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Better quality structural softwoods an opportunity for Kiwi producers?

“EVEN if it was not entirely palatable, the message for the New Zealand forest industry is that structural Kiwi radiata pine was currently inferior to alternatives.”

This blunt message was delivered by Australian Timber Importers Federation general manager John Halkett to delegates at the DANA 2021 New Zealand Forest Industry Status and Outlook Conference in Napier this week.

Mr Halkett stressed that the existing acute demand in Australia was for MGP10/12 90x35 and 90x45 and engineered wood products – and not low-density wood and clear grades.

Speaking to the subject of whether or not Australia is the nirvana for New Zealand sawn timber exports – or does New Zealand have serious competition? – Mr Halkett focused on Australia’s need for sawn softwood structural timber imports, predictions of requirements, and sources.

He said that before the 2019-2020 bushfires, demand for imported timber and



New Zealand should change silviculture to focus more on producing structural grades.

wood-based products was strong as domestic production was constrained by resource availability.

“Unfortunately, softwood plantation establishment in Australia is static, and unlikely to have any meaningful impact on softwood timber supply for at least two decades, even assuming plantation establishment recommenced immediately,” Mr Halkett said.

“And there is little evidence of that happening.”

He said Australia’s imports of sawn softwood lifted to 917,000 cub m over the year

ended January 2019, rising 48% on the prior year.

He said central to future softwood timber product supplies in Australia was that the domestic timber industry “bounces back, gets back to business and strengthens as quickly as possible in the wake of the summer bushfires”.

“However, in the medium to

“STRUCTURAL RADIATA PINE INFERIOR TO ALTERNATIVES”

longer term, Canada, Germany and Russia may be the best bets for additional structural softwood supplies that can meet Australia’s demanding building code and compliance requirements,” Mr Halkett said.

“To gain improved market share in Australia the New Zealand industry should change silviculture to focus more on producing structural grades; it would also do well to return to its earlier innovative position as a leader in innovative EWPs.”

The DANA event from March 15 to 17 included a carbon tree farming seminar, a conference and optional field trip visiting forest operations, sawmills, port facilities, a railhead and pallet around the Napier, Hastings and Masterton regions.

With Covid preventing overseas presenters attending seven international specialists provided live Zoom presentations and addressed Q&A sessions set to overseas time zones.

• **Conference, tour reports next issue.**



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Log exports: cautious optimism as some sunlight shines on the horizon

India as a sustainable alternative market could bring some promising news

JIM HOUGHTON

THIS clearly does not relate to the summer weather or lack thereof experienced here in Victoria where any migratory swallows must have got lost this year.

The Weather Bureau reported there were a number of days this summer where temperatures were "more than 8 deg. below the respective averages".

Nevertheless, there is cautious optimism for our log exporters where the trade data for January might suggest some sunlight on the horizon.

After several months of extreme uncertainty resulting from a Chinese "technical constraint" on log exports there are strong signs alternative markets are emerging.

I have used the words technical constraint as the



The biggest driver of change has been logs sales to India.

trade issues affecting a number of commodities such as beef, barley, cotton, coal, wine and lobster are all associated with 'technical compliance' issues rather than any 'formal trade sanction'. In the case of logs, there has been a claim of shipments not being properly fumigated and evidence of bark beetle present. This is a valid concern but one our trade officials

quickly addressed in 2020 to ensure importers in China could have confidence in the

integrity of the biosecurity protocols governing shipments.

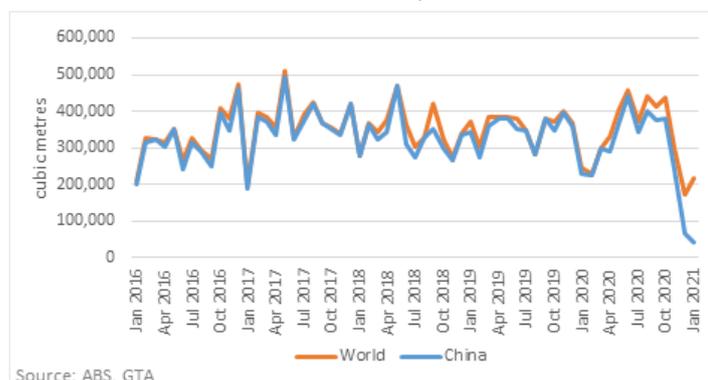
As can be seen in Graph 1, this is potentially a major issue for forest growers involved in the trade as until recently China was the market.

The graph shows exports have been running around 400,000 cub m a month with virtually no daylight between sales to China (the blue line) and sales to the world (the orange line).

This relationship has now changed dramatically with

Cont P 4

EXPORTS - WOOD IN ROUGH, LOGS



Source: ABS, GTA

“ALTERNATIVE MARKETS ARE EMERGING”

The united voice for Australia's forest industries

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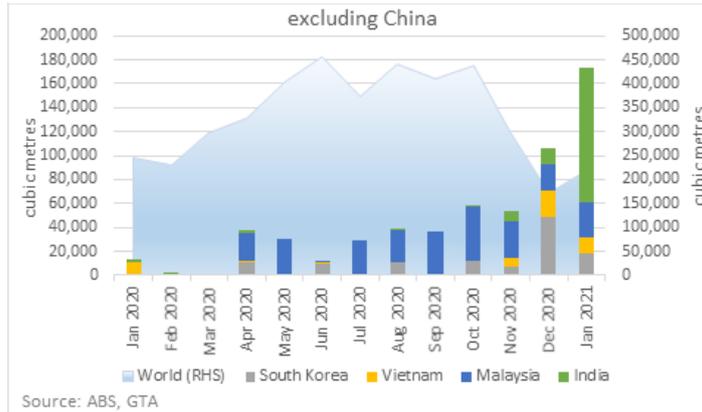
From P 3

significant falls in November and December. However, as of January 2021, the decline appears to have bottomed out with sales of 218,146 cub m recorded for the month. Of those sales, only 42,810 cub m were attributed to China.

So what's going on? As can be seen in Graph 2, there has been a significant increase in sales to other countries.

These sales have increased from a moderate 29,452 cub m in July 2020 to 173,245 cub m in January 2021. The biggest driver of this change has been sales to India (the green bar) which have grown exponentially. In October 2020, Australia exported all of

LOG EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION



	World	Other Markets
Jul 2020	372,720	29,452
Aug 2020	440,926	37,385
Sep 2020	411,836	36,611
Oct 2020	436,832	57,414
Nov 2020	296,440	53,780
Dec 2020	173,568	106,397
Jan 2021	218,146	173,245

131 cub m to India compared to January 2021 when sales rose to 111,838 cub m. As well as increased volume the

specification covers a high proportion of smaller diameter logs with some 40% classified as <15cm.

This grade of logs is typically generated from thinning operations aimed at improving the quality of sawlogs to be harvested in future years at the end of the rotation.

While this is all positive news for log exporters we will have to wait for more data to see if this is a sustainable alternative market or a fleeting sighting of a 'swallow' on the horizon.

(Jim Houghton is statistics and economics manager with Forest and Wood Products Australia).

• **Log pile-ups continue at Portland, P 10.**

“BIGGEST DRIVER FOR CHANGE IS INDIA SALES

Ian Clarke back with Lonza

AFTER more than 25 years Ian Clarke has returned to where it all began and has joined Lonza Wood Protection in a sales and business development role based in Brisbane.

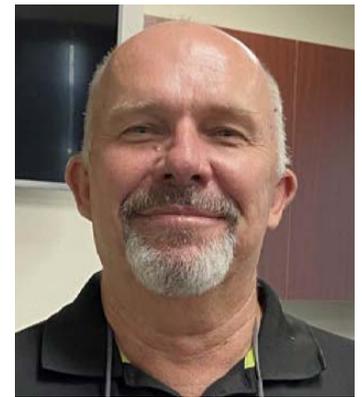
“We are extremely delighted to welcome Ian to the Lonza team; his experience and knowledge will add value not only to our team but also our customers and the business as a whole,” Angelo Hrastov, Lonza’s senior director, commercial operations lead Oceania, said.

“Ian is well recognised and respected in the timber preservation area following stints with Solution Chemicals, Koppers and Azelis and now Lonza’s Australian wood protection team,” Mr Hrastov said.

“Our vision at Lonza is to help our customers build a sustainable future by focusing on the things that matter to them and Ian epitomises this ethos.

Ian Clarke can be reached on +61 417 257 509 or e-mail ian.clarke@lonza.com

Lonza Wood Protection



Ian Clarke... rejoining Lonza based in Brisbane.

is part of the Lonza Group, a leading Swiss based biotechnology and specialty chemical company.

The company’s history in the Asia-Pacific region goes back to the Hickson Timber Impregnation company originally established in New Zealand by Hickson Plc of the UK more than 70 years ago. Hickson pioneered the development of the wood preservation industry in much of the Asia-Pacific region.

As part of the global Lonza Group, Lonza Wood Protection also has operations in the Americas, Europe and South Africa.



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Joe back in the ring fighting for forests

COMMUNICATIONS

professional Joe Prevedello has returned to his Canberra AFPA base to head up the association's crucial pre-election year campaign.

Announcing his appointment as communications director, CEO Ross Hampton said Mr Prevedello was the architect of AFPA's last highly-focused strategic campaign which culminated in major outcomes for industry from both major parties.

"Cam Cooney will continue as senior communications manager, working alongside Mr Prevedello who will again lead the industry's charge as we gear up for a very important campaign." Mr Hampton said.

Joe Prevedello returns to AFPA after serving as senior adviser to Mark Parton, ACT



Joe Prevedello



Deb Kerr



Campbell Cooney

Shadow Minister for Transport, Sport and Recreation and Housing.

He was formerly a senior communications adviser for the Northern Territory Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro and media adviser to Matt Canavan, the federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia from 2017 to 2020.

Meanwhile, the newly-appointed inaugural CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association Deb Kerr is

reaching out to members on a 'get-to-know-you' tour of the state.

"We talked about members' aspirations for the new association and discussed a wide range of industry issues and policies," said Ms Kerr who is in the middle of meetings with 25 association

“DEB OUT AMONG THE MEMBERS”

members across the regions and in Melbourne.

She has also connected with other industry groups, including the Gippsland Forest Industries Hub which was launched in November last year.

Ms Kerr said she was encouraged by the resilience of forest communities who had come through the 2019-20 summer bushfires.

"Driving through the Bairnsdale region it was also encouraging to witness the revival and regeneration of forests," she said. "And gratifying to see green shoots sprouting from charred trees."

Ms Kerr has extensive experience in the primary industries sector, having worked in various industry representative roles across the sector before taking up the position at VFPA.

Strong market confidence carries new home sales into 2021

NEW home sales increased in February 2021 to be 1.7% higher than February last year, prior to the impact of Covid restrictions on new home sales.

HIA's economist Angela

Lillicrap says a monthly survey of the largest volume home builders in the five largest states is a leading indicator of future detached home construction.

"Sales in the three months

to February 2021 were higher by 60.5% than in the same three months the previous year," she said. "This strong result reflects the significant impact of HomeBuilder on demand

for detached housing."

The full impact of the extension of the HomeBuilder grant, at a value of \$15,000, will not be observed until the end of March.



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Seedling donations to support NSW koala feed tree community plantings

FORESTRY Corporation of NSW has delivered the first load of 25,000 koala food tree seedlings to support the efforts of north coast koala care groups to build koala habitat.

The organisation delivered 10,000 seedlings to a new Lismore nursery facility managed by Friends of the Koala to support regional planting programs.

All up, 25,000 seedlings will be donated to local planting projects to support koala populations, improve connectivity between areas, provide future food and habitat, and improve habitat value.

The seedlings were grown at Forestry Corporation's

“SOME 25,000 SEEDLINGS WILL BE PLANTED TO LOCAL PROJECTS



1/ Delivery of 10,000 seedlings to a new Lismore nursery facility managed by Friends of the Koala to support regional planting programs.



2/ The NSW government uses a robust koala habitat modelling system that maps the quality of koala habitat and surveys and monitors koala occupancy across the landscape.

Grafton nursery and will be housed in the Lismore facility for acclimatisation and hardening. They will be used in bush regeneration plantings and environmental work under the guidance of Bangalow Koalas and Friends of the Koalas Lismore.

Forestry Corporation's partnerships leader Ryan Ellis says the groups are doing fantastic work and are best placed to connect with passionate locals who want to support wildlife and the environment.

The mix of koala-preferred species includes forest red gum, tallowwood, swamp

mahogany, grey gum and Dunn's white gum, which will be shared between the groups.

"Bangalow Koalas have their plantings scheduled for April and we're excited to support their efforts," Mr Ellis said.

"When the remaining 15,000 seedlings are ready, they will be transferred from our Grafton nursery to the Lismore site under the care and attention of Friends of the Koala Lismore nursery manager Mark Wilson."

Forestry Corporation also provided information and resources to support the planting operations.

"Our specialist staff have developed a series of guides to support the crucial steps before and after trees are planted," Ryan Ellis said.

"They cover how to select the right species for the right location, when and how to plant, ongoing risks and maintenance, which will help set these young seedlings up with every chance of success."

To find out more about Forestry Corporation's community partnerships visit www.forestrycorporation.com.au

Cont P 7



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Applications close 9.00am sharp on Thursday, 20th May 2021.

Further information: gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or Helen Murray +61 (0) 419 991 424.



GOTTSTEIN TRUST

MARCH

19: Doing Timber Business in Queensland – Northern Suburbs Bowls Club 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights, QLD. Join QLD’s full industry supply chain at a one day symposium followed by barefoot bowls & BBQ networking. For more information visit www.timberqueensland.com.au/events or email admin@timberqueensland.com.au

31: Launching the Gippsland Forestry Hub 30-year strategic plan – Morwell Innovation Centre, cnr Monash Way and Princes Way, Morwell, VIC. 9 am-12 pm followed by lunch. The GFHub aims to identify opportunities for a growing industry into the future to make the industry sustainable while supporting local regional communities to thrive, improve public perceptions,

support our community, and raise awareness in Gippsland of the career opportunities and job pathways available within the sectors. RSVP Megan Para at megan.para@vicash.com.au by March 22.

JUNE

16–18: TABMA National Conference – Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley, NSW. Celebrating our 80th year, the conference will aim to “honour our past, treasure the present and shape the future” of our industry. Our daytime sessions will concentrate on “shaping the future,” with keynote speaker Claire Madden providing her valuable knowledge into Generation Z and giving us practical skills on how to understand and manage them. Immerse yourself in the learnings through our breakout sessions as we explore ways you can find and engage

your future workers and keep your employees safe. In the evening, we will “honour our past” and “treasure the present” at our Gala dinner, including the announcement of our 2020 Andrew Bone TABMA Member of The Year, TABMA Industry Legends and Trainee and Apprentice Member of The Year Award. We challenge your thinking to take the very best back to your business and shape a sustainable future workforce. On the conference’s final day, enjoy a range of optional activities, including sunrise hot air balloon ride, 18 hole championship golf course, wine and cheese tour or day spa. For more information or to book visit <https://tabma.com.au/2021-national-conference/> or contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

SEPTEMBER

1: Australian Forest Products Association Gala Dinner and Symposium – Parliament House, Canberra, ACT. For further information see: www.ausfpa.com.au

OCTOBER

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.

16: TABMA QLD Awards Dinner – Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD. 6.00pm start. Contact Alicia Oelkers at alicia@tabma.com.au

From P 6

There are strict regulations around forestry operations developed by expert scientific panels to ensure a high level of protection for wildlife and forest biodiversity during harvesting operations.

The measures in place to protect koala habitat during timber harvesting have been developed by expert scientific panels drawing on this data to ensure habitat

is protected and koala populations maintained during and after operations. Research demonstrates that koalas use areas that have been harvested for timber at the same rate as unharvested areas of forest.

Forests are dynamic and diverse and are home to a vast variety of flora and fauna so before harvesting takes place, professional ecologists survey the wildlife, birdlife and vegetation in the specific area

to identify threatened species and ensure the forest retains the conditions and habitat they need to thrive.

NSW Forestry Corporation staff carefully mark out exactly which areas can and can’t be harvested and which trees must be retained as a seed source or for flora and fauna protection, with each tree electronically tagged using high resolution landscape mapping, mobile computing and GPS technology.

The harvesting machinery operators use GPS systems in the forest to ensure that the plan is strictly implemented and that harvesting avoids any areas that we require to be protected.

On the cover: Friends of the Koala Lismore nursery manager Mark Wilson (left), Bangalow Koalas president Linda Sparrow (second from right), and Forestry Corporation’s Ryan Ellis with a volunteer at the delivery of the seedlings.



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MARCH

22-23: International Conference on Forest Science, Ecology and Management (ICFSEM) – Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-science-ecology-and-management-conference-in-march-2021-in-prague>

APRIL

1-4: International Conference on Agriculture, forestry, Biotechnology and Food Science (ICAFBFS) – Bali, Indonesia. The key intention of ICAFBFS is to provide opportunity for the global participants to share their ideas and experience. This event will also help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations. For further information see: www.allconferencealert.com/event-detail.html?ev_id=522856

MAY

5-8: Forestry – Bridge to the Future – University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria (To be held in a hybrid format. Participants will have the choice of attending in person or virtually). For further information see: <https://conf2020.forestry-ideas.info/>

24-25: International Conference on Forestry Science and Silviculture (ICFSS) – London, UK. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forestry-science-and-silviculture-conference-in-may-2021-in-london>

24-28: XV World Forestry Congress – Seoul, South Korea. 15th World Forestry Congress. The theme will be: Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests. For further information see: <https://wfc2021korea.org/online/notice.html?act=view&aid=40>

JUNE

15-16: Carbon Forestry Conference –

Rotorua, New Zealand. Changes to legislation in relation to climate change and emissions trading, including carbon farming investment opportunities. For further information see: <https://carbonforestry.events/>

29-1: WoodEX for Africa – Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. Long established as the gateway to Africa's timber trade, WoodEX for Africa 2021 will be the ultimate machinery, tools and supplies gathering in Africa. Held in conjunction with the 2nd Deck & Flooring Expo and co-located with Africa's biggest construction expo, African Construction Expo. For further information see: <https://woodexforafrica.com/>

JULY

2-4: Foire De Libramont 2021 – Libramont Exhibition & Congress, Rue des Aubépines, 50 B-6800 Libramont, Belgium. The Libramont agricultural, forestry and agri-food fair is a huge outdoor exhibition that offers a showcase for the rural world in all its many shapes and forms (machinery, livestock breeding, forestry, the agri-food industry, horticulture, study, and R&D). For further information see: <http://www.libramont-exhibition.com/>

23-26: The International Forest Festival – Feanedock National Forest, Leicestershire. UK. Music, forests, art and ideas. For further information see: <https://timberfestival.org.uk/>

AUGUST

9-12: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Santiago, Chile. Uruguay XXI will host as part of its strategy to promote investments in the forestry and wood sector. This is the first time this event is held in South America and will be hosted by the Chilean capital. The main topics that this conference will cover are sustainable forests for timber production, wood products and connections, wood engineering and architecture, policy,

implementation and management, education, promotion and future trends. For further information see: www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/events/article/145/

16-19: 20th Commonwealth Forestry Conference – VIRTUAL EVENT. An informal forum for foresters, and all those with an interest in the forestry sector to exchange knowledge and experience. It is organized by the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry and covers general aspects of forest management and governance and has a focus on the changing priorities of the forestry sector. For further information see: <https://cfc2021.ubc.ca/>

30-31: International Conference on Forest Aesthetics and Site Preparation – Australian Museum Sydney, Australia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-aesthetics-and-site-preparation-conference-in-august-2021-in-sydney>

SEPTEMBER

22-24: Natural resources, green technology and sustainable development GREEN2020 – Zagreb, Croatia. Now rescheduled from last year. For further information see: <https://www.sumins.hr/green2020/>

27-1: LIGNA.21 Making more out of wood – Hannover, Germany. For further information see: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

OCTOBER

22-24: International Conference on Forest Biodiversity and Sustainability (ICFBS) – Dubrovnik, Croatia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-biodiversity-and-sustainability-conference-in-october-2022-in-dubrovnik>

• Please send events to John Halkett: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com

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OPEN LETTER TO INDUSTRY

TIMBER NSW IS STILL STANDING AND GROWING

Timber NSW and its previous names of Country Sawmillers Association and NSW Forest Products Association (still a trading name) has existed since 1906 continuously representing the timber and forest products industry in NSW.

Although largely representing hardwood companies, forest professionals, contractors and harvest and haulage companies, Timber NSW does have members with softwood interests.

In recent communications and news releases, a new entity named Forest Products Association of NSW was announced and many in the industry assumed it was replacing Timber NSW or that Timber NSW was merging with the new entity similar to what happened in Tasmania (FIAT) and Victoria (VAFI).

Timber NSW offered to represent the softwood industry in NSW. However, they declined and preferred to be represented by a new entity being set up by AFPA which was initially being called a name too close to our trading name. As such they have now decided to establish the AFPA NSW Committee. Timber NSW is not part of that organisation.

Our organisation is strong and growing and prides itself on not just congratulating government but more often holding government in NSW to account.

Just as the forest industries are always expected to be held accountable for their actions and performance, Timber NSW believes that governments also have to be held accountable for their performance.

Timber NSW advocates and negotiates without fear or favour and works hard to ensure the industry and its members comes first. Our members are at the heart of our work and their success is our success. No matter how large or small every business/member counts and needs representation and has equal representation in the organisation.

The highly regulated and controlled native hardwood industry in NSW has significant challenges ahead of it. Timber NSW, in conjunction with NSW Farmers and other rural regional organisations, fought off the Koala Habitat SEPP 2019 and has continued to strongly advocate for the changes needed to the Local Land Services Act to enable the continuation of Private Native Forestry without being buried in regulation that overreaches private property rights.

Timber NSW recently uncovered a parliamentary process designed to lock out all but selected environmental organisations, reviewing the Local Land Services (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020 – despite Coalition members sitting on that Committee. Timber NSW called it out and the submission process was opened up.

Vigilance, strong advocacy and well researched advice is key to our success. Whether it is negotiating with state and federal government on issues like environmental legislation, forest industry applicable regulation, EPIs, supply contracts, harvest and haul issues, member legal advice, our members are front and centre.

Timber NSW members (over 50 companies) represent nearly 70% of all grades of native hardwood ex Crown and Private Property.

If you are involved in the forest and timber industries in NSW and are concerned about the future direction of the industry, then you should join Timber NSW.

Contact

Maree McCaskill

info@timbernsw.com.au to discuss membership.



TIMBER NSW

Pile-ups continue at Portland as up to 200,000 tonnes of logs ‘wither away’

AS thousands of logs once destined for export to China remain piled up at Victoria’s port at Portland, with nowhere to go, the committee responsible for this logistics gateway to the rest of Australia and the world say “it’s become a virtual ghost town with hundreds of jobs on hold”.

Reports of anywhere between 60,000 and 200,000 tonnes of logs have been “withering away” since the imports ban by China late last year on a raft of Australian commodities, including timber.

China typically takes more than 90% of Australian log exports, mainly ‘pulp quality’ logs worth just over \$600 million, and woodchips worth almost \$980 million annually, according to available trade figures.

The cold shoulder from China suggests a potentially protracted period of strain for two-way trade, given the frosty relations between Canberra and Beijing is now ensnaring bureaucrats who would usually stay



A good example of the magnitude of logs piled up at the port of Portland – taken last week and only one of scattered heaps over many sites.

engaged during a temporary disagreement.

Out of this trade stalemate, reports suggest there is a glimmer of hope that a market for logs might open in India – but the glimmer seems more like a flash in the pan.

Some Green Triangle growers have reportedly ‘experimented’ with small quantities of reject logs exported to India – a toe in the ocean so to speak. But it appears Indian traders want small-end diameter minimum logs at 150 mm, which narrows the potential market for Australian producers.

Portland timber businesses say India is an obvious market to replace China, although redirecting such large quantities would be a long-term process.

“TOE IN THE WATER FOR INDIA SALES

Meanwhile, Australia's trade minister Dan Tehan has flagged support for India to help its agriculture sector – a bid to pave the way towards an aspirational trade deal. But farmers in India have been engaged in months-long protests against agricultural

reforms, with recent rallies turning violent.

Mr Tehan says it's an “incredibly difficult” situation, but he's still hoping to begin discussions for a trade deal next month.

“My hope is we will be able to make some serious headway.

It is not going to be easy,” he told Sky News. “India wants to first ensure its key sectors, especially agriculture, are globally competitive before thinking about potential deals.”

Discussing Australia's current relationship with India, Mr Tehan said “there's those people-to-people links, and there's about \$30 billion of two-way trade which is already taking place”.

But he believes Australia can strengthen that even further ... “it would be great to continue to build the economic relationship,” he said.



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Certification ahead of timber hub opening

WHEN Timber Queensland relocated to the northern Brisbane suburb of Kedron a new fit-out provided an opportunity to create a 'timber hub' showcasing the state's specialised timber species.

The Timber Hub was committed to achieving Responsible Wood project certification using timber and services donated by TQ members, assisted by SCS Global Services. This was achieved ahead of the official opening today (Thursday) by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner and attended by 50 guests (report next week).

The Timber Hub was certified under the Responsible Wood and PEFC project certification scheme in early 2021 with more than



Joinery craftsman Peter Arcus with Mick Stephens at the Timber Hub in Brisbane.

90% of the timber sourced by suppliers with Responsible Wood chain-of-custody certification.

The project is the second in Australia to be certified under AS 4707 and follows the highly acclaimed Sydney Metro North West project which was certified in 2019.

Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, a co-tenant of the hub, said the

project certification was a specific form of chain of custody which recognised companies using certified timber in their projects.

"Project certification provides an important mechanism for gaining independent verification for the use of certified timber in one-off projects, such as the Timber Hub fit-out which has a limited duration," Mr Dorries said.

Detailing the certification process, Mr Dorries identified the importance of developing project procedures to monitor compliance with chain-of-custody standards.

A project certification manual that provides procedures for project is free online. Visit www.responsiblewood.org.au

The Timber Hub features individual offices, common and break areas and the foyer framed with a variety of timbers and hardwood upright dowels.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the concept from day one was to reflect the warm and wonderful features of wood as well as showcase a variety of commercial timber products and species.



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UK offers \$7m for sustainable biomass projects to meet new bioenergy targets

THE UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will invest \$A7.15 million in projects to increase the production of sustainably-sourced biomass in Britain.

The biomass funding is part of a larger \$164,578,800 investment in green technologies from the government's \$1.8 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio. Of that \$164.5 million, \$121,706,400 will go to energy storage technologies, and \$35.6 million will go to floating offshore wind, with the remaining \$7 million supporting sustainable biomass.

The BEIS is now accepting applications for the \$7 million through its biomass feedstocks innovation competition. New innovations supported with the funding will help scale-up sustainable biomass.



Enviva produces wood pellets from biomass sourced from an area where the carbon stocks in the forest are stable or increasing, such as in the south-east US.

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage is one of the most important carbon negative technologies available to help meet net-zero emissions.

Meanwhile, the virtual 2021 International Biomass Conference and Expo kicked off this week with a keynote address focused on biomass sustainability and a panel discussion with association leaders that addressed policy and markets.

The conference heard emissions reductions will

not be enough to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, stressing that technologies that can achieve negative carbon emissions will be required to help offset residual fossil emissions that are probably going to be very hard to get out of the supply chain.

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage is one of the most important carbon negative technologies

available to help meet net-zero emissions.

Enviva, a producer of industrial wood pellets, believes that "only good biomass" can help achieve climate targets. For Enviva, that means the biomass it uses to produce wood pellets must come from an area where the carbon stocks in the forest are stable or increasing, such as in the southeast US.

The conference addressed "the misconception that woody biomass can't sustainability be sourced from forest lands". In the south-eastern US, Enviva currently operates nine wood pellet plants across six states where forest lands are predominantly privately owned.

Durability and design centre stages first research showcase

THE Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life is running its first 'durability showcase' on April 14 at the EcoSciences Precinct in Brisbane's Dutton Park.

The centre's director Professor Jeff Morrell says this will be an opportunity to see all of the research under way by centre partners at the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the University of Queensland and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The showcase is free, but seating is limited and those wishing to attend should register.

The event from 9 am to 4 pm will include brief presentations of research projects along with an opportunity for questions and discussion about future research directions.

Since this is a Covid-safe event, pre-registration is essential.

Contact Jeff Morrell on 0423 348 160 or email jmorrell@usc.edu.au

Register at the Eventbrite site: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/national-centre-for-timber-durability-and-design-life-research-showcase-tickets-141925750741>

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Caterpillar wheel loader upgrades for improved payload management

New seats and suspensions enhance operator comfort in forest operations

WHEN Caterpillar – with 2020 sales and revenues of \$41.7 billion – upgrades its forestry machinery then “cutting-edge technology and exceptional value” remain the drivers of the company’s innovative manufacturing that has continued for almost a century.

One of the latest upgrades is the Cat M Series Medium Wheel Loader that has lowered operating costs via extended service intervals, enhanced operator comfort with new seats and suspensions and added machine configurations (982M forestry machine and a 982M high lift.).

Caterpillar has included expanded productivity measurement tools, remote software update capability and refinements in ground engaging tool and coupler systems.

These Tier 3 models save maintenance costs by extending hydraulic oil filter change intervals from 500 hours up to 1000 hours. Based on estimated comparisons of hydraulic fluids, filters, and sampling costs during a 6000-hour period, costs can be potentially reduced by 16 to 23%.

The Cat Advanced Productivity application



Caterpillar wheel loaders update includes technology advances, lower operating costs, extended service intervals and enhanced operator comfort.

is a web-based tool used to visualise machine production-related data and complements Cat PAYLOAD, Cat Production Measurement 2.1. The tool is accessed from VisionLin and includes a user-customisable report dashboard, cycle-by-cycle downloadable data, and a list of features for truck and material identification lists.

Other key features are a new user interface (mobile friendly), time series data, multiple asset comparison, fleet or individual asset key-process-indicator target settings, and support for multiple machine types. Requirements for use

“ REMOTE SOFTWARE UPDATE

include cellular Product Link, Advanced Productivity subscription, and authorised User ID.

The new 982M Forestry Machine (logger) is capable of lifting 12,700 kg with a pin-on mill yard grapple. Changes from the standard 982M include a larger tilt cylinder, upgraded rear frame and heavier counterweight. Third party logging grapples and woodchip buckets are available.

The Advansys ground-engaging-tool system included in the product update is a Cat tip system designed with exclusive performance features for less drag and higher productivity. The new tip shapes place wear-resistant material in the most vulnerable areas, resulting in significantly

longer service life.

A stronger adapter nose results in up to 50% less stress, and improved adapter-nose geometry reduces sliding wear on adapter surfaces.

The improved tip shapes shadow the adapter straps and welds for longer adapter life. New 980M/982M buckets have weld on adapters, while the 950M – 982M bolt-on adapters are interchangeable with the former J and K Series.

The Updated M series can be configured with premium lighting packages that include Led roading lights with LED stop/tail and turn lights with a premium LED work lighting package that includes four over-Cab lights and two on the rear hood to give an increased field of view.

CAT® 982M FORESTRY WHEEL LOADER

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Forest fire management: traditional burning the solution, not the problem

WE refer to Richard Pegg's recent comments in Timber&Forestry enews on cultural burning as a risk, and implying that lost skills are gone forever.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers (IFA/AFG), along with most if not all state land management agencies, advocates greater involvement of traditional owners in future prescribed burning.

But what does 'cultural burning, traditional burning, and greater involvement mean'?

Traditional burning is the application of fire knowledge developed by indigenous Australians. Burning in a traditional manner implies early season burns of low intensity, small patch and fragmented results, and short interval between successive ignitions to burn adjacent unburnt patches. This can be done by non-indigenous managers or landowners, and can involve traditional owners to some degree, from consultative planning and avoidance of cultural relics and sensitive sites, to involvement of local indigenous people in collaborative burning.

Cultural burning, on the other hand, is where burns are led by traditional owners

of that country, for many purposes, and incorporating community and spiritual traditions into the burning.

As Mr Pegg points out, such burning may not be appropriate on urban interface boundaries, but can involve aerial ignition over extensive areas. It can also involve re-ignitions in a staged burning approach, which allows burning opportunities to be extended over a much wider period, can use minimal resources, and can include the burning of wetter tall forests burnt in warmer months after surrounding areas are burnt.

This is in fact a good thing, and has been successfully conducted in North Queensland to rehabilitate degrading tall eucalypt forests. While late and dry, this burning is still mild fire, surrounded by less flammable rainforest.

To be clear, traditional burning is consistent with community protection outcomes, is not impractical and dangerous, and does not involve lighting uncontained fires in high risk situations. The assumption that cultural Burning on K'Gari (Fraser Island) is forever lost is wrong. Knowledge of burning is something gained through training and experience. This is true for all burning practitioners – foresters, landowners, and traditional owners.

Involving traditional owners in future burning does not imply abrogating responsibility for fire management, but to engage

with them to achieve better management outcomes and mutual benefit.

The alternative approach would seem to be hard edge block burns, all or nothing, requiring high resource planning and inputs and limited to the perfect day opportunities. While this approach may be necessary for critical high-risk interface blocks, this is clearly not practical over the broader landscape, and may be a reason for the chronic underburning we see today. To improve into the future, particularly with more fire-prone landscapes under a changed climate, we need to adapt and adopt traditional burning practices as the mainstream.

– Forest Fire Management Committee, The Institute of Foresters of Australia (incorporating Australian Forest Growers), Melbourne.



Traditional burning is consistent with community protection outcomes, is not impractical and dangerous, and does not involve lighting uncontained fires in high risk situations.

“RE-IGNITIONS
IN A STAGED
BURNING
APPROACH

Time to move beyond era of conflict: a shared vision of Australia's forests

More collaborative approach to galvanise resources, skills and knowledge

A PAPER published in the Australian Forestry has called for the development of a new shared vision for the management of the nation's forests.

'Reshaping Forest Management in Australia' provides nature-based solutions to global challenges by Dr William Jackson and other members of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers.

The report says it is time to move beyond the era of conflict and develop more holistic approaches that encompass all forest values, such as water, biodiversity, tourism and forest products, across the landscape.

More collaborative approaches will be required to galvanise the resources, skills and knowledge that enables this shift in shared governance," Dr Jackson says.

"Recent bushfires in Australia have heightened



1



2

1/ Dr William Jackson
2/ Dr Michelle Freeman

concerns that the management of public forests has largely failed to ensure the health of forest ecosystems, build resilience, and secure a promised balance between economic, social and environmental values," Dr Jackson says.

"Climate change is our common enemy, and efforts to date aimed at adapting forest management to address climate change have been limited.

Furthermore, empowering and increasing the role of indigenous Australians in forest management could be significantly improved."

Dr Michelle Freeman, vice-president of the IFA/

AFG and co-author of the paper, has observed that the Covid-19 pandemic has also highlighted the need to improve the resilience of regional communities to major shocks and stresses related to market dynamics, supply-chain disruptions and natural disasters.

"We need to reshape forest management in Australia to provide nature-based solutions to global challenges," Dr Freeman said.

"Our paper sets out three key strategies to strengthen forest management in Australia. First, we need to establish new shared governance models that

bring together government agencies with indigenous Australians and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society.

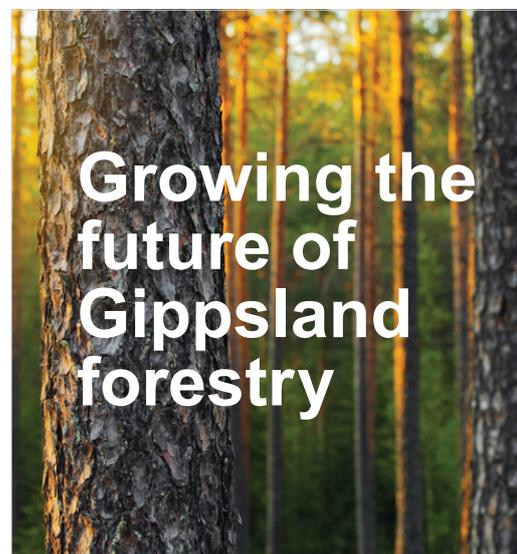
"Second, we need to extend active and adaptive management across forest landscapes to build resilience in our forests, local communities and society.

"And third, we need to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific evidence and innovative technologies to inform forest policy and enhance forest management outcomes."

Dr Freeman says through these strategies we can conserve forests for a broader range of values, and proactively manage current pressures and increasing threats from climate change and the interrelated impacts of bushfires and invasive species.

Contact IFA on (03) 9695 8940 or email admin@forestry.org.au

Visit www.forestry.org.au



Growing the future of Gippsland forestry

\$4.0 million research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and Victorian governments, the Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$4.0 million available for research grants to grow the future of forestry. Research projects could include: developing new and improved products in relation to composites, extractives and bioenergy; improving workplace and supply chain innovation, safety and efficiency; enhancing tree growing including forest health and genetic gain; maximising precision management and applying new technologies; development of new non-timber forest products and services; improving forest industry community engagement and recognition; and identifying opportunities with robotics, automation and artificial intelligence.

Individual research grants will range from \$50,000–\$500,000 and will be for periods of up to three years in duration.

Funding proposals close on Friday 14 May 2021 and should be lodged via email to funding.vic@nifpi.org.au. For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see www.nifpi.org.au

About us The Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the Victorian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal, of growing forestry into the future.



Navara still the competent, reliable ute

THE 1989 Nissan Navara ute occupied a shed with four bales of hay, a saddle and bridle and an Australian cattle dog named Bert.

“Very reliable, very tough, just like the dog, reflected Bob, a mate and former ag journo who left the Fifth Estate 30 years ago to buy back the farm.

He put in new shockers and replaced the clutch a year ago but after 20 years the “ute still goes like a beaut.”

The former dairy in the Samford Valley, about 30 km from Brisbane, now a sizeable beef herd, blending with acreage hobby farms was a good place to try out the 2021 Nissan Navara ST-X with Bob on board and Bert in the tray.

Borrowing styling cues from the tough Nissan Titan pick-up trucks in the US, the ST-X brings tougher styling, plenty of upgrade in safety gear and a high-tech cabin, taking it to the top of its working class.

Smart cosmetics have brought re-sculptured front and rear ends including LED lighting, a massive grille, new wheel design and a new bonnet.

Along with a larger-diameter rear brake drum



Navara ST-X... Nissan’s most popular bread-winner in the range.

and strengthened rear axle, the ST-X’s substructures carry over with the choice of seven-speed automatic transmission or six-speed manual bolted to a 2.3-litre four-cylinder diesel.

Nissan Australia expects the ST-X to be its most popular bread-winner variant, all powered by a 140 kW/450 Nm 2.3-litre twin-turbo diesel engine mated to a six-speed manual or seven-speed automatic transmission.

All versions can accommodate at least one tonne in the back. The tub is almost 45 mm deeper and the new sports bars are solid and give clearance to the roof for tying down.

The electronic opening rear window remains... for a chat



A large central touchscreen and generous digital display lift the ST-X’s roomy interior.

with Bert in the tub.

The official fuel consumption claim for the Navara is 7.3L/100km for the manual and 7.9L/100km for the auto, which is up from 6.5L and 7L respectively.

The large 8 in. central touchscreen and generous 7 in. digital display between the driver’s dials, helps lift the interior for a more

contemporary feel.

A hefty safety and driver assistance kit is standard, including autonomous braking and seven airbags across the range, with the ST and above gaining extra features such as lane departure warning and assistance and blind-spot monitoring.

ANCAP has awarded Navara the full five stars for its crash safety rating.

This Nissan is still a competent and confident all-terrain performer and starting from \$47,990 for the SL dual-cab or \$57,290 for the

generously equipped ST-X equivalent, this power-packed utility offers a compelling package.

Sipping a glass-only of Castillo Peracense, Bob reminded us that Navara gets its name from the region of northern Spain. The European version is built at the Nissan factory in Barcelona.

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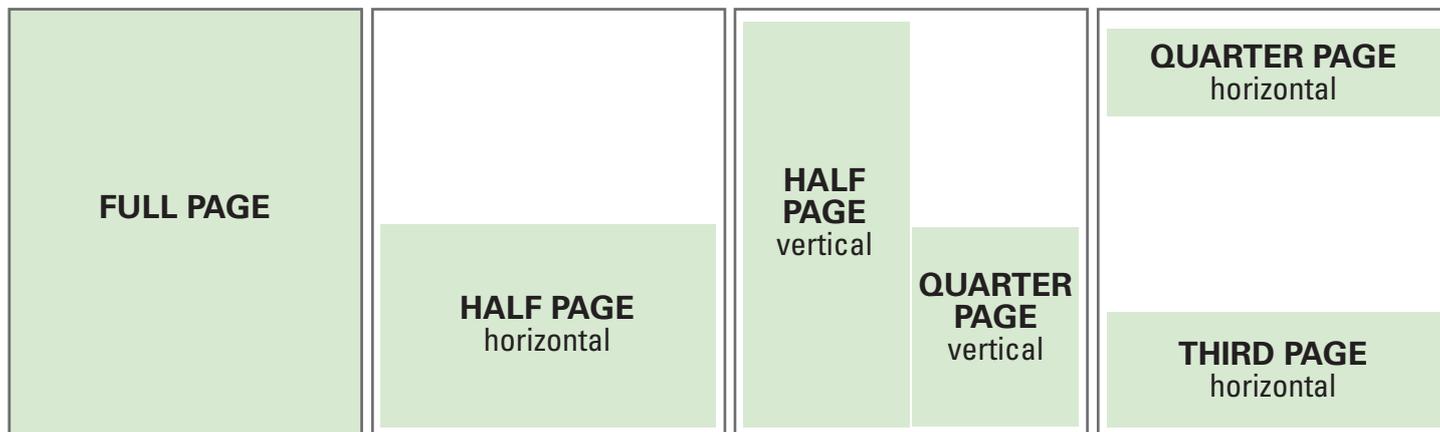
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