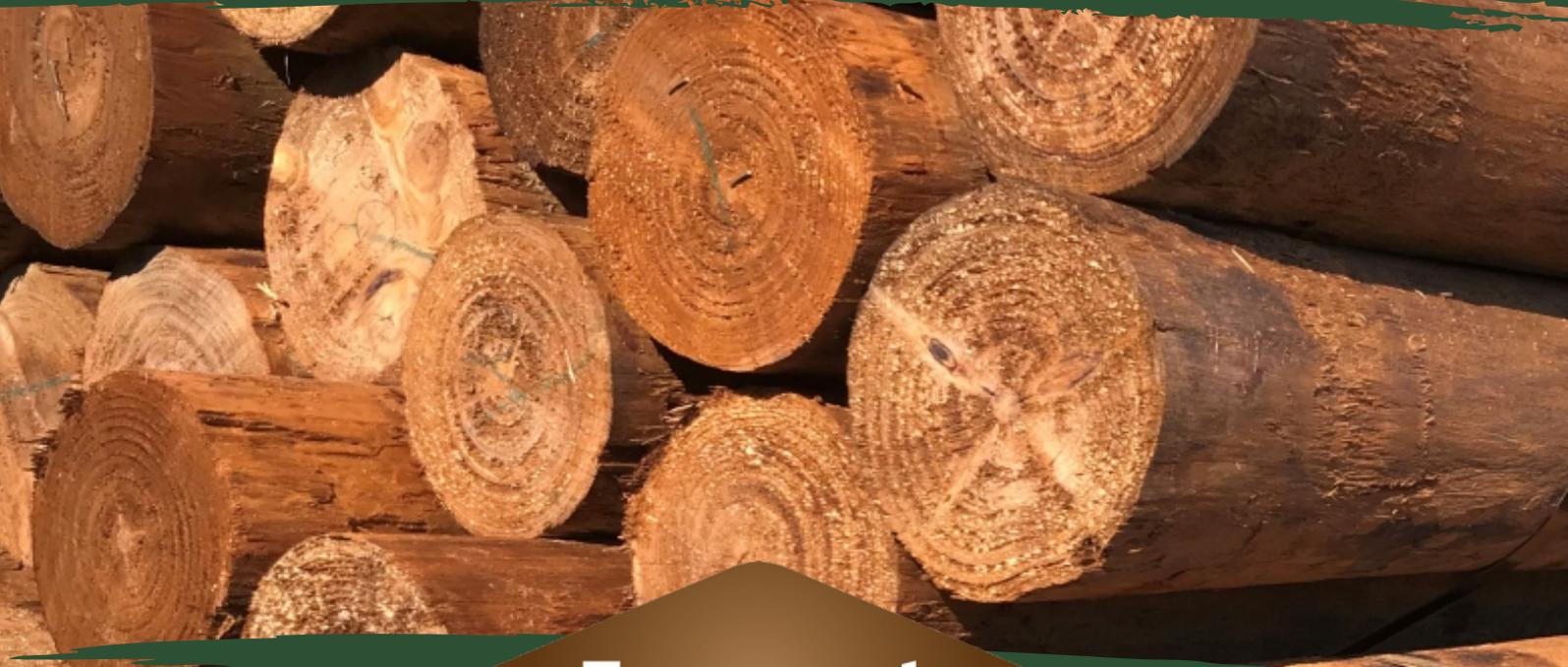
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AUGUST/SEPT

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

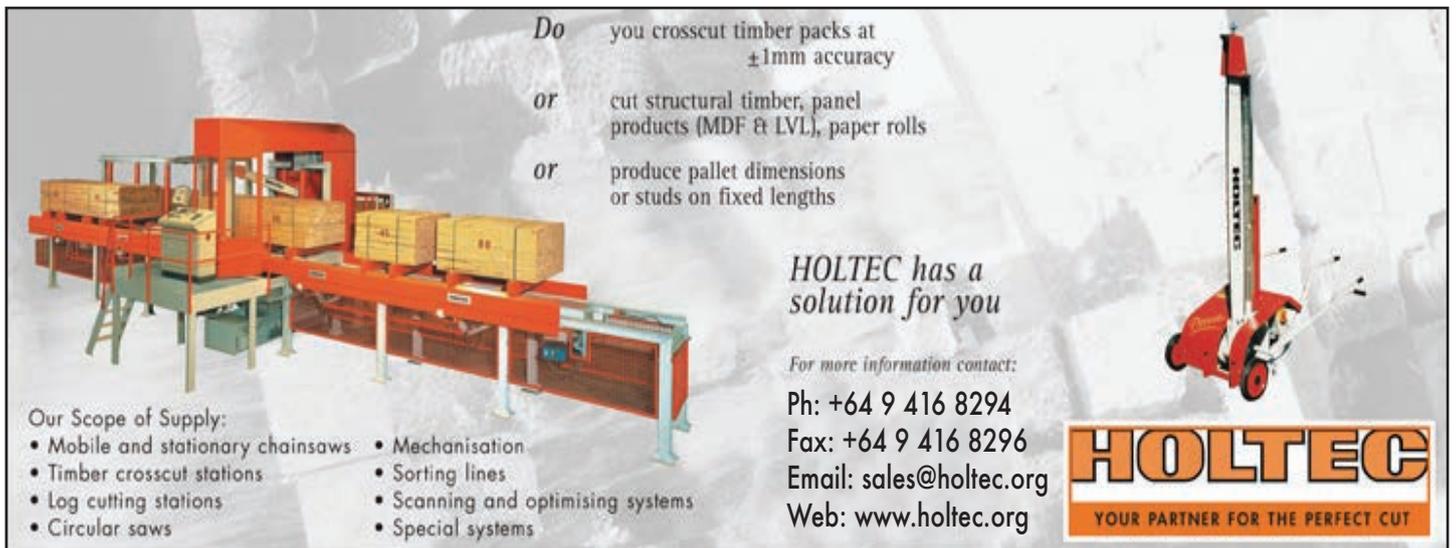
across the globe to discuss investment opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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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Hyne's \$23m glue laminated plant to secure regional jobs for years to come

'We are filling up our warehouses along the eastern seaboard'

MARKING the completion of commissioning, Hyne Timber last week welcomed Queensland Minister for State Development Kate Jones and MP Maryborough Bruce Saunders to the unveiling of the new glue laminated plant in the state's 'timber capital'.

The \$23 million investment, generating 80 jobs during construction and more than 40 jobs once fully operational, included the engagement of 40 local contractors worth over \$5 million to the local economy.

The 4000 sq m facility showcases 1374 of Hyne's own timber beams in the structure, already capturing the attention of the new Rheinmetall Nioa Munitions facility being constructed around the corner using the Hyne Group's products.

Hyne Timber CEO Jon Kleinschmidt said the support of the Queensland government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund had not only enabled the establishment of the new plant, but had secured regional jobs for years to come.

“NEW PLANT COULDN'T COME AT A BETTER TIME

“Hyne Timber has 138 years of experience in manufacturing timber on the Fraser Coast with 40 of those years including specialising in glue laminated timber,” Mr Kleinschmidt said.

“The new plant couldn't



Support appreciated... Hyne Timber CEO Jon Kleinschmidt thanks the Hyne team and contractors for years of hard work to get the Hyne glue laminated plant up and running.

come at a better time as attention increasingly turns to renewable Australian building materials within a secure supply chain that creates and supports local jobs.

“This new plant delivers a 400% expansion on existing capability with all the feedstock from our own secure supply – the Tuan forest near Maryborough, which employs a further 200 people.”

Mr Kleinschmidt thanked the many Queensland contractors who worked on the project, including Hervey Bay Architects Bloc Design, the Sunshine Coast branch of BADGE Construction and Brisbane-based project management company MCD.

He also acknowledged the 40 Wide Bay businesses who shared this journey of expansion, supplying quality services, praising the standard of work which demonstrates local capability.

Hyne already supplies glue laminated timber to more than 300 customer sites such as wholesale distributors for the building sector, timber merchants, frame and truss plants, bespoke building projects as well as exporting to a distributor in New Zealand.

General manager, customers, Peter Hyne said now the plant was officially open, Hyne Timber was building up supply.

“We are in the process of filling up our warehouses throughout the eastern seaboard ready to distribute to existing and new customers,” he said.

“Unique products such as our new LGL+ present many welcome benefits for the construction sector. These include the product's straightness and strength, H3 treatment options for outdoor durability, great nail holding capability and transparent glue

lines for a clear, appealing appearance.

“A major customer and engineered wood wholesaler which operates across multiple states is already upscaling their warehousing capability. They are gearing up in partnership with us, ready to significantly increase volumes of LGL+ to service growing demand for Australian sustainable timber into their residential construction supply chain.

“Most importantly, LGL+ and our other glue laminated timber products are all locally grown, certified plantation pine ensuring a sustainable option for residential and mass timber commercial construction projects.”

On the cover: Queensland Minister for State Development Kate Jones cuts the ribbon to officially open Hyne Timber's new glulam plant at Maryborough, while James Hyne, stakeholder engagement manager, joins the celebration.

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Buying Aussie timber first will ensure that the Aussie building industry remains strong, which in turn will make your business stronger. By protecting our local timber industry, you're protecting your own future.

buyaussietimberfirst.com.au



From P 3

Meanwhile, the reporting deadline for the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements has been extended to October 28 as some state agencies struggle to devote attention to the inquiry amid Covid-19 restrictions.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the August 31 deadline was set so "practical action" could be taken ahead of the next fire season. In contrast, the royal commission into the 2009 Black Saturday fires in Victoria ran for 18 months and cost \$40 million.

The Black Summer bushfires that ravaged south-eastern Australia from late July last year until February remain indelibly fixed in the minds of forest industry communities. The fires killed 34 people, including nine firefighters on the fire front, and 445 others who suffered premature death from exposure to smoke. Close to 13.7 million ha of land and 3.5 million ha of natural forest areas were burnt.

Aligned to the royal commission, NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro wants landowners to have more access to national parks



To burn or not to burn... hazard reduction high on agenda of bushfire inquiry.

for hazard reduction burns. In a late submission to the Berejiklian government's bushfire inquiry, Mr Barilaro – who is also the minister for disaster recovery – said "now is the time for significant change and action" over fires.

"We cannot afford to be complacent or waste the opportunity for reform," Mr Barilaro said.

His submission, one of 1000 made to the six-month state-based bushfire inquiry, also calls for cattle grazing to be used as a fire prevention method.

Adding fuel to the debate, the WA-based Bushfire Front reasserts that inadequate access to public land, including wilderness areas of national parks, creates unnecessary barriers to

bushfire prevention activities.

In its submission to the royal commission, the Bushfire Front strongly supports the need to carry out regular, mild-intensity burns in state forests and national parks.

"The aim is not to stop bushfires from starting," the fire management group said. "The aim is to reduce the killing power of a wildfire. Even on a hot, windy day in mid-summer, a wildfire is easier, cheaper and safer to control if it is burning in light fuels."

“REDUCING THE KILLING POWER OF WILDFIRES”

The group says the corollary of this statement is also true: even on a relatively mild day, a wildfire in heavy forest fuels is difficult and dangerous to control.

Eucalypt forests accumulate fuel every year, through the shedding by trees and shrubs of dry leaves, twigs and branchlets and the thickening of dry bark on the tree trunks. In some forests up to three tonnes of fuel can accumulate every year on every hectare of forest. The process of accumulation goes on for years, often 15 years or more, meaning there can be over 20 tonnes of fuel just sitting there.

"The more fuel, the more intense the fire, the harder it is to control and the more damage it does," says the Bush Front.

"Decades of bushfire experience has shown that once fuels are more than five or six years old, the accumulated fuel loads will feed fires that will quickly become uncontrollable under summer conditions. A thousand firefighters and a hundred water bombers will not extinguish, not even slow the progress of a raging forest fire burning in heavy fuels under extreme weather conditions.



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Tough year for woodchip trade, but Asia considered better supply option

DANA update on Japan, mainland China, South Korea and Taiwan

THE woodchip trade this year has been tough, but a new global trading volume and prices update suggests Asia, rather than Europe, is a better supply option.

NZ-based DANA has just completed its January to June 2020 update as part of its major 2020 Pulp and Biomass Woodchip Trade Review.

Data is now available for six months for shipments to Japan, mainland China and South Korea (and five months for Taiwan).

Japanese buyers imported 4.4 million BDMT or 20% less hardwood chips in the first half of 2020 compared to 2019. While cheaper Indonesian chips enjoyed a 40% increase and (also cheaper) Vietnam suffered only a 9% reduction, the more expensive Australian eucalyptus trade reduced by 37% with South Africa down 44%. Surprisingly, Chilean deliveries were down only 4%, but with a major price reduction earlier in the year.

Landed prices in Japan ranged from \$156 per BDMT to \$220 and Japanese (and some China) prices are down on 2019.

Imports of hardwood chips to mainland China at 6.3 million BDMT were down only 2%, with major (and closer) supplier Vietnam up 16%. In contrast Australian deliveries reduced by 30%. Chilean shipments increased by 3%.

Ironically, the long shipping distance from Chile – and Brazil – (32-35 days) to North Asia, compared with 11-16 days from Australia, may be favouring Latin American



Australian mainland eucalyptus plantation.

shipments as chip importers seek to keep their big new woodchip carriers busy.

The two other north Asian importing countries are minor, but still worth noting. Shipments to South Korea in the first half totalled 219,000 BDMT, all hardwood from Vietnam but down 14% in 2019.

Shipments to Taiwan (data for five months only) totalled 189,000 BDMT, down 11% on 2019. Vietnam shipments rose while Australian shipments fell.

The softwood chip trade is now very minor compared to the hardwood trade, and is mostly to Japan. Shipments in the first half totalled 711,000 BDMT, down 11%. Deliveries from the two major suppliers the US (-17%) and Australia (-10%) both reduced. Prices will be lower in the second half.

Reductions in demand worldwide are largely due to low pulp prices, compounded this year by Covid-19 related reductions in paper and packaging demand. The US/

China trade and other disputes have not helped.

Europe seems to be so far suffering more than Asia if its impact of Uruguayan shipments to Portugal are a reflection on wider Europe.

In 2019, two Uruguay woodchip producers shipped 18 vessels (440,000 BDMT) of eucalyptus chips to Portugal, but in 2020 shipments are likely to be well down, maybe total of only 5-7 vessels at most. This reduction of 60-70% is far more than for Asian markets.

“SOFTWOOD CHIP TRADE MINOR COMPARED WITH HARDWOOD TRADE”

This demand slowdown has occurred 2-3 years too early in Uruguay, which from 2023 will itself face a shortage of pulpwood once the massive new \$US3 billion UPM pulp mill starts up. As a result, Uruguayan woodchips are reportedly being offered to Chinese buyers at

“competitive” prices.

Eucalyptus pulp-log exports from Brazil to Portugal were earlier in 2020 predicted to be at least 700,000 green tonnes for this year, but are now likely to be less than 200,000 tonnes as Portuguese imported wood fibre demand dries up.

However, Chinese hardwood woodchip demand is likely to be significantly boosted in 2022-23.

The combined scale of recent announcements for new integrated pulp and paper projects almost defies belief (and would do so in any other country). However, Chinese pulp and paper companies have a tendency to (mostly) actually build what they announce, or indeed commonly more than they announce.

So far, 11 different companies have announced 13 pulp and paper projects which include new (some mechanical and some chemical) pulp capacity of 8400 tonnes a year to be completed from 2020 to 2022/23. Several new pulp mill entrants are involved, including Nine Dragons, which in 25 years from founding has grown into a massive paper producer, opening a new paper machine most years. It opened its most recent ‘PM 42’ in December last year – a

Cont P 13

From P 12

600,000 tpy linerboard unit.

DANA estimates these expansions will require an additional 13.5 million BDMT of mostly hardwood woodchips a year. Even if half are built, their pulpwood fibre demand will likely be more than the 'spare' harvest capacity of eucalyptus and acacia plantation forests supplying woodchips – this even with a slowdown in harvest from Australian plantations in 2020 which may mean that an expected drop in harvest from 2023 may no



UPM Paso de los Toros pulp mill construction site in central Uruguay.

longer be necessary.

Even without any possible

future impacts, Vietnam, by

far the largest chip exporting

country, is experiencing the first signs of a new disease in its acacia plantations. Some stands are apparently suffering 70% mortality. But it's too early to determine whether these are isolated outbreaks, or are more troubling.

But what is certain is that there is never a dull moment in the Asian – and global – woodchip trade.

That is why all prudent woodchip trade players and even observers are advised to purchase the DANA-Gingko Review (with its updates).

• See notice, Page 17

Forest sector essential to keep Victoria running under Stage 4

TIM JOHNSTON

LAST week the Victorian government took the drastic measure of moving metropolitan Melbourne to Stage 4 restrictions and the rest of Victoria to Stage 3.

To many members of the public, this might not seem to be a huge blow to the timber and forest industry, which at first glance might appear to be primarily based in the regions.

However, we know that our supply chains are crucial to a huge number of primary and secondary processors in Melbourne, so a large

amount of harvested timber will end up inside the Stage 4 area for further processing. Furthermore, forestry operations are very important to communities bordering the metropolitan zone, such as Yarra Ranges, which is now under Stage 4.

Given the huge uncertainty and anxiety this has caused, VAFI, with the Australian Forest Contractors Association and Australian Forest Products Association, has been active in working with the government to reach clarity for our industry.



Tim Johnston... supply chains crucial

We aren't looking for loopholes, or special status. However, it's plain that our industry is essential to keep Victoria running during these difficult times – construction timbers for frame and truss; pallets and paper packaging products that have never been more important in freight and

delivery logistics; processing residues that go to a range of agricultural uses; firewood for heating.

The coming weeks will be trying for everyone in Victoria, especially those who must remain in their homes for an extended period. However, I'm confident that every business and worker in our industry will continue to implement best-practice safety procedures and help keeping the state running.

• Tim Johnston is CEO, Victorian Association of Forest Industries.



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13

Black Summer: now the work begins

Out of the flames came resilience and recovery

BILLIE-JO Brown, the Forestry Corporation’s production and stewardship supervisor, says turning up to work knowing that at that very moment her own family home was going up in flames was one of the hardest experiences.

“Trying to stay strong and focused knowing you and your family are losing so much was really tough,” Billie-Jo said.

Taking a chopper flight over the Dunns Creek fire ground and seeing her parent’s house and those of close family friends destroyed was heartbreaking.

But out of the flames came community resilience and recovery.



RESPONSIBLE Wood and the Forestry Corporation of NSW are sharing stories from the frontline of the Black Summer bushfires. This second of a three-part series explores the impact on the forest infrastructure and the recovery efforts post-fire.

Fauna protection... Billie-Jo Brown, Tumbarumba production and stewardship supervisor, comforts a young kangaroo that escaped the bushfires.

“Rescuing injured wildlife and feeding hungry fellow firefighters gave us a purpose,” said Billie-Jo.

“Delivering care packages to affected

landholders as part of a community liaison role and showing our community that we cared and that we were there for them received lots of hugs of appreciation.”

On the NSW north coast, acting forest protection manager Peter Walters said one important project was replacing burnt bridges in Doubleduke state forest.

“We are partnering with local industries and contractors to repair or replace bridges and reopen main forest roads,” Peter said.

“We worked with Grafton-based business Big River Timbers to use timber from state forests for the project.”

This means that not only does the recovery process support local timber communities and contractors, it also uses a renewable and certified product.

Forestry Corporation’s senior ecologist Chris Slade said the nesting box project was another key initiative of the recovery process.

“Coffs Harbour field ecologist Peter Simon was building hollows from burnt timber material and fitting them in burnt forests,” Chris said.

“Ultimately, we hope to build on the knowledge to support a healthier forest ecology in the long run.”

Forestry Corporation protection supervisor Mick Wilson says the post-fire pest animal baiting program was a critical tool in supporting native fauna recovery.

“Winter is when feral predators are at their hungriest – they are doing it tough, preparing for breeding and chasing protein,” Mick said.

“Post-fire, this puts additional pressure on native fauna during this vulnerable recovery stage.”

Chris added: “The 2020 baiting program was the largest we have ever done and well-timed to reduce the impact of predators on recovering fauna populations. The resilience of the forest and landscape has also supported wildlife recovery.

Visit responsiblewood.org.au for more stories on that Black Summer.

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Viking churches testament to wood's stunning durability over the centuries

Preserved buildings stand as tribute to Nordic architecture 1000 years ago

THE survival in good working condition of Viking-age wooden churches in Norway is a remarkable testament to Nordic construction technology, the durability of the timber used and maintenance over the centuries.

Many wooden churches existed throughout north-western Europe at one time, but with a couple of exceptions. Only Norway's distinctive wooden 'stave churches' remain.

There are now just 20 or so wooden 'stave' churches remaining, which with their clever construction, have stood for close to a thousand years.

They are stunning artefacts, built using Norway spruce and other local timbers. Experts believe the architecture reflects earlier Norse building styles and that, through them and their decorative art, some idea of how the earlier pagan temples to the Norse gods must have appeared.

Vikings were Nordic people primarily from southern



Dating back to the 1250s... this all-timber Heddal Church, the largest stave church in Norway.

Scandinavia (present-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden) who, from the late eighth to late 11th centuries, raided and traded from their northern European homelands across wide areas of Europe. Vikings also explored westwards to Iceland, Greenland and coastal North America.

Viking communities and governments were established in areas of north-western Europe, the North

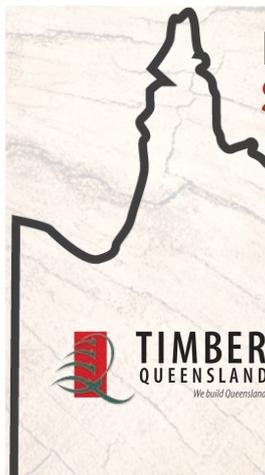
Atlantic islands and as far as the north-eastern coast of North America. This period of expansion witnessed the wider dissemination of Norse culture, while simultaneously introducing foreign cultural influences into Scandinavia.

During the Viking Age the Norse homelands were gradually consolidated into three larger kingdoms — Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

When Christianity spread across Scandinavia, perhaps as many as 750 wooden churches had been built across Norway. The Vikings had developed impressive skills in timber construction,

“IMPRESSIVE SKILLS IN BUILDING WITH TIMBER”

Cont P 17



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**

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as illustrated by their astounding ocean-going longboats. Wood remains the preferred building material for Norwegian homes today.

Stave churches or 'stavkirker', take their name from the spruce or pine timber core 'staves' or columns (from Norwegian 'stav') that formed the load-bearing frames of the buildings. The staves do not rest directly on the ground, but on a foundation of stones, unlike earlier churches where the supporting posts went directly into the ground.

This feature and the fact that iron nails were not used and so avoided rot and rust is

BUILDING CLOSELY RELATED TO PAGAN ERA



The Vikings... raiders and traders across a wide area of Europe and Britain between the 8th and 11th centuries.

primarily responsible for their preservation and longevity.

The toll of centuries of damp and extreme Scandinavian weather, combined with a lack of maintenance, was telling. By 1650, fewer than 300 stave churches were still standing. By 1800, there were just

70 and of these about 40 were demolished during the 19th century. Today, only 29 remain.

Most of the stave churches were built in the 12th and 13th centuries. Heddal, the largest stave church in Norway, dates from the 1250s. The oldest, built at

Urnes, Norway, in the early 1100s, contains timber that probably came from a previous church on the site. Its beautiful wood carving has given its name to the 'Urnes style' of animal art, which is just a generation or so removed from its pagan Norwegian forebears.

The most famous, best-preserved and most authentic of the remaining stave churches is that at Borgund, not far from Urnes. It was built and dedicated to Saint Andrew the Apostle around AD 1150. With its carved portals and dragons carved on its gables, it is difficult to escape the impression that, notwithstanding its Christian dedication, the building is very closely related to the pagan era of the Viking Age.

(Article adapted from the work of Daniel Peterson, a professor of Islamic Studies and Arabic at the Brigham Young University's Middle Eastern Texts Initiative).

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From P 5

for Forestry John McVeigh struck a 25-year sales agreement between the government and industry, which delivered longer contracts for companies already allocated a license to harvest cypress.

Eleven cypress sawmillers in western Queensland and the western Downs region draw their logs mainly from Barkula, the largest state forest in the southern hemisphere spanning 283,000 ha, which supplies much of the state's cypress pine timber resource. They are based at Mungallala, Mitchell, Roma, Injune, Miles, Chinchilla, Cecil Plains and Inglewood.

These mills are now salvaging burnt cypress from Barkula, which saw some of the better stands in the core of the forest hit by bushfires last year.

"We've salvaged about 4000 tonnes of logs from Barkula with other sawmills taking about the same amount," Mr Goodchild said.

"It's about eight months since the blaze and despite the bark being cooked by the

fires, the timber is still cutting well. We'll be back into the green forest in five or six weeks and you wouldn't find better trees anywhere."

Mr Goodchild said the sudden interest in cypress for house frames was interesting.

"We supplied two house frames last month, one to the Gold Coast and the other to the Granite Belt and that's unusual for us," he said.

"This is a real bright spot and it will let people know more about the advantages of cypress framing."

The writer can recall that most western cypress prior to the 1960s finished up as flooring sent on semi-loaders to Sydney. It was not until 1962 after a busload

of producers, architects and engineers visited the region that cypress came to dominate house frame construction in the 60s before losing favour in the early 70s and 80s.

The Goodchild's Yuleba sawmill is continuing to invest in the future of cypress; last Christmas

it upgraded a twin-edge bandsaw with a new log turner and computerised sizing, and before that invested in a new front-end loader.

"But finding loyal workers out here is still difficult," said Mitchell.

"Three Filipinos turned up at the gate and they're still here three years later. It's hard to find any fair dinkum 17-year-old Aussies who will stick with the job. The fruit pickers in north Queensland know what I'm talking about."



1/ Cypress memories... enjoying a social gathering in Brisbane as Covid measures ease in Queensland are Don Towerton, Thora Wholesale Timbers (formerly manager, Bretts Inglewood cypress mill), Harvey Goodchild, Yuleba Cypress Sawmills, Miles, Tim Evans, Coast to Coast Pacific, Caboolture, and Charles Achilles, formerly manager, Hyne and Sons cypress mill, Chinchilla. Harvey and his wife have moved to Brisbane, but he is a regular commuter to the family sawmill at Miles where you will often find him tinkering with machinery. The lunch table number will give a clue to Harvey's birthday celebration this month.

2/ "The green solution... Walker Cypress Mills – a Responsible Wood/PEFC certified operation at Cecil Plains.



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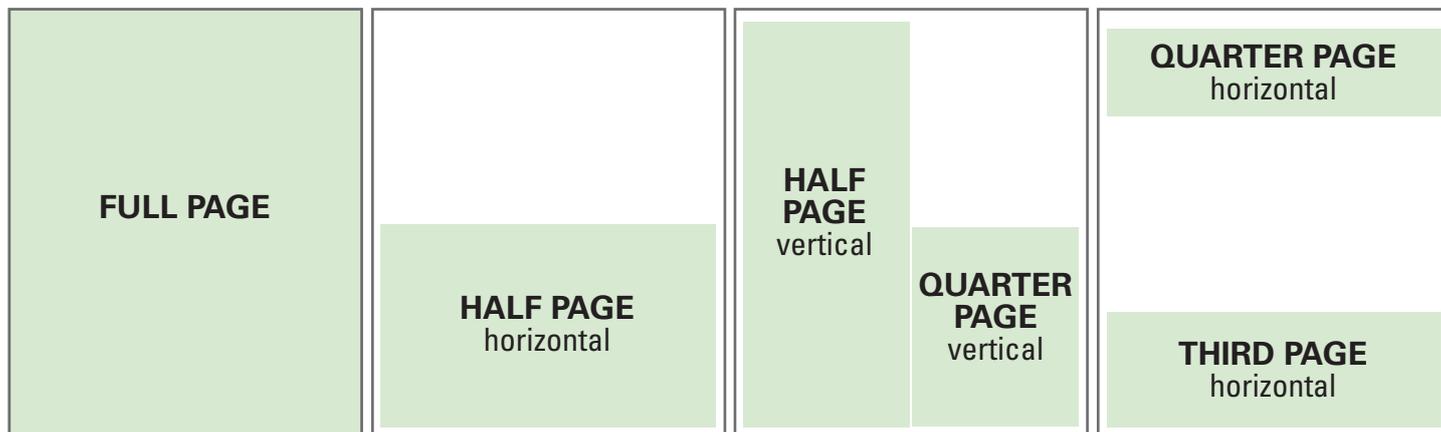
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