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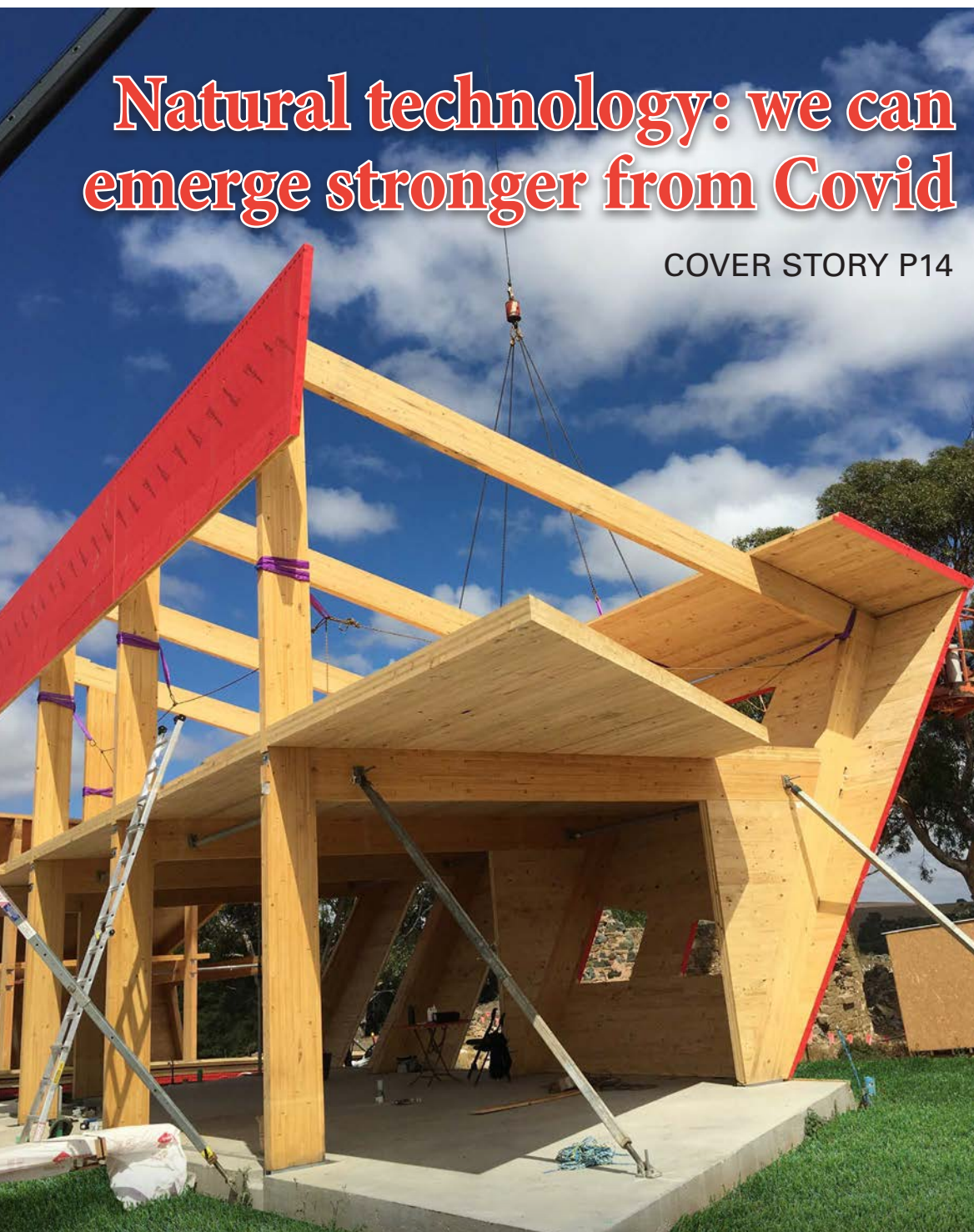
ISSUE **633** | **November 5, 2020**

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PM letter: focus on emergency response to fires creates 'an unstoppable monster'

Time (again) to reinstate active land management based on pragmatic science

EXPERIENCED land and fire managers from eight community groups across Australia have jointly written to the Prime Minister urging the restoration of healthy and safe rural landscapes.

The grass roots organisations represent more than 6000 members and 14 regional councils. They have called for an end to the ongoing loss of human life and the socio-economic and environmental destruction caused by extreme bushfires.

The royal commission has accepted wrong advice from academics and modellers rather than information from experienced practitioners, they say. Consequently, its conclusions on effectiveness of fuel management are substantially incorrect.

"The inevitable carnage will continue in the wake of

“ACADEMICS, FIRE CHIEFS MISLEADING GOVERNMENT



Phil Cheney... land management agencies no longer have primary responsibility for suppressing wildfires.

this royal commission unless active landscape management based on pragmatic science is finally reinstated," they said.

Former chief of CSIRO Bushfire Research Phil Cheney says a focus on emergency response at the expense of land management has created an unstoppable monster.

"Expenditure on firefighting forces is ever-increasing while volunteers are being cynically used to deflect criticism away from failed government policies," says Mr Cheney who was head of CSIRO's bushfire



Roger Underwood... stark contrast in historical fire management policies and outcomes

research from 1975 to 2001 and is scientific adviser to the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association.

"Land management agencies no longer have primary responsibility for suppressing wildfires," he said.

The chair of Western Australia's Bushfire Front Roger Underwood AM points to the stark contrast in historical fire management policies and outcomes on either side of the continent.

"Seventy years of data from Western Australia show a strong inverse relationship between the area maintained by mild burning and the area subsequently damaged by high intensity fires," he said.

"This relationship is especially apparent in extreme fire seasons."

Mr Underwood is widely experienced in sustainable land and fire management at all levels from lighting or fighting fires on the ground, to leading a state land management agency. He highlights the deep divide between those who actively care for the bush and who understand bushfire science and operations, compared to the academics and fire chiefs who are misleading governments.

The royal commission did not call on Mr Cheney, Mr Underwood or other fire-fighting veterans to give evidence. Their consideration of previous bushfire inquiries went back only as far as the

Cont P 16



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Timber industry ready to work with Labor government on growth agenda

Majority win, Greens gone and LNP could have eight years to lick its wounds

QUEENSLAND'S forest and timber industry is committed and ready to work with the re-elected Palaszczuk government following the state election last Saturday.

"Our industry is committed to working with the returned state government on a growth agenda to increase the 25,000 jobs the state's forest and timber industry already supports," Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said.

Mr Stephens said the government's commitment to no new or increased taxes was supported as industry navigated the Covid-impacted economy.

"Given timber and wood products are a major input into the state's building and construction sector, the \$1 billion plan to build new state school classroom and administration buildings and the \$600 million works for Queensland scheme supporting regional councils' maintenance and minor infrastructure projects also stimulates our industry," he said.

During the election campaign Timber Queensland identified five areas for government focus – resource security, regional industry development, building and construction sector procurement, environmental



Annastacia Palaszczuk... back in the driver's seat in Queensland.

recognition and innovation and research.

"By focusing on these areas, the government could create an investment environment for industry to generate an extra \$300 million in output and create over 2000 additional jobs," CEO Mick Stephens said.

He said the industry could also play an important role in the newly-announced Timber Industry Ministerial Advisory Committee, a key industry ask during the election.

"This committee can provide a vehicle for more regular and direct industry consultation with government to implement concrete action, including regular liaison with relevant ministers and departments to facilitate actions from a whole-of-government perspective," Mr Stephens said.

"In addition, the government needs to get moving on the establishment of the Native Timber Advisory Panel, given a lack of progress since its announcement by the Premier in November last year. The work of this panel will be critical to the future of the native hardwood industry

in southeast Queensland in particular."

Labor yesterday was on track to win 50 seats with the LNP to hold at least 34 seats and the Greens on two.

The state's agriculture,

mining and forest industries, like the rest of the country, were relieved that the Greens won't be anywhere close to the levers of power for a very long time. A clear Labor factor is far preferable to a government in coalition with the Greens.

So, Townsville won't get the solar panel factory the Greens proposed to build and Rockhampton won't get its windmill factory.

Cont P.9

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**BIG WORKS
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Stuart Nash new Forestry Minister in Ardern cabinet - and trained to be one

DENNIS NEILSON

IN what should be seen as a positive move for the New Zealand forestry and forest industry, Stuart Nash, who holds a master's degrees in Law, Forestry Science and Management from the University of Canterbury, has been appointed new Minister of Forests in the Ardern Labour Government.

Jacinda Ardern led the centre-left Labour Party to a historic victory on October 17 and gains the first single-party majority government since the electoral rules changed in 1993.

Add to this an arrangement with the Greens and Labour has a massive 74-seat bloc



All smiles... Stuart Nash takes on the important forestry portfolio in New Zealand.

Coalition government led by PM Ardern.

The previous Minister of Forests (and also of Regional Economic Development) Shane Jones failed to win a seat in the new government. Indeed his minority Party NZ First was totally annihilated in the 2020 election, and in the three weeks since then no-one has heard hide nor hair of the ex- minister, nor of his leader Winston Peters.

Few forest owners will mourn Jones' political passing.

Minister Nash should bring an understanding of the complexities of the forest industry sector, with its many moving parts from rural land conflict issues to overseas investment to forest and domestic wood processing and to ports and log and wood exporting.

“ POSITIVE MOVE FOR NZ FOREST INDUSTRY ”

Nash's electorate is Napier, which has a very large plantation forest base, a big and expanding log and wood export port, and is home to the largest vertically integrated forest products company, the Japanese-owned PanPac Forest Products.

One challenge, however, is that Nash was a co-sponsor of a 2020 political initiative to try to stop new forests being planted on several rural land classes – including 'Class V' farmland. This is the only land class (moderately rolling, but

in the House – 13 more than is needed to govern. In brute political terms, Ardern is at the head of perhaps the biggest parliamentary alliance in the nation's history.

In what should be seen as a vote of confidence, Stuart Nash, 53, has now been given the Ministries of Forestry as well as those of Economic and Regional Development, Tourism, and Small Business.

He retained his seat in Napier by a margin of 4525 votes.

After graduation, Nash worked for some time with the then largest forest products company (and indeed one of the largest listed companies) in New Zealand, Carter Holt Harvey, before embarking on a political career in 2005.

From 2017 to 2020, Nash was the Minister of Police, Revenue, Small Business and Fisheries in the three- party



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From P 4

not tiger country steep land) which is economically viable to plant and harvest – although it will support carbon-only forests which are never harvested.

The forest-owning industry will need to quickly assemble a unified and compelling case to present to the minister to reverse this restrictive plan.

The 2017 Coalition government was formed by three parties which had been in the opposition political wilderness for nine years ... so almost total inexperience was the order of the day.

However, this time, the forest industry has an experienced business person and politician in Minister Nash, and also a number of other now 'blooded' ministers with



1/ More smiles... New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is part of a diverse new parliament.

Photo: Reuters



2/ David Parker... Minister for the Environment.



3/ Damien O'Connor... Minister for Agriculture.

as well as adding the vital trade and export growth portfolios this time.

With politics and politicians nothing can be taken for granted. However, the author suggests that Stuart



**MOST PROMISING
SET OF MINISTERS
IN A LONG TIME**

Nash and his colleagues are probably the most promising set of ministers that the New Zealand forest industry has dealt with in the last 20 years.

For once the challenge may not be politicians who do not understand the industry or appreciate its major contribution to employment and export revenue; but it may well be the disparate sub-sectors within the industry finding difficulty in speaking in unison – instead of some in industry associations who spoke half-truths from 2017-2020 confusing ministers and diluting the message.

Jacinda Ardern's cabinet will focus on helping the nation recover from the coronavirus pandemic. It is made up of 20 people, five of whom are Maori who make up more than 16% of the nation's population. They include Nanaia Mahuta, who will serve as foreign minister, becoming the first woman to do so in New Zealand's history.

Responsible Wood celebrates resilience of frontline fighters

RESPONSIBLE Wood has observed with horror and concern the impact of the summer bushfires and Covid-19 on certificate holders and members.

A special edition of the Responsible Wood Bulletin pays tribute to the resilience of certificate holders and members leading the recovery.

The bulletin looks at bushfire recovery, providing readers with special access to those at the frontline rebuilding the NSW forest estate.

The publication also covers developments from the AGM.

The bulletin can be downloaded at www.responsiblewood.org.au



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

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\$2m in grants for indigenous fire and land management workshops program

THE federal government is highlighting the importance of indigenous fire and land management practices with the opening of a \$2 million grants round to strengthen and share traditional knowledge and practices.

As part of the government's \$200 million wildlife and bushfire habitat recovery fund, indigenous organisations and traditional owner groups can now apply for grant funding to run workshops, build understanding and share knowledge of indigenous fire and land management practices.

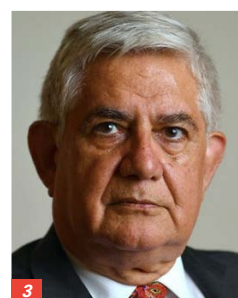
This includes the use of indigenous burning techniques which can mitigate fire risk, reduce fuel loads, control



weeds, promote growth in native pastures, strengthen biodiversity outcomes and provide environmental and cultural benefits.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said indigenous

- 1/ Grants highlight indigenous land management... Trent Nelson, traditional owner and park ranger of the Dja Dja Wurrung People in the Bendigo region of central Victoria.
- 2/ David Littleproud... investing in protecting communities.
- 3/ Ken Wyatt... workshops will promote greater cultural understanding.



more broadly,"

Grants from \$20,000 to \$200,000 are available for indigenous-led workshops that strengthen knowledge within indigenous

communities and collaboration with public and private land managers.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians had managed the land over tens of thousands of years and it was more important than ever to learn from their knowledge and practices.

"Traditional culture has a vital role to play alongside modern science and methods," Mr Wyatt said.

"These workshops will help build and share that knowledge base in ways that will promote greater cultural understanding and better outcomes in managing fuel loads and the environment in general."

The grants are only open to traditional owner groups, indigenous organisations and indigenous enterprises.

Applications close on December 10. Grant guidelines and a sample application are available at business.gov.au/IFLM

fire management had an important role to play in bushfire prevention strategies as the government invested more than \$2 billion in helping communities, businesses and the environment recover from the devastation caused last summer.

"We are investing in protecting communities and the environment in the face of future challenges and this program underlines the breadth of the strategies we are building and will continue to implement," Minister Littleproud said.

"We want to help empower traditional owners to strengthen and share their knowledge within their communities and build capacity to undertake indigenous fire and land management across Australia," he said.

"There is an increasing recognition of the value traditional knowledge and practices in environmental and bushfire management, and we want to help traditional owners share that knowledge within their communities and



Request for Proposals (Proposal No. FC2003)

FCNSW Softwood Plantations Division

Bathurst, Bombala, Grafton, Tumut and Walcha Management Areas

Provision of Plantation Services: Planting, Silviculture, Fire Services, Fire Tower Observers and Ground-Based Herbicide Application

This Request for Proposals for provision of Plantation Services involves 20 work parcels across FCNSW Plantation management areas at Bathurst, Bombala, Grafton, Tumut (including Moss Vale and Tallaganda) and Walcha. The services offered are Planting, Silviculture, Fire Services, Fire Tower operation and Ground Based Spraying. Proponents are encouraged to submit proposals that span services within a management area and across management areas. Work will be awarded for commencement from 1 April 2021. Term is 3 years (with extension option of +2 years).

To obtain the RFP document and lodge submissions, visit the NSW Government eTender website <https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/> **Submissions close 18 November 2020.** For further information, contact Julie Lucato on 0429 546 520 or Julie.Lucato@fcnsw.com.au

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

OCTOBER 2021

11-14: IFA/AFG national conference 'Your Forests, Our Future' – Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, TAS, Australia. Open to forest scientists, forestry professionals and forest

growers. Call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities will be released in coming months. Contact Institute of Foresters of Australia. Visit www.forestry.org.au or phone (03) 9695 8940.

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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 more information see: www.wcte2021.com/

25-29 : B C Wood Global Buyers Mission – VIRTUAL EVENT. Live virtual event to meet and interact with pre-qualified international buyers from around the world. The event to find new sources of high quality, competitively priced Canadian wood products, while letting you reconnect with current suppliers. For more information go to: <https://bcwood.com/events/global-buyers-mission/>

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

Nunn better than our Kevin, says TAFE timber training unit

TAFE Gippsland timber training unit manager Kevin Nunn is Victoria's teacher/trainer of the year.

The Bairnsdale-based teacher was this week announced winner of the

Teacher/Trainer of the Year category in the 2020 Victorian Training Awards.


The awards have been progressively announced over the past week in a virtual setting in lieu of the



Kevin Nunn

customary gala award night.

Kevin, who receives a cash prize of \$5000 and the 2020 Victorian Training Awards Trophy, will represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards on November 20.



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New mass-panel product research aims to optimise connection design, performance

A NEW innovative engineered wood project under way at the DAF Salisbury Research Facility is developing a veneer-based mass-panel product.

Veneer-based mass panels potentially offer advantages over CLT in some building applications and could play a key role in swaying more buildings towards timber solutions.

The test sample assembly and testing, led by Tony Dakin at DAF Salisbury and supported by structural engineer Jon Shanks, director of Perth-based TimberED Services, is part of research undertaken by the Centre for Future Timber Structures – Future Timber Hub.

The project is focused on optimising connections to be used as core or stability walls in tall timber buildings. [Typically, concrete core walls



Innovation...
research scientist Tony Dakin and research assistant Eric Littee prepare veneer mass-panel samples for connector testing at the DAF Salisbury Research Facility in Brisbane.

and confirm connection performance in veneer-based mass panels.

Opened in 2015, the Centre for Future Timber Structures was

are still used in large timber buildings].

The Salisbury project is being conducted with the support of Wesbeam and fastener suppliers. New Zealand's University of Canterbury, which has conducted similar work using CLT, is contributing to the project, looking to grow the overall timber product knowledge pool for large-scale construction.

The project is investigating the performance (particularly connection performance) of

veneer-based mass panels with varying lay-ups, including the use of mixed species, specific veneer positioning and cross-banding.

By determining mechanical properties including the embedment and withdrawal strength of large screws in veneer-based mass panels, the research aims to optimise connection design and performance.

Testing large-scale panel connections with varying screw patterns will help the sector understand

formed between DAF and the University of Queensland. DAF scientists working with the hub are currently involved in three areas of research – optimising wood-based, mass-panels for Australian building systems; the impact of continuous drying on engineered wood; and the structural behaviour of reinforced timber composite products.

Next week: Mass-timber construction in Australia: is CLT the only answer?

“OPTIMISING CONNECTION DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

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China's aggressive policy of planting trees plays big role in climate impacts

AN international team has identified two areas in China where the scale of carbon dioxide absorption by new forests has been underestimated. Taken together, these areas account for a little over 35% of China's entire land carbon 'sink'.

China is the world's biggest source of human-produced carbon dioxide, responsible for around 28% of global emissions. But it recently stated an intention to peak those emissions before 2030 and then to move to carbon neutrality by 2060.

"Achieving China's net-zero target by 2060, recently announced by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, will involve a massive change in energy production and also the growth of sustainable land carbon sinks," says international team report co-author Prof Yi Liu at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP), Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The afforestation activities



Billions of trees have been planted in China over recent decades to tackle desertification and establish vibrant timber and paper industries.

that account for China's increasing leafiness has been evident for some time," he said. "Billions of trees have been planted in recent decades, to tackle desertification and soil loss, and to establish vibrant timber and paper industries.

The latest research analysis examined a host of data sources. These comprised forestry records, satellite remote-sensing measurements of vegetation,

soil water availability; and observations of carbon dioxide made from space ... but also from direct sampling of the air at ground level.

"Working with carbon dioxide data collected by the Chinese Meteorological Administration we have been

"BILLIONS OF TREES TACKLE SOIL LOSS"

able to locate and quantify how much carbon dioxide is absorbed by Chinese forests," said the IAP scientist Jing Wang.

The two previously under-appreciated carbon sink areas are centred on China's southwest, in Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi provinces; and its northeast, particularly Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces.

The land biosphere over southwest China, by far the largest single region of uptake, represents a carbon sink of about -0.35 petagrams (a petagram is a billion tonnes) a year, representing 31.5% of the Chinese land carbon sink.

Professor Paul Palmer, a report co-author from Edinburgh University, said the size of the forest sinks might surprise people, but pointed to the very good agreement between space and in situ measurements as reason to have confidence in the analysis.

From P 3

The vast numbers of pensioners that flocked to the 'Palaszczuk party' accepted that the state is broke and debt is just what it is ... in the red literally. Rather, they gladly accepted that the premier had saved them through the pandemic. It's clear the people of Queensland valued her health stance on Covid-19 over economic disaster to small businesses and tourism.

"SHAKE-UP IN PORTFOLIOS EXPECTED"



Government building and construction... investment environment for state's timber industry.

The fact is the Palaszczuk government was up to its ears in debt and the number unemployed was the highest of all states, well before the pandemic.

With the LNP deciding this week on a new leader after Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington's capitulation, the party faces a very long wait – maybe eight years – before they return to govern with any force.

A shake-up of portfolios in the Palaszczuk cabinet is expected next week to reflect the government's Covid-19 recovery task ahead.

First Tigercat factory-fitted coppice spray system impresses at field tests

Herbicide application system designed for long-term reliability and efficiency

THE challenge faced by Tigercat was to develop a factory-fitted, integrated herbicide application system that would not adversely affect the normal productivity on its market leader 855E DT2003 feller buncher.

The integrated herbicide application system was first developed in Australia by Tigercat and Onetrak with valuable input and knowledge from domestic customers. The result is now a fully factory-fitted coppice spray, or herbicide spraying system, designed for long-term reliability and efficiency.

The first factory fitted system on an 855E DT2003 feller buncher was recently tested in-field and showcased to forestry contractors on a blue gum clear fell site in Western Australia.

The machine was tested by LV Dohnt in Albany, WA. Customers at the demonstration were impressed with the fitting of the components of the spray system and how the system



The first factory-fitted integrated herbicide application system on the Tigercat 855E DT2003 feller buncher was tested at a field day for forestry contractors on a blue gum clear fell operation in Western Australia.

was integrated with the machine.

The fact that the timing and volume of the system can be varied simply by adjusting it on the screen in the cab is an excellent feature that the customers found innovative and easy to use. Customers also commented on the coverage achieved by the machine on tree stumps.

The operator can monitor and change the spray volume and duration in the cab to get an effective and even spray pattern using unique through-the-blade spray system

technology. The delivery system aims to minimise spillage and wastage while providing the correct volume of herbicide for efficient application during the normal cutting cycle with little effect on productivity.

The well-proven Tigercat 855E DT2003 feller buncher features the Tigercat FPT N67 emissions-compliant, clean, powerful and efficient engine. The patented and world-leading ER boom technology improves fuel efficiency, reduces operator fatigue and increases productivity.

Along with a comfortable ergonomic cab design and with excellent all-round visibility and automotive style finish, the full-length front window and additional floor windows give a clear sight-line to the tracks for easy manoeuvrability.

Along with Onetrak, Tigercat can play a vital role in felling, bunching and stump spraying application in plantation eucalyptus harvesting. The Tigercat 855E with DT2003 shear felling head and stump spraying unit is a game-breaker in this growing application.

It is a great example of Tigercat's ongoing dedication and commitment to develop and manufacture forestry equipment designed to provide the lowest cost per tonne harvesting solutions.


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The rise of wood councils: promoting a positive forestry sector in New Zealand

Building investor confidence, community prosperity and responsible stewardship

DENNIS NEILSON

THE latest of a growing number of wood councils in New Zealand was launched last week at a seminar in Putaruru, a forestry and farming township in the North Island's Waikato region.

The town is close to the 160,000-ha Kinleith Forest owned by USTIMO Hancock Natural Resource Group (which also has major plantation assets in the Green Triangle and in Queensland) and the Kinleith site of Oji Fibre Solutions' pulp and paper complex.

There are now eight such wood councils (up from six only two months ago) covering most of New Zealand, including Northland, Hawkes Bay, Central North Island, Eastland (the Gisborne /East Coast region), Southern North Island, Marlborough (mostly noted for its world famous Sauvignon Blanc vineyards and wineries), Canterbury-West Coast (South Island) and Southern (Otago/Southland).

The new CNI wood council covers the largest region of forestry and wood processing in New Zealand, which includes 565,000 ha of plantation forests worth \$NZ19 billion (\$A18 billion), and 40% of the wood processing plants.

These include four of the five pulp/paper mills in the country and Red Stag sawmill, the largest in the southern hemisphere.

The primary purpose of all wood councils is



Prue Younger... a driving force for wood councils in New Zealand.

the same – “to promote a positive forestry sector profile to encourage investor confidence, community prosperity and responsible forest stewardship (in Maori this means kaitiakitanga).”

However, the focus on how to achieve this purpose may vary between councils, depending on their location and resources.

For instance, the CNI wood council is a driver in a joint education/training program for forest industry workers, called ‘The Generation Program’. The council has teamed up with the Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA), another (Eastlands) wood council, other funders, and the major forestry training centre in New Zealand, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology in Rotorua, to manage a six-week training course to encourage young

people, especially the under-employed, to become skilled workers within the sector.

Unfortunately, the New Zealand forest industry suffers from a fractured national association relationship not seen in Australia, and so cannot act effectively as a single lobby group to government – as can the Australian Forest Products Association.

“FICA PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN WOOD COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

For instance, the NZ Forest Owners Association is mostly funded by overseas forest owner fund managers who want to be ‘below the radar’ when it comes to lobbying.

In addition, the major wood processing body, the

NZ Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association, seems to spend most of its energy trying to ensure (unsuccessfully to date) that the forest owning sector's asset values are crushed by lobbying the government to ban log exports.

One major advantage that these regional wood councils seem to be able to offer is a collaborative model whereby regional forest owners, wood processors and contractors can work together on many issues facing the industry.

It seems the ‘glue’ between these regional wood council activities is the Forest Industry Contractors Association, directed by its energetic CEO Prue Younger.

The association now has more than 500 members representing 220 forest contractor companies, sponsors and industry members representing over 3500 employees – who harvest 75% of NZ's total log production and includes over 30 silviculture contractors up from two when the new CEO came on board.

Prue will be known to many in the Australian industry as the organiser (via her events company Public Impressions) of the highly successful inaugural Forest Industry Awards dinner held at Mount Gambier, SA, and a subsequent event last year.

Next year, Public Impressions will be involved in potentially six similar awards throughout New Zealand.

Refreshing support for processing sector

I READ Cheryl's Trunk Line column Selling Logs Offshore (Timber&Forestry enews, October 29) and can't tell you how refreshing it was to see industry support on this matter.

We simply should not have a case of good logs being exported, regional jobs being lost while more timber has to be imported. This simply goes against everything we are trying to achieve as a nation to recover from bushfires and the Covid pandemic through manufacturing resilience.

Last week, the NSW government made an announcement of \$3 million for Hyne Timber towards some optimisation upgrades. This is great support and saves many jobs but there are still many people who will lose their job if the mill can't

access more logs.

Hyne Timber continues to seek avenues for further government support for freight or other cost offsetting to assist with diverting logs from export to the Tumbarumba mill from outside the viable freight zone. However, the Regional Job Creation Fund of \$100 million is to create at least five jobs and does not assist the retention of up to 60 in its criteria.

The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund of \$250 million to support the social and economic recovery of bushfire-impacted towns yet again, fails to support the retention of up to 60 jobs and the economic impacts on the community of Tumbarumba.

The federal government's modern manufacturing



strategy of \$1.5 billion for supply chain resilience will, hopefully, assist as the title suggests. However, the guidelines don't come out until next year and support isn't available until at least July 2021. It remains unclear whether the timber industry

will be eligible for support.

Hyne will pay for \$42 million of the cost of these but the additional freight costs to divert this resource from export to Tumbarumba is just under \$30 million.

According to an independent economic report by REMPLAN, the impact of the bushfires, without getting additional logs to the Tumbarumba mill, is the loss in gross revenue over the next three years of \$177 million and a loss of 137 jobs.

We acknowledge and appreciate the amazing community support we are getting through timberfortumba on Facebook and www.timberfortumba.com.au

KATIE FOWDEN, *strategic relations manager, Hyne Timber.*



New Zealand Forest Industry - Status and Outlook 2021 Conference and Field Trip



16-18 March 2021. Napier Conference Centre - Napier, New Zealand

1½ day Conference and 1½ day Field Trip

Hear from NZ and International Speakers on the NZ Forest Industry Status and Outlook at this Conference being held at the Napier Conference Centre on 16-17 March, 2021.

Take part in the optional Field Trip visiting sites in the Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa regions on 17-18 March, 2021. Field Trip commences immediately after the closing of the conference – places will be limited. Live website will be available shortly, however to register your interest now and be included in any updates please email Julie Bell - Conference Organiser admin@danaevents.co.nz

Log ban China's thin end of the wedge?

WHAT started as a political spat between Beijing and Canberra has become a one-sided trade war that threatens serious disruption for an expanding number of Australian exporters.

Though Beijing will halt sugar and wood imports, these aren't big export earners for Australia in trade with China.

China won't allow imports of a swathe of Australian commodities and foodstuffs from as early as this week – and that includes Queensland logs.

The curbs are a major escalation in Beijing's pressure campaign following a two-year stand-off over issues from technology to the origins of coronavirus.

China's blacklist – delivered verbally to commodities



Log imports... joining China's blacklist.

traders – also includes coal, barley, copper, sugar, wine and lobsters (no special claws in the contract).

The Asian nation banned log imports from Queensland claiming beetles were found in the bark by customs officials there, which industry observers say is a most likely a furphy.

"They're angry with PM

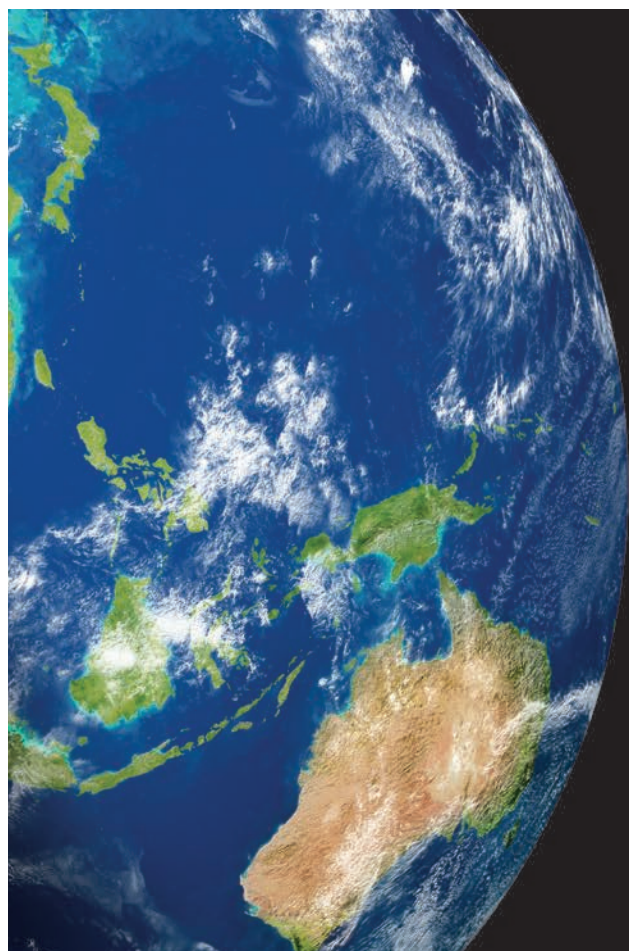
Morrison so they're picking randomly on commodities and regions," one industry watcher said. "Who knows if the log ban will extend to Victoria (a state praised by China

**“PRESSURE
CAMPAIGN
DRIVEN BY
COVID-19**

for its signed deal on the controversial Belt and Road Initiative) or further – across the Tasman ... or to Australian woodchips to China."

By comparison with New Zealand, Australia is a smaller supplier of logs to China, but its volumes have still increased markedly in the last five years, and in the 2020 year to date to September, Australia was the fourth largest log exporter to China at 3.3 million cub m, after the largest exporter New Zealand (at 11.1 million cub m), Germany and Russia.

Media reports suggest that China will more formally announce restrictions on the import of Australian good on Friday. Are the announcements already reported just the thin end of the wedge?"



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Embracing natural technology we can emerge from Covid stronger than ever

Pandemic is likely to accelerate adoption of off-site project delivery

WHILE many questions about the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic remain unclear, at least one thing is certain – its impact on the housing market has thrown an already-critical housing shortage into even sharper focus.

Prior to the pandemic, a US shortage of seven million affordable and available homes was already forecasted and has only intensified during the pandemic. With the need for safe, healthy housing more important than ever, Covid-driven impacts on construction projects have only created further headwinds in the industry's ability to scale and respond to the need.

These challenges are being felt across the US and around the globe in the form of construction delays, disrupted supply chains, operational restrictions, and uncertainty in occupancy and rents.

The result only further reinforces the ongoing productivity challenges facing

“DELIVERY SCALE NEEDED TO MEET RISING DEMAND FOR HOUSING



EXTRACTS of a global review by KYLE HARVEY, head of US design at California-based tech-driven construction company Katterra, that examines early trends and potential long-term impacts of the pandemic on multi-family design and construction. Mr Harvey is experienced in master planning as well as providing architectural-based consultancy.



Multi-family design... interest in factory-built housing and offsite methods is on the rise thanks to the benefits of predictability and speed to market.

the construction industry and underscores the need for scalable processes and solutions to keep pace with the deficit in housing, particularly in the affordable marketplace.

Coming into the pandemic, the number of multi-family units permitted in the last three years hit a 30-year record. While the pandemic has presented new challenges, the demand for multifamily dwellings has not abated – and will not any time in the near future. To meet this demand in the face of uncertain times, the industry must lean into solutions that will increase the predictability and efficiency of project development, design, and construction.

The good news? We're already seeing momentum for many potential solutions.

Several growing trends in the areas of off-site construction and industrialised building design are poised to provide multi-faceted solutions that can help address pandemic impacts, helping to address safe working conditions, ongoing labour challenges, and the increased scale of delivery needed in order to meet soaring housing demand and bend the affordability curve.

Interest in factory-built housing and offsite methods, already on the rise over the past few years thanks to the benefits of predictability and speed to market, has

only increased since the onset of the pandemic. Many experts and analysts are in agreement that the pandemic is likely to accelerate adoption of offsite project delivery.

Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA) offers a number of competitive advantages that become even more relevant in a post-pandemic industry. DfMA and off-site construction have demonstrated that they can help to scale housing production with a focus on repeatable

design and mass production – a perfect fit for the united nature of multi-family design and construction.

On top of this, shifting labour from construction site to factory setting also offers unique benefits during Covid, including enabling staggered schedules and social distancing practices within a tightly-controlled factory setting. Off-site reduces the overall amount of labour needed at the jobsite as well, in addition to facilitating concurrent site preparation and factory work.

If we can begin to embrace these new methods and materials, we have the

Cont P 15

From P 14

opportunity to not only respond more effectively to Covid but emerge even stronger than before.

It's clear that the requirements for our living spaces are changing, particularly in a multi-family setting.

Over the past several months, as social distancing has become the new norm and our homes have evolved into blended live-work-learn-play spaces, multi-family design has been forced to pivot around new-found occupant priorities and needs in living space design. The expectation of outdoor spaces within a development, connectivity for education and work, and highly adaptable spaces are all part of an ongoing industry dialog around the future of multi-family design.

Maximising natural light and considered use of natural

“PROJECTS THAT INCORPORATE NATURAL MATERIALS WILL BE AHEAD OF THE CURVE



Natural technology... Kattera's component and finish material factory in Tracy, California.

materials, such as mass timber, is another factor that will continue to play an increasing role in creating comfortable, healthy interior spaces as people are evolving to spend more time in their shared live-work spaces.

Hundreds of studies corroborate the fact that natural elements like sunlight, views, vegetation, air quality, and use of natural materials have substantial impact on occupant wellbeing within building interiors.

In addition to the benefits to occupants, commercial owners and developers are recognising the value of these material choices due

to their track record of driving premium resale and rental rates, a trend which we are seeing first hand at Kattera via increased interest in utilising mass timber in multi-family residential interiors

The Postmark, a multi-family development in North Seattle, incorporates Kattera cross-laminated timber in floor slab and roof structures.

What is certain is that projects that already incorporate natural materials, live-work spaces, and indoor-outdoor solutions, will be ahead of the curve in meeting new resident needs.

Garden-style project are

often overlooked, but they are a critical source of housing supply. More than 15 million US residents live in garden apartments, with more than 125,000 new units built annually.

The volume at hand is where offsite construction begins to come back into the picture. Factory-built housing provides a realistic pathway to help scale up repeatable building designs that can be deployed in large volume, in predictable timeframes, to help meet a significant portion of our housing market needs – both Covid-driven and legacy needs.

None of these factors will be a silver bullet solution, neither to the specific pandemic impacts on housing nor to the long-term housing shortage. But if we can begin to embrace these ideas, collectively as an industry, we have the opportunity to not only respond more effectively to Covid – we can perhaps emerge even stronger than before.

On the cover: Ceres house is an architecturally innovative mass timber building in rural Victoria. It was designed by architects level-ak in collaboration with Vistek Engineers, Hyne Timber (glulam supplier) and Xlam Australia (CLT).

Housing construction finance surges to record levels

LENDING to finance new home construction has surged to record levels as buyers rush to cash in on the HomeBuilder grant, latest data suggests.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the Australian Bureau of Statistics says the number of new loans which were made to owner occupiers for the purpose of constructing a new dwelling jumped by 27.2% to come in at 5948 – the highest level on record in 18 years of data.

New construction loans have now risen by 64% over the past three months.

Compared with the same period last year, new construction loans are up by 35% during the September quarter.

The data comes amid further encouraging data on building approvals, which rose by 15.4% in September.

Approval activity has been particularly buoyant in the normally statistically stable

detached house segment of the market which has risen by more than a quarter over the past two months.

Housing Industry Association chief economist Tim Reardon said the federal HomeBuilder grant was having its desired impact.

“Latest ABS data confirms the surge in building work entering the pipeline and is consistent with the results from HIA's new home sales data over recent months,” he said.

“Based on the strength of New Home Sales in September, we expect finance approvals and building approvals to continue to be strong next month, before the positive impact of HomeBuilder starts to slow.”

This new work entering the pipeline will offset the significant declines observed from March as restrictions were announced and will ensure a stable supply of new building projects over the next nine months.

From P 2

COAG whitewash in 2004.

The royal commission has accepted wrong advice from academics and modellers rather than information from experienced practitioners. Consequently, its conclusions on effectiveness of fuel management are substantially incorrect.

The inevitable carnage will continue in the wake of this royal commission unless active landscape management based on pragmatic science is finally reinstated.

The Howitt Society, a group of experienced land and fire managers and acknowledged bushmen concerned for the health and safety of the Australian bush and in particular fire management, have called out Scott Morrison on the royal commission findings that "provide no hope for the future".

The letter was countersigned by the

Bushfire Front of WA, National Timber Councils Association, the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria, Forest and Wood Communities of Australia and the Saltbush Club. They represent 5705 members 500 associate members and 14 regional councils.

The letter highlights many concerns:

More than half a century of data from Western Australia shows that mild burning and quick response aid control of wildfires, reducing their number and extent, and maintaining biodiversity.

A minimum 8% of the native landscape must be treated annually to guard against megafires. Treatments are effective for six years.



At the fire front... volunteers are being cynically used to deflect criticism away from failed government policies.

The maths are simple. At least half the landscape must have recent maintenance to avoid disasters in extreme conditions.

Around 1980, academics erroneously claimed that mild burning threatens species which thrived through 40,000 years of Aboriginal management. They tried to restrict burning to suburban fringes. Millions of hectares were burnt by megafires in 2003.

The Nairn Inquiry heard from land and fire managers across Australia, that landscape management was the answer. Bureaucracies and emergency services in the southeast didn't contribute, and there was a dissenting report based on a professor's opinion that "broad scale hazard reduction is threatening biodiversity conservation".

COAG employed him with another professor and a fire chief to conduct another inquiry. They've given us emergency response and evacuation instead of sustainable land management. After Black Saturday, a Victorian royal commission recommended mild burning of at least 5% of the forested landscape. This is not enough.

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Facing up to the pushy hybrid Koba

LET'S face it ... the 'expressions' on cars can often make the decision for today's drivers about their next purchase.

"If the head and face don't look right, it stays in the yard," an old bushie bull buyer told me years ago.

"The same goes for a horse," he added. Mate Bertie would have got it wrong with Gunsynd. The 'Goondiwindi grey' won 29 races and \$280,455 in prizemoney in the early 70s and was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. With a turned-up snout, he was not the best looking thoroughbred on the track.

The symmetrical design and shape of headlights can give a car a happy-go-lucky smile or transform it into a cyborg assassin from Terminator.

So when it comes to cars, the face does matter, even for laypeople. One study suggested buyers tend to prefer cars with more aggressive, angry faces and took strongly to cars that had narrow or angled headlights with a wider air intake – faces with 'power' traits.

Take a look at the face on



CH-R Koba... Toyota's compact new SUV hybrid.

the Toyota C-HR Koba hybrid; it conjures an emotion of power, push and purpose. So yes, I don't think car designers create faces accidentally.

So let's face up to the Koba, Toyota's compact new

hybrid option. Sculpted sides with black trim along the roofline give the appearance of a floating roof above the face. Here four cameras combine to give a bird's eye view of the surroundings and help make parking easier.

This time the C-HR we've grown fond of has a petrol-electric powertrain. It has the same 1.8-litre Atkinson cycle four-cylinder petrol engine, which is tied to an AC synchronous, permanent magnet electric motor.

Combine the two and the hybrid powertrain

produces 90 kW and 142 Nm. When on the move, the nickel-metal hydride battery pack is recharged with help from the unobtrusive regenerative braking. It's in city traffic where the Koba hybrid achieves its best economy with the electric motor taking over. At higher speeds, the petrol four-cylinder comes into play.

The C-HR this time gains Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, dual-zone climate control, electronic park brake, auto wipers, satellite navigation, voice recognition and smartphone mirroring.

To the package add leather, heated seats (with power lumbar support for the driver), keyless entry and stand-out 18-inch black and silver wheels.

Standard safety is high, with the C-HR receiving AEB with pedestrian detection, active cruise control, lane-departure alert and steering assist, blindspot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert, front and rear parking sensors, auto high-beam assist and ISOFIX points.

At \$36,440 it's not the cheapest SUV two-wheel-drive out there. But the total hybrid package – and its face – are hard to resist.



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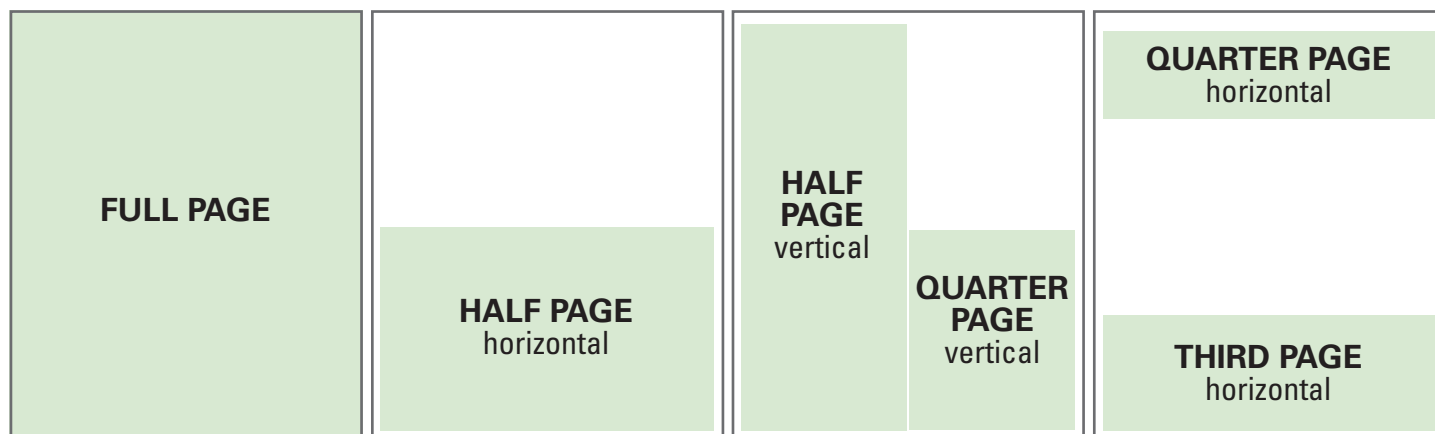
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