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COVER STORY P5

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NZ's low carbon construction policy proves winner for mass timber sector

NEW Zealand industry has welcomed the government's low-carbon construction procurement policy announced last week.

The policy will simultaneously deliver strong economic, social, and environmental outcomes and is a step in New Zealand's path to carbon zero by 2050.

"Fortunately, there is now a good range of price-competitive 'mass timber' suppliers in New Zealand, with a good base of architects, engineers and construction companies experienced with wood design and construction," says Red Stag Group CEO Marty Verry.

The announcement follows similar policies in countries such as France, Japan, Canada, Australia, and the USA.

"It's great that New Zealand is going to start leading the way in clean green carbon zero construction," Mr Verry said. "And it's great for our country's brand image, and something all exporters and tourism can benefit from."



Carbon construction procurement policy welcomed... Marty Verry (right) with NZ Minister for Forestry Shane Jones.

Mr Verry, also spokesperson for the wood processing sector on the policy, points to Green Building Council research that 20% of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the built environment, primarily because of concrete and steel use.

"Use of wood displaces the use of these high CO2 emitting products on current projects, but also encourages the planting of more trees to sequester CO2 in the decades to come," he said.

"Wood is being used for practically all building types around the world now, and thanks to new 'mass timber' products such as CLT, they can be cost effective and faster to build.

"New Zealand also has many specialist wood engineers and construction firms. This procurement policy

will introduce more of them to clean green construction systems, and those experts will then be able to offer those skills to the private sector."

Mr Verry said the sector had a three times economic multiplier and a 2.7 times employment multiplier for every dollar spent or job created ... "so it just makes sense to try to keep it local."

He said a policy based on what's best for NZ Inc will push government building developers and design teams to stop resorting to the traditional systems they were familiar with, and design for what's best for New Zealand holistically.

Data based on Deloitte research found the policy could add up to 5000 jobs to the sector, increase log processing by 1.7 million tonnes annually, sequester 918,000 tonnes of CO2 annually, and result in a \$500 million annual balance of payments improvement by exporting high-value green products and importing less climate polluting steel and concrete.

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Queensland's plantation softwood industry powering up for the future

New investment brings greater operational capacity and more jobs

WITH long-term demand for renewable timber products predicted to rise, Queensland's softwood plantation timber growers and manufacturers are ramping up planting and production capability for the future.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said investment in greater operational capability in forestry and timber processing and manufacturing was taking place to position the industry more strongly to meet this demand.

"Despite the current challenges of Covid-19 and the impacts of the recent bushfires in New South Wales, we are pleased that the major industry players are looking to the future with new and planned investment in Queensland," Mr Stephens said.

The largest single grower, HQPlantations, is undertaking a significant planting program of 6400 ha across both of its southern pine and Araucaria plantations to maximise timber production.

CEO Jeremy Callachor said HQP was also investing to protect forest habitats and timber production from wildfire.

He said this year HQP would undertake around 17,000 ha of hazard reduction burning, invest \$2.8 million in six new fire tankers and commence a three-year radio network upgrade at a cost of \$5 million.

"We're also continuing investment in research,



Jeremy Callachor



Jon Kleinschmidt



Shane Vicary

development and extension programs in silviculture and tree breeding to enhance forest productivity and improve fibre quality for the market," he said.

In addition, AKD Softwood has growth and investment plans for its Caboolture sawmill that will double log intake after recently recommencing operations after a brief closure period due to a storage shed fire.

“INVESTING TO PROTECT FOREST HABITATS

"Key investment in additional processing capacity and working collaboratively with HQPlantations secures current jobs as well as provides additional permanent roles," AKD CEO Shane Vicary said.

"We plan to double the volume of timber, providing security of supply and by investing in a new continuous drying kiln to lift drying capacity we're producing a stable and consistent product for the market," he said.

Responding to growing

demand for engineered wood products was the driver behind Hyne Timber's new \$23 million glue laminated timber plant in Maryborough. This facility will sustain 40 jobs once fully operational and generate 80 jobs during construction, including the

engagement of 40 local contractors worth more than \$5 million to the local economy.

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

"This new plant delivers a 400% expansion on

Cont P 4

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Maps show potential for natural forest regrowth to accumulate global carbon

A MAJOR new study that maps potential above ground carbon accumulation rates for forest regrowth across the globe has been published in the journal Nature.

Researchers from Australia's national science agency CSIRO joined scientists from 17 other countries to publish a first of its kind, 'wall-to-wall' global, 1 km resolution map that highlights areas with the greatest carbon returns, when they are allowed to reforest naturally.

“SURVEY ON BIOMASS POTENTIAL

Report co-author and CSIRO principal research scientist forest systems Dr Stephen Roxburgh said the report, led by The Nature Conservancy, highlighted the role of natural forest regrowth and refines previous international estimates.

Dr Roxburgh said CSIRO supported the study through the supply of datasets, including 72 stands of natural regeneration that CSIRO had surveyed for biomass carbon.

“The datasets were collected for the Australian government's national greenhouse gas accounting program,” Dr Roxburgh said.

“The datasets were also



Dr Stephen Roxburgh... carbon returns from natural forest regrowth.

used to better understand the carbon storage potential from restoring degraded woody vegetation,” he said.

“The global study complemented recent Australian work on carbon accumulation rates for planted and naturally

regenerating stands of woody biomass across Australia.”

Human induced natural regeneration of woody vegetation is a substantial contributor to carbon storage activities being carried out under Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund.

Dr Roxburgh said the study found climate, rather than past land use, was the most important driver of potential carbon accumulation, with the work providing an important benchmark to assess the global potential of forest regrowth as a climate mitigation strategy.

The project was jointly funded by CSIRO and the federal government's National Environmental Science Program.

From P 3

existing capability with all the feedstock coming from our own secure supply – our mill in the Tuan forest, which employs a further 200 people,” Mr Kleinschmidt said.

Mick Stephens said the high-profile innovations by HQPlantations, AKD Softwood and Hyne Timber were just part of the many Queensland forest and timber industry businesses that delivered over \$3 billion to the state economy and support almost 25,000 jobs.



Mick Stephens... major industry players are looking to the future with new and planned investment in Queensland.

“We are excited by these opportunities and Timber Queensland will shortly be releasing its policy platform as part of the upcoming state election, which will outline key government settings that can grow this important regional industry further,” Mr Stephens said.

“NEW PLANT DELIVERS A 400% EXPANSION



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The Great Koala Kerfuffle

Time to review just how incompetent public land management is

JIM BOWDEN

FAMOUSLY, Winston Churchill defined Russia as "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma".

The quote is appropriate to the koala kerfuffle in New South Wales – a mixed bag of a tricky-dickie legislation process, disoriented land mapping and environmental planning naivety.

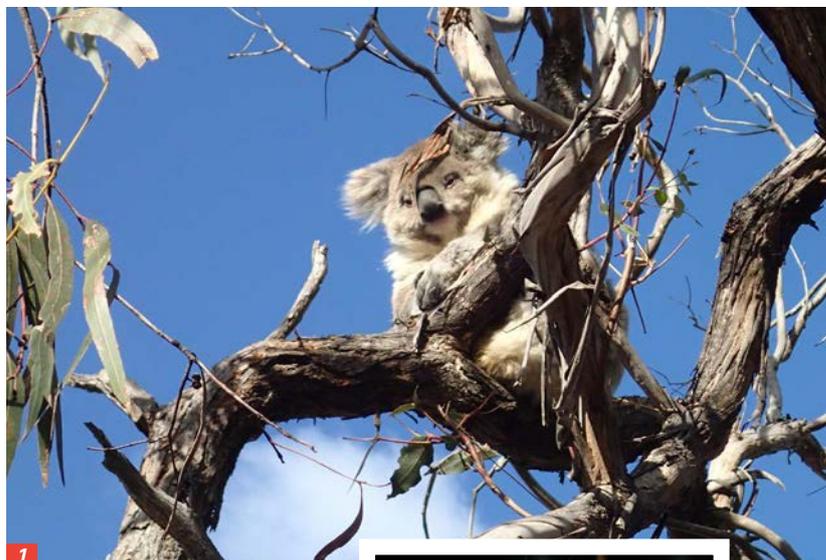
And a complete lack of knowledge of koala behaviour and habitats by the bureaucracy.

It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious.

Timber NSW has raised significant concerns over how the koala state environmental planning policy rules impact the state's private forestry industry.

"Regional landholders have

“ THIS MEANS WE WILL BE EFFECTIVELY UNABLE TO UTILISE PRIVATE LAND



1/ Not a happy chappie... koala 'protected' in core habitat.
2/ Maree McCaskill... major injustice to farmers and private native forestry operators.

repeatedly expressed our support for the protection of the state's koala population," Timber NSW general manager Maree McCaskill said.

"We urgently call on the NSW government to amend the Koala State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to avoid a major injustice to landholders, farmers and private native



forestry operators."

The new SEPP 2019 applies to private landholdings and creates 'core koala habitat' zones across almost all

regional land areas showing tree cover. The impact is to restrict or curtail agricultural activities and prevent private landholders from clearing regrowth.

"In addition, under this new SEPP, nearly all private native forests will qualify and eventually be classified as core koala habitat, thus prohibiting current

and future private native forestry," Ms McCaskill said.

She said the state's food, fibre and timber industries were still reeling from the devastation of the 2019 bushfires.

"The impact of the Koala SEPP 2019 is that they will be effectively unable to use private land for anything other than biodiversity offset," Ms McCaskill said. "The government needs to work

Cont P 6



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

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From P 5

with regional landholders to fix these problems.

The forestry industry is particularly concerned about an increase in the number of trees considered as “core” koala habitat, and different rules for essentially proving the presence of koalas.

With 32 years in planning and harvesting operations, Timber NSW director Steve Dobbyns says the koala protection policy would “shut down the private native forest industry in NSW,” which is worth \$465 million to the state each year.

Timber producer Andrew Moran, who runs a private native forest in an area identified as likely to contain koala habitat, said the proposed rule changes would “pretty much put him out of business”.

Peter Holt, a specialist in planning and local government law, agrees the NSW government needs stronger koala protection, but says the maps that have been produced “should never have been the end point” and did not adequately identify the correct land to be preserved.

He specifically flagged two concerns – that there were areas of land that objectively should not warrant ecological tests, which can cost up to \$12,000, and that planning policy maps would intersect with regulations enshrining the hard-won rights of landholders to make self-assessments to clear their own land.

“I see wider implications not being factored into the decision-making and I see time and energy wasted looking at false positives,” he said.

If the government wants to increase the number of koalas an intelligent and successful approach would be to embrace



1/ Andrew Moran... proposed rule changes would “pretty much put me out of business.”



2/ Steve Dobbyns... koala protection policy would shut down the private native forest industry in NSW.

landholders – farmers and foresters – who own 82% of the NSW land mass.

The problem is SEPP policies in time will override all environmental legislation, so it will rapidly become the standard for all farmland management – to be administered by bureaucrats.

The inmates will be running the funny farm.

The NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes had offered seven concessions on the proposed guidelines of the new koala SEPP to NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro on August 21, but received no reply.

Mr Barilaro emerged from a joint party room meeting of Liberal and National MPs last Tuesday with his leadership intact despite backing down from his threat to take his MPs to the crossbench over the Coalition's divisive land clearing policy.

Last Friday, Mr Barilaro began a month of leave to deal with mental health issues, leaving his new deputy Paul Toole in charge who, interestingly, was Minister for Forestry in the first Berejiklian ministry.

The outspoken NSW Nationals leader will miss next week's parliamentary sittings and won't return to his role for up to four weeks. This means he will likely miss an October 6 cabinet meeting in which the

koala protection policy was expected to be debated.

The whole issue arose when the World Wildlife Fund released a report stating koalas would be extinct by 2050, partly because of the bushfires that burned about 7% of the state's land mass.

Almost three-quarters of key habitat the Berejiklian government was planning to set aside for koala protection was burned in the summer bushfires, which raged across more than 5 million ha. Of the state forests transferred to national park tenure, 72% “were impacted”, as were about 58% proposed flora reserve.

“ TIME AND ENERGY WASTED LOOKING FOR FALSE POSITIVES

The time is right to review how incompetent public land management is, given that the devastation wrought on national parks killed thousands of koalas.

We turned for an expert ecological comment on the issue to Vic Jurkis, a former NSW Forestry Commission professional forester who was officer in charge of the regional research centre at Eden and silviculturist for the commission's native forest division, responsible for forest

management across NSW.

He was blunt ... and to the point:

In his opinion, “green, multinational, taxpayer-subsidised ‘charities’ are using the cuteness of koalas to reap millions of dollars from naive, well-meaning people”.

“They're causing untold animal suffering, pushing our truly endangered species to the brink and contributing to loss of human life and socio-economic destruction,” he says.

“Most people believe that there were tens of millions of koala's right across eastern Australia before we cut down their trees and shot the survivors for their pelts. A senate inquiry embraced this deliberate lie. Koalas are officially vulnerable north of the Victoria-NSW border – but not in Victoria or South Australia.

“Koalas are naturally rare in healthy mature forests. They irrupted into plagues after Aboriginal burning was disrupted. Dense young forests grew up in the foothills, providing masses of soft and nutritious young growth. Trees in valley pastures got sick and started constantly turning over young shoots. Koalas spread across valleys where they had never lived before. Explorers and settlers didn't see them.”

Mr Jurkis says koala plagues stripped declining trees bare. Then they suffered starvation and disease. Shooting them and using their fur was a humane and economic response, but it didn't control the plagues. They crashed in the Federation Drought. Said to be extinct in NSW by 1930, they kept doing their thing, unseen, in forests.

After World War 2, intensive harvesting created dense

Cont P 10

SEPT/OCT

Timber Queensland 4-part webinar training program – Understanding AS1684.2.

September 15, 10am-12pm;
September 22, 10-11.30 am;
September 29, 10-11.30 am;
October 6, 10 am-12 pm.
Cost \$200 (inc. gst) \$200, non-members \$250 (inc. gst).
Course must be booked as a whole; sessions are not separately bookable. CPD points available. This is a ticketed course. Register at

www.timberqueensland.com.au

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

16–19: DANA New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference and Field Trip – Napier Conference Centre,

Marine Parade, Napier, New Zealand. Website under construction, for further information contact Conference Organiser Julie Bell admin@dana.co.nz

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

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

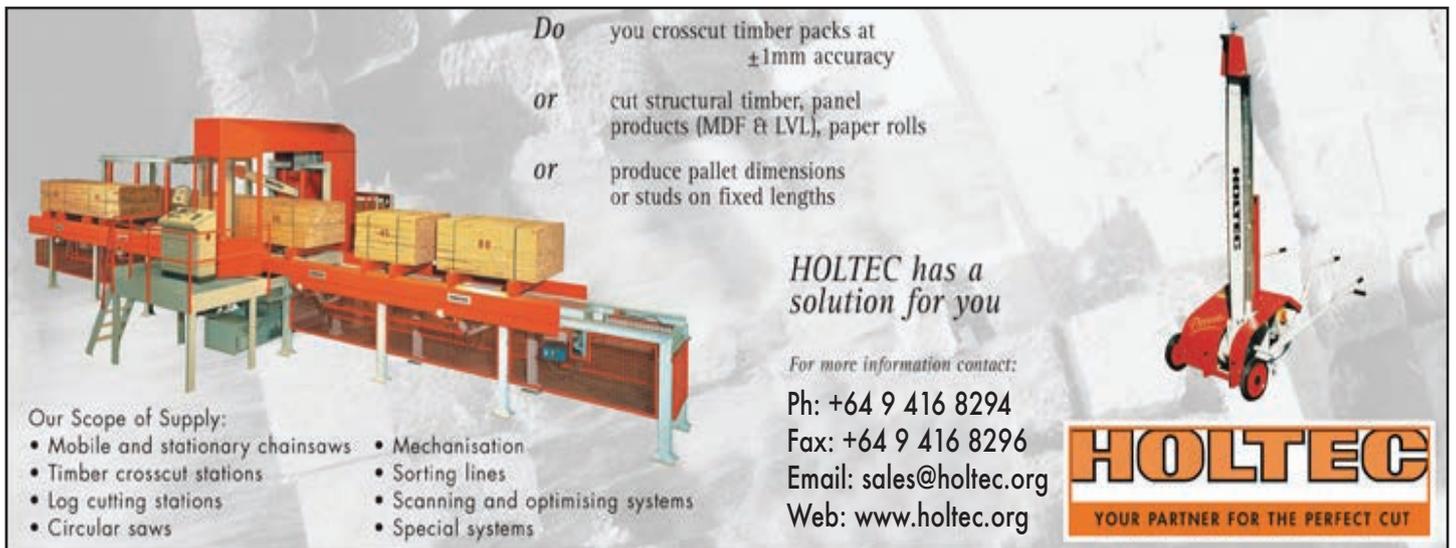
across the globe to discuss investment opportunities in timber to diversify their portfolios and achieve healthy returns. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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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More fibre in your milk: Fonterra shifts from coal to wood pellets in energy plan

A MULTI-NATIONAL dairy cooperative owned by around 10,500 New Zealand farmers has transitioned from coal to wood pellets.

Fonterra announced the move to renewable energy at its Te Awamutu site at the start of the year; the site previously used a mix of coal, gas, and electricity to process milk.

Chief operating officer Fraser Whineray said sustainability was at the core of the cooperative's long-



1

1/ *Fonterra... moo-ving ahead on renewable energy.*

2/ *Fraser Whineray... plan to achieve net-zero emissions.*

term strategy and while the pandemic had presented challenges, Fonterra was still able to complete the

sustainable wood pellets as smooth as possible.

Operation manager John Goodwin said it was a great environmental story on all fronts.

"Our pellets are made from renewable, plantation-based fibre residues from local sawmills in the form of sawdust and shavings," he said.

"We use renewable geothermal energy to transform the residues into a premium and reliable fuel, which customers like Fonterra can then use to reduce their greenhouse emissions.

"We welcome Fonterra as a customer and look forward to working together on this and other future opportunities."



2

decarbonisation project at Te Awamutu before the spring milk arrived.

The move away from coal at the facility is part of Fonterra's plans to achieve net-zero emissions at its manufacturing sites by 2050. Once completed, it will reduce the cooperative's national coal consumption by almost 10%, saving more than 84,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year – equivalent to removing 32,000 cars from the road.

Fonterra partnered with Natures Flame and Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority on the project. Natures Flame, which produces the wood pellets, said it was delighted to have partnered with Fonterra to make the change to

“ GEOTHERMAL POWER TO TRANSFORM RESIDUES INTO RELIABLE FUEL

Natures Flame CEO Andrew Caseley said there was enormous potential in New Zealand to bring those emissions down significantly by moving away from coal, as Fonterra was doing.

"This is the largest boiler conversion project to biofuels to date, so our funding via the technology demonstration program will help to de-risk it," he said "It also has the added benefit of establishing a more viable and large-scale wood pellet supply chain."

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Stimulus helps Malaysian timber sector meet challenges of trading under Covid

MTC sustaining business to emerge more resilient after pandemic

THE world had yet to fully recover economically from the post-2009 Global Financial Crisis when it was hit by a bigger challenge – the Covid-19 pandemic, which is touted as one of the worst-ever global ‘black swans’.

The World Bank estimates the global GDP is going deeper into the negative territory as more countries struggle to contain the pandemic.

Malaysia’s response strategy against Covid-19 has centred on its 6R recovery plan – Resolve, Resilience, Restart, Recovery, Revitalise and Reform – where lockdown measures fell within the “resolve” stage which involved the Movement Control Order (MCO), Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) and Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO), which has been extended to December 31.

Malaysia has also been affected by the disrupted global supply chains due to lockdown measures imposed at different timings by its major trading partners which act as important logistical and import-export hubs such as Singapore and China. Businesses in the country were reportedly losing as much as \$US550 million every day when Malaysia



imposed the MCO from March 18 to May 3.

Recently released trade figures up to July 2020 matched analysts’ expectation with Malaysia’s exports declining 6.8% year-on-year to \$US127 billion and imports falling by 7.4% year-on-year to \$US105.9 billion. Exports of timber products also suffered, decreasing by 9.1% to \$US2.2 billion while, in contrast, imports exponentially increased by 13% to \$US702 million in the first six months of 2020.

The government of Malaysia has recognised the threat of Covid-19 to the economy and its people, starting from the first positive cases in January. A stimulus package of more than \$US59.6 billion was rolled out for three reasons: to protect the people, to support businesses and strengthen the economy. Of this amount, \$US25.2 billion was allocated to support businesses.

The commodities sector, including the timber industry, received special approval to continue operating during



the Movement Control Order and, as at May 4, more than 30% of the timber-based manufacturers and processors had received the approvals to operate.

The Malaysian Timber Council played an active role in getting, analysing, and channelling feedback from the industry on issues related to the MCO to the relevant ministries and agencies for further action to smooth operation of the timber industry.

Manufacturers cited the availability of raw materials and input components as problems. Most of the companies employed cost-saving measures, which included changing their business models, downsizing, diversifying their business into other sectors or increasing their product range, diversifying sources of raw material and components as well as embarking on digital transformation.

MTC conducted another survey in June where 90% of the companies surveyed had resumed operations whereas 60% respondents replied that they were operating at more than 70% capacity after the implementation of the Conditional Movement Control Order. The survey also found that 63% of the respondents had resumed export activities with the US, Japan and Australia the top three destinations.

The global economic landscape will remain challenging, and the timber industry in Malaysia will also experience the downturn cycle. However, with the right corrective measures in place, businesses can remain viable. The Malaysia government has signalled more assistance to stimulate the economy and businesses to weather the storm once it has assessed the impact of the stimulus package and the Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan.

MTC, too, in line with the aspiration of the country, will continue to take necessary measures in view of the challenges faced by the timber industry, to sustain its business and emerge more resilient after the crisis.

“SIX-POINT RECOVERY PLAN FOR MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY”

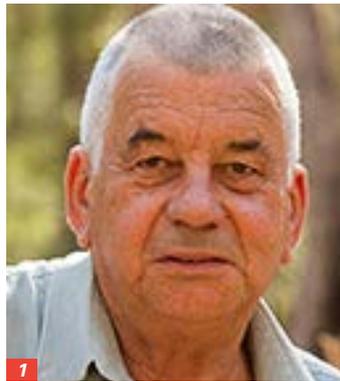
From P 4

young stands, and koalas bred up again. Later on plantations in the Green Triangle and on Kangaroo Island created koala farms. So did Landcare plantings around Gunnedah and the Liverpool Plains.

Green ideology promoted explosive fuels and koala plagues in native forests. Before the Black Summer, Mr Jurkis wrote that: "Koalas are a rare species in healthy forests. Where they are plentiful, their numbers must inevitably crash, and fires will inevitably explode."

The current solution to plagues is translocation. This is cruel and ineffective. In South Australia, more than 1100 translocated koalas died within a year.

The plague in NSW's



1/ Vic Jurkis... urgent need to reinstate sustainable landscapes.
2/ Paul Toole... new Nationals Deputy Leader takes over.

biggest koala park – The Pilliga Scrub – crashed in the Millennium Drought. (The same thing happened around World War 1).

Plagues in coastal parks and forests were decimated by the Black Summer gigafires. The government solution? More koala parks.

The Environment Minister



has promised to double the populations.

"He's seemingly been worded up that koalas irrupt after wildfires," Mr Jurkis said.

“ KOALAS ARE NATURALLY RARE IN HEALTHY MATURE FORESTS

"Despite the unprecedented animal welfare disaster, they're in absolutely no danger of extinction. But our truly endangered species – those which depend on open grassy forests – are on the very brink."

Vic Jurkis concluded with a sobering observation:

"The debate around the SEPP for koalas in NSW misses the point. So-called core habitat is increasing together with explosive fuels.

"There is an urgent need to reinstate sustainable landscapes wherein koalas are healthy, safe and invisible, as they were when Europeans arrived."

Copies of Vic's book *The Great Koala Scam* can be ordered at www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au/THE-GREAT-KOALA-SCAM

Andy Giles Knopp appointed new OneFortyOne CEO

A KEY member of OneFortyOne's executive team Andy Giles Knopp has been appointed new CEO of the trans-Tasman fibre company which operates an 80,000 ha softwood estate in regional South Australia.

Mr Knopp will step into the CEO role previously held by Linda Sewell, who resigned in August.

"Andy is a proven leader," OneFortyOne chairman John Gilleland said.

"His ability to balance commercial and people focused strategy will further strengthen the business."

Prior to bringing his financial expertise to the forest and timber industries, Mr Knopp, who has a Bachelor



Andy Giles Knopp... focus on strengthening OneFortyOne's core business.

of Arts in accounting and financial management, has held senior roles in the telecommunications sector.

"This appointment marks an exciting new chapter for OneFortyOne and the board is looking forward to working with Andy to ensure the company continues to deliver its promise of growing exceptional wood fibre, producing quality products and delivering responsible environmental management," Mr Gilleland said.



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AKD Irrewarra restart follows rise in house construction, renovation levels

Increasing domestic supply and opening employment opportunities

AKD will recommence operations at its Irrewarra sawmilling site in south western Victoria in a strategy providing more Australian-produced timber for customers and greater employment opportunities in the Colac region.

In May because of Covid-19, the business made the decision to idle its Irrewarra sawmill in a pre-emptive move to flex AKD production in anticipation of reduced market demand.

“The decision was extremely difficult for the AKD team and we are very pleased to be able to restart the mill in October which offers 25 new employment opportunities for the Colac community,” CEO Shane Vicary said.

“The changes we made in May were to ensure our business production levels aligned with projected softening demand,” he said. “However the federal government’s Home Building Stimulus Package ‘HomeBuilder’ announced in June was truly effective and created immediate and substantial demand.

“This has resulted in new house construction activity levels remaining resiliently strong combining with solid activity in ‘additions and alterations’ and the

“CUSTOMERS PREFERRING AUSSIE-GROWN TIMBER



1/ AKD team members at Colac

push the message... Suzanne Ford, Kate Lang, Abbey Kerr, Alyssa Howard, and Rosie Barrow.
 2/ **Shane Vicary... supporting 'By Aussie Timber First.'**

consequence of better-than-expected demand for timber products, giving AKD the opportunity to re-start the Irrewarra sawmill.”

AKD are noting that customers increasingly prefer domestic supply and there is market speculation of a substantial reduction in the amount of timber being imported into Australia. This has combined to give AKD the confidence to restart Irrewarra to produce more timber as key customers look for supply security for the long term.

In addition, AKD will be able to develop new customer relationships with Australian-grown and processed timber and continue sourcing the logs that used to supply the sawmill.

“While the signs are positive now, we do not



make this decision lightly and will continue to work with customers who value supply security, so that we can provide employment security for the AKD team, and continued confidence to our log suppliers,” Mr Vicary said.

This follows the Caboolture sawmill restart in September and the announcement to double the Caboolture sawmill production over the coming 18 months.

This year in particular has required all Australian manufacturing businesses with uncertain demand to be more agile in their operating postures. AKD has

worked closely and openly with their employees to have the flexibility required in unprecedented times and they have demonstrated how local supply can be more flexible and responsive to the

Australian market. AKD is an active sponsor and supporter of the Australian Forest Products Association initiative ‘Buy Aussie Timber First’.

AKD is a 100% Australian owned and operated integrated forestry and timber processing company with operations in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Six sawmills processing in excess of 1 million cub sawlog a year and more than 9000 ha of radiata plantations are located in Victoria and South Australia per annum. AKD has three preservation businesses, a softwood chip export operation and multiple log export locations.

New project pathway to a future in forestry

SKILLS

development organisation ForestWorks is looking for members of the industry to voluntarily contribute their expertise to a new project that will develop career pathways for students into a range of forestry roles.

“Industry tell us that one of the biggest challenges for the future is the attraction of new entrants into the industry, and this project seeks to ensure the pathways are the best they can be across the nation,” general manager

“ATTRACTING NEW ENTRANTS TO THE FOREST INDUSTRY”



Yvette Nash said.

“Members of the ForestWorks technical advisory group can contribute their expertise to identifying the current skills requirements for a range of jobs in forestry operations,” Ms Nash said.

“This work will involve working with people from across the industry and state and territory governments to ensure that qualifications in our industry can be delivered in a school environment.”

Ms Nash said people suited for the role were those with experience in operational environments of forest



Yvette Nash... students offered a range of forestry roles.

growing and management or harvesting and haulage; people with experience in silviculture and harvesting operations; and people who worked or had worked in nurseries and farm forestry.

The project will support students to access school-based VET, apprenticeships and traineeships by

reviewing Certificate II and III qualifications in the Forest and Wood Products Training Package.

ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering skills development services for industry, covering forest, wood, paper, timber products and furnishing.

Programs and projects include: FOLS Skills Verification Program; Forestry Better Business Program; skills standards and qualifications development; assessment moderation; learning resources and tools; training skills and development service (Tasmania); and skills advice for industry and government.

Contact Yvette Nash on 0412 890 306. Visit www.forestworks.com.au



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Hidden for centuries deep in the forest the Akatarawa rātā is a living treasure

Tree has a trunk size that rivals New Zealand's iconic kauri

THE New Zealand piece of the once great southern continent Gondwanaland drifted south before the Australian eucalypts evolved, but did, and still does, host the eucalypt ancestor, the *Metrosideros* trees.

Included are the pohutukawa, or New Zealand Christmas Tree, and the northern and southern rātā trees.

So... no eucalypts (or snakes) made it onto the Land of the Long White Cloud as Gondwanaland fragmented all those millions of years ago.

Talking about rātā trees ... hidden in the Akatarawa forest near New Zealand's capital city of Wellington is one of the country's best-kept tree secrets – reported as a living treasure equal to anything found in the national museum.

Recently tracked down

“STRANGLER TREES FEATURE OF TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

1/ Consulting engineer Brett Halkett... getting up close and personal with the Akatarawa giant rātā in thick forest near Wellington.

2/ One of New Zealand's tallest forest trees... the Northern rātā produces a blaze of red flowers in summer.



TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

Sponsored by **Forestry Corporation of NSW**

the Akatarawa River in dense forest and is not easily visible until you get within less than 50 m of the giant.

One of the country's tallest forest trees, Northern rātā are iconic lowland forest trees that are now rare, as they are endangered by persistent browsing by introduced Australian brushtail possums. Northern rātā are also renowned for producing a blaze of red flowers in summer.

Rātā trees begin life as a seedling up in the crown of other tall forest trees. Rātā roots descend and, over a few centuries, eventually strangle their host to form trunks of their own. Strangler trees are a feature of tropical and warm temperate rainforests, but rātā trees stand out as having some of the largest root trunks of any tree species.

In the absence of a regular pest control program, many juvenile rātā trees have been killed by the Aussie possum. In the case of the Akatarawa giant rātā, the Greater Wellington Regional Council has a custodial duty to ensure this living national treasure is protected by sustained possum control.

In a statement, the regional council says it has been monitoring possum numbers and an aerial 1080 poison operation will be under way soon.

The tree stands on a plateau nearly 200 m northwest of



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C'est magnifique! Original oak species used in trusses for Notre Dame rebuild

Carpenters demonstrate the rustic methods used over 800 years ago

WITH precision and boundless energy, a team of carpenters has used medieval techniques to raise up – by hand – a three-tonne oak truss in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, a replica of the wooden structures that were consumed in a devastating fire in April last year.



Ancient carpentry used when Notre Dame Cathedral was built 800 years ago is honoured in Paris on European Heritage Day on September 19. (AP)

The demonstration to mark European Heritage Day gave hundreds of people a first-hand look at the rustic methods used 800 years ago to build the triangular frames in the nave of Notre Dame de Paris.

“It also showed that the decision to replicate the cathedral in its original form was the right one,” said General Jean-Louis Georgelin, who heads the cathedral’s reconstruction.

“It shows ... firstly that we made the right choice in choosing to rebuild the carpentry identically in oak from France. Secondly, it shows us the method by which we will rebuild the framework, truss after truss.”

A debate over whether the new spire should have a futuristic design or whether the trusses should be made of fireproof cement like in the Cathedral of Nantes, which was destroyed in a 1972 fire, ended with the decision in July to respect Notre Dame’s original design and materials.

A total of 25 trusses are to be installed at an unknown date in the cathedral nave. Philippe Gourmain, a forestry expert working on the cathedral project, said the carpentry phase will not come before 2022.

“The problem of Notre Dame is not a carpentry problem,” he said. “We have the wood. We know how to do it. The big issue is regarding the stone.”

Some stones – which support the carpentry – were damaged by the fire and “it’s not so easy now to find similar stone,” he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron wants the cathedral reopened in 2024 in time for the Paris Olympic Games, a deadline that many experts have called unrealistic.

For the moment, the delicate task of dismantling

pipes was removed for repair in early August.

It is not yet known what technique will be used to create and install the wooden trusses.

The truss mounted for the weekend display is a replica of truss No. 7, more advanced than the first six trusses, which were “more primitive,” said Florian Carpentier, site manager for the Carpenters Without Borders that felled the trees and used axes to cut the logs for the wooden frame.

With rope cables and a rustic pulley system, the carpenters slowly pulled the truss they built in July from the ground where it was laid out.

“It’s a moment to see, ancestral techniques that last,” said Romain Greif, an architect who came with his family to watch the display.

“There is the present and the past and it links us to our roots,” she said. “It’s an event.”

In a final touch, once the No. 7 truss replica was raised on high, a carpenter was cheered as he shinned up the wooden beams to tie an oak branch to the top of the triangular structure, a symbol of prosperity and a salute to the workers, a tradition still honoured in numerous European countries.

(Associated Press)



French carpenters put the skills of their medieval colleagues on show in front of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The cathedral’s elaborate wooden beams went up in flames in a devastating fire that also toppled the spire of the national landmark. (AP)

melted scaffolding, which was originally erected to refurbish the now-topped spire, continues. That job, started in early June, will be completed in October.

The soaring cathedral vaults are also being cleared of debris by 35 specialists on ropes. The organ with its 8000

“WE’VE FOUND THE WOOD, BUT NOW THE STONE IS THE BIG ISSUE

Stakeholders invited for review of AS4707

SUSTAINABLE forests champion Responsible Wood has announced the commencement of the five-yearly review of the Australian standard for Chain of Custody for Forest Products AS 4707

An accredited standard development organisation, Responsible Wood has responsibility for developing and maintaining AS 4707 which specifies the environmental, economic, social and cultural requirements that must be met to demonstrate good practice and continued improvement

“REVIEW EVERY 5 YEARS”

towards sustainable forest management.

Responsible Wood reviews this standard every five years to ensure it incorporates the latest knowledge, best practices and evolving stakeholder expectations.

The organisation is inviting interested stakeholders in the following categories to nominate candidates for the AS/NZS 4707 standards reference committee and working groups: forest growers, business and industry; indigenous people; non-government organisations, the scientific and technology community, workers and trade unions and local authorities.

Discussing the standard development process in detail, Responsible Wood



Simon Dorries... standard must have mutual recognition across the globe.

CEO Simon Dorries went to great lengths to stress that the new standard must meet PEFC social, economic and environmental benchmarks.

“In order to maintain the PEFC international endorsement the new standard must meet a range

of international benchmarks for practice,” he said.

“PEFC international endorsement is critical to ensure the new standard has mutual recognition with various sustainable forest management standards across the globe.”

For further information, to nominate and to lodge an expression of interest contact Simon Dorries at Responsible Wood on (07) 3359 1758, at PO Box 768, New Farm Q 4005, or email sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au

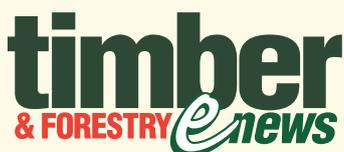
Nominations close at 5 pm on Friday, October 16.

Further information on the project and scope is available at www.responsiblewood.org.au

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Totara 'exposed' in an exciting revival

TOTARA (*Podocarpus totara*), one of New Zealand's most easily-grown native species, made an exciting revival among regional entries in the NZ Institute of Architecture's awards.

Reclaimed totara cladding that will continue to weather gracefully features in the Light Mine House on the Coromandel Peninsula, an entry by Crosson Architects. The national awards are scheduled for early November.

Due to its durability, totara wood was often used for fence posts, floor pilings and railway sleepers. It is also prized for its carving properties, and was the primary wood used in Maori carvings and to make waka



1/ Light Mine... reclaimed totara cladding complements the subdued colours of the surrounding landscape.

2/ One of three cedar skylights, or inverted shafts, that effectively 'mine' sunlight and starlight. Photos: Simon Devitt

were laced together with flax rope and took at least a year to make using stone adzes.

The wood's cladding properties – weight (about 25% lighter than kauri), long straight lengths and natural oils to prevent decay – were further 'exposed' when the entry was judged supreme winner in Home Magazine's Home of the Year 2020 awards.

Viewing Light Mine House demands a double take with its three modernist, pyramid-like structures rising from the sand dunes on Kuaotunu

Beach. Designed and built for Bob and Chris de Leeuw, the home's three turrets are a reference to the mine shafts of the area's long-abandoned gold mines.

Note: *Podocarpus totara* (from the Maori-language totara; the spelling 'totara' is also common in English) is a species of podocarp tree endemic to New Zealand. It grows

throughout the North Island and northeastern South Island in lowland, montane and lower subalpine forest at elevations of up to 600 m.

NATURAL OILS PREVENT DECAY

in traditional Maori boat building.

Totara could be drilled with chert points to make holes near the edges of the timber without splitting. In large boats, three or more sections

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