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Forest contractors see benefit of certification

COVER STORY P2

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AFCA engaging with industry on its ForestFit certification for contractors

BROADER engagement with industry by the Australian Forest Contractors Association as part of the development of a certification framework will ensure that certification of forest contracting businesses can create benefits and efficiencies across the sector.

“Following the completion of the ForestFit Training Pilot this week with two participant groups in NSW, we are looking forward to progressing the certification framework,” AFCA general manager Stacey Gardiner said from Tumut in the NSW Riverina where the association was completing final face-to-face sessions of the environmental sustainability module.

The final session will be presented to the Grafton, NSW, group today (Thursday).

“CREATING BENEFITS AND EFFICIENCIES ACROSS THE SECTOR”



1/ NSW forest contractors share notes at the Tumut ForestFit training session... Matt Mangan, Melinda Haris, Jen Ferguson and Chris Dwyer.
2/ Stacey Gardiner... encouraging industry to get involved to shape ForestFit certification.



ForestFit certification is designed to support continuous improvement of forestry contracting businesses with a focus on sustainable business, safety and environmental practices and will create compliance and auditing efficiencies.

Ms Gardiner said the ForestFit industry reference group would engage with industry to further develop

the certification framework before it would be piloted later this year with forestry contracting businesses.

“I encourage industry to get involved to shape ForestFit certification and the assessment criteria,” Ms Gardiner said.

The ForestFit training program pilot delivers four modules for business owners and leaders across four key areas – business management; people practices and leadership; safety leadership; and environmental sustainability.

The objectives of ForestFit are to promote continuous improvement and sustainable business, safety and environmental practices; create efficiencies in compliance and auditing of business, safety and environmental performance; and provide assurance to the forest industry and regulators of best practice implementation and risk management.

Feedback from industry so far highlights important considerations:

- Scalability for diverse business sizes.
- Recognition as a preferred contractor for certified businesses during tendering and procurement.
- Costs for certification.

Cont P 7



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Where's the ANZAC spirit? Imported wood claimed to fail Aussie standards

JIM BOWDEN

ADDING insult to injury, the Victorian government – with an agenda to close the native forest industries by 2020 – has announced it will use European glulams reported to flunk Australian standards in a massive rail project in Melbourne.

One of Australia's largest hardwood mills, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods at Heyfield, lost out on a bid for work on an integrated public building at Anzac Station.

First to fire a shot at the government's decision, CFMEU said it was "unbelievable that an Australian company had been overlooked, particularly given the name of the station – so where's the ANZAC spirit?"

National secretary of the CFMEU's manufacturing division Michael O'Connor says the ASH sawmill can produce a beautiful sustainable product.

Adding to the union's outrage, the CFMEU has been told the European supplier given the station work does not meet the tender specs of the project, which ASH sawmill was told it must meet.

ASH was told it had to meet the specs. Authorities

“ASH LOSES BID FOR BIG PROJECT



Concept image of Melbourne's ANZAC railway station.

said if they "changed the specs a little" it would better its chances to win the tender – a ridiculous request considering the sawmill met all Australian certification and building standards.

"Rumour has it the people who got the work didn't meet the specs," Mr O'Connor said.

The CFMEU understands ASH was able to complete the work for the same price as the European supplier who has won the contract.

The decision flies in the face of Victoria's 'local jobs first' promise.

Australian Sustainable Hardwoods is Australia's largest hardwood manufacturer using automation and economy of scale to operate six on-site manufacturing lines to value added timber from log to finished product. These include moulding, laminating, finger-jointing, deep splitting, set length docking and mass timber production.

The Anzac Station will support the continuing growth

and redevelopment of the South Melbourne-Kings Way precinct, and make it easier to visit some of Melbourne's

most valued parks and attractions – such as the Shrine of Remembrance, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Albert Park.

The station has been designed by Australian architects as a 'pavilion in the park', an integrated public building and landmark that connects seamlessly with surrounding parklands.

The timber canopy above the tram interchange will be an architectural focal point, providing waiting passengers with year-round weather protection. A large skylight embedded in the tram stop will fill the station concourse below with natural light.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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Australian Forest Products Association

Rocketing lumber prices: is this the perfect storm for Aussie sawmillers?

Perhaps big box stores and builders should be paying more for timber

TOO often commentators (including the writer) include a plethora of data and numbers in their articles.

While some of these can be interesting and informative, too often they lack context, or solicit not even a passing interest of many readers.

However, there is a website that specialises in providing visuals to bring stories to life.



The perfect storm is in play for Australian sawmillers to extract much higher timber price increases.

This is www.visualcapitalist.com/

A recent article – ‘Visualising the Recent

Explosion in Lumber (sawn timber) Prices’ – relates to the recent huge increases in timber prices in the US.

Images 1 and 2 graphically describe the trend (see P 13).

Even worse, \$50,000 could have built 15 single family units in May 2015.

The article states that, “As lumber prices continue to set record highs, the National Association of Home Builders has reported that the cost to build a single family home has increased by \$36,000. Most of this cost can be passed down to the consumer, but extremely tight supplies mean home builders are unable to start more projects.”

How might this translate to Australia?

Well, it might not ... or it might.

For the last decade and more, increased European timber imports priced at the margin have prevented Australian sawmillers from increasing timber prices,

even to match increasing log prices and costs. However, in 2021 and beyond:

- The 2019-2020 bushfires have reduced the softwood forest resource in Australia available for harvesting in the next 5-10 years by (some say) 30-40%.

- European softwood log supplies due for harvesting in the next 5-10 years have been decimated by droughts and by the deaths of millions of trees from the European spruce bark beetle.

“EXPORTERS CUTTING THEIR SUPPLIES TO AUSTRALIA

- Very high American timber prices are attracting exports from Europe to USA (and from Australia it seems).
- Demand for construction timber in Australia is at or near-record levels.

In mid-2021 we understand that some European timber exporters to Australia are so short of timber that they may be offering their ‘highly-valued’ Australian customers only 70% of their order requests, and far less (or nothing) to ‘troublesome’ importers

Cont P 13

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Gen Z and professional development: TABMA national conference set to go

FOUR weeks and you're there ... in the spectacular NSW Hunter Valley for TABMA Australia's inaugural national conference and pioneer-celebrating gala dinner at the five-star Cypress Lakes Resort at Pokolbin from June 16 to 18.

"Registrations are soon to close, so don't miss this congenial opportunity to celebrate our 80th year with a top panel of industry speakers and social events," says TABMA's general manager, membership, Alicia Oelkers.

Contact Alicia on alicia@tabma.com.au or phone 0418 449 031.

"We are catering for everyone's schedule and have put together different packages, so whether you can make it along to the whole event, or you



The Lakes Resort in the Hunter Valley... venue for TABMA Australia's inaugural national conference next month.

can only spare one day or perhaps you want to attend the gala dinner where we are honouring industry pioneers and the new future leaders with our trainee and apprentice of the year, we have it all," Alicia said.

TABMA CEO David Little added: "This is 'must-attend' event for TABMA members and their staff – in fact the industry generally – as we address key issues

surrounding professional development."

These include subjects such as:

- Gen Z, soon about to

“ATTRACTING YOUNGER GENERATION TO THE WORKFORCE”

surpass the millennials to account for more than one-third of the world's population. This generation is entering the workforce and let's face it, they are a little different to previous generations.

The conference will provide insights into who they are, how to attract them to our workforce and how to manage them when they arrive.

Sessions speaker is social researcher Claire Madden who interprets social trends and the implications of generational change. She understands Gen Z!

- Work health and safety. New workers, especially young workers, are extremely vulnerable when it comes to WHS. TABMA

Cont P 6



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From P 5

WHS officer Dean Wilson will step us through what we should do to ensure we are keeping ourselves and the rest of our staff safe.

- Mental Health is becoming one of the biggest WHS issues in the workplace and we are still learning so much about it. WorkCover NSW discusses what are our responsibilities should an employee be suffering a mental health issue.

- Selling to the younger generation. Our customer base is getting younger; they go about business in a different way. Sales hiring expert and sales and leadership master coach Jason Howes will delve into what sales technologies are out there to help businesses prosper.

- Networking – a golden opportunity... it's been a



Claire Madden ... social trends and generational change.



Jason Howes... selling to the younger generation.



Dean Wilson... workplace, health and safety.



Justin Jones... leadership, trust and communication.

long time since we have been able to connect face to face and discuss common issues and work towards common goals.

The gala network dinner on June 17 will honour industry legends and announce the winners of the Andrew Bone TABMA Member of the Year Shield and Trainee and Apprentice Member of the Year Award.

Entertaining speaker Justin Jones, who has made a career of undertaking

huge, epic, record-setting expeditions around the world will share his stories on the stage and screen. Justin takes us on some of his journeys delivering powerful lessons on teamwork, risk mitigation, grit, resilience, leadership, trust and communication.

**“PRESENTING
TABMA
MEMBER OF
YEAR SHIELD**

As part of the conference, TABMA will also hold a Women in Forest and Timber Network breakfast.

The final day of the conference has been set aside primarily for recreational activities. This will see delegates enjoy a range of optional activities, including sunrise hot air balloon rides, 18-hole championship golf course, wine and cheese tour and time spent at a luxurious day spa.



TABMA Australia National Conference

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- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Learn how to keep your workers safe
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Learn about Gen Z & how attract and retain them

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MAY

20: Close of 2021 Gottstein fellowships, industry awards and scholarships – ONLINE. Entries currently open. Contact gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or Helen Murray on +61 419 991 424. Details visit: gottsteintrust.org/fellowships/

26: Timber Queensland Detailing for Durability – ONLINE. Free technical webinar with CPD point opportunity. 11 am-12.20 pm. From hazard classes to treatment systems and maintenance regimes, the webinars a guide to the latest research and information for ensuring extended service life. A 'must-attend' for building professionals from engineers and architects, through to builders and end-users with future timber durability in mind. Registration link at www.timberqueensland.com.au

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 talking Generation Z. Gala dinner "honouring our past and treasuring the present". Includes the 2020 Andrew Bone TABMA Member of The Year, TABMA Industry Legends and Trainee and Apprentice Member of The Year awards. For more information or to book visit [https://tabma.com.au/2021-national\[1\]conference/](https://tabma.com.au/2021-national[1]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.

NOVEMBER

10-13: AUSTimber 2021 – Gormandale in eastern Victoria between Yarram and Traralgon. Nov. 10: Field trips. Nov. 11: Field trips (site

visits by invitation). Welcome dinner. Nov. 12: Show day (9 am-5 pm). Nov. 13: Show day (9 am-3 pm). Contact Dionne Olsen on +61 429 202 929 or email austimber2020@afca.asn.au

14-19: 2021 Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury, NSW. November 14-15 based in Albury with field trips to northern Victoria. November 16-19: Guest lectures and field trip, then relocate by coach to Canberra for three days including a laboratory day and guest lectures at ANU, and a formal course dinner celebrating 50th Anniversary of the trust. Detailed information, registration and the draft program: <https://gottsteintrust.org/course/wood-science-courses/>

From P 2

AFCA is investigating how ForestFit can align with existing auditing activities and other certifications.

"Streamlining these processes will provide the benefit for ForestFit certified businesses to be deemed as compliant with other schemes and will create efficiencies," Stacey Gardiner said.

The AFCA technical



NSW forest contractors Chris Dwyer and Trevor Myhill engage in the ForestFit training program at Tumut.

committee met in Canberra recently to discuss the certification framework and included a presentation on certification by Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood.

More information can be found on the AFCA website: www.afca.asn.au

On the cover: NSW forest contractors Liz Austen and Melinda Haris at the ForestFit training session in Tumut this week.

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MAY

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 Aubépinés, 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/>

7-11: New Forest Folk Festival – Powells Farm, Salisbury Road, Plaitford, Romsey, UK. For further information see: www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk

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

17-21: Prowood Ghent – Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Ghent, East Flanders, Flanders, Belgium. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Prowood-M9728/Ghent.html

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>

26-29: Woodworking Minsk – Sports Complex, Pobeditelej 20/2 Minsk, Belarus. International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

JANUARY 2022

28-29: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia. Forest industry accounting, methodological and issues and environmental accounting for forestry. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

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

Timber, sawlog prices set to soar as industry faces centuries-old problem

‘Our fundamental aim must be to get the profitability of growing trees right’

PROMINENT north American forest market specialist Russ Taylor reports that at May 1 US sawn timber prices had soared, approaching \$US1000 a cubic metre (\$AUD1300).

“The same could happen here,” says Rob de Fégely, a director of forest industry consultancy Margules Groome.

“Not everyone will agree with me, and it is my personal opinion, but I have been watching the supply and demand dynamics of wood products in Australia and around the world for the last 30 years and this time I think it’s different,” Mr de Fégely said.

“Australia has always been a net importer of forest products including timber and we are now paying a huge price for under-investing in new softwood plantations and reducing the log supply from our natural forests.

“Our past solution of just importing the balance to meet demand is now proving very hard.”

Mr de Fégely says the reasons are complex – a lack of surplus supply from Europe; China’s huge demand soaking up New Zealand log exports; a significant lift in prices and demand in North America – all combined with logistical challenges with shipping and containers that have coincided with Australia’s new housing boom.

Together, they have all worked to create the shortage of timber.

“I don’t know any sawmiller



Sawn timber prices in USA are soaring... the same could happen here.

who can keep up with demand at the moment,” Mr de Fégely said. “Supply is king and if you do not have secure supply, you are likely to be left out of the supply chain.

“This means that home builders, via frame and truss fabricators and sawmillers, need closer connections with growers to maintain supply.

“It is not about price anymore it is about supply.”

A potential timber price of \$1000 cub m should yield softwood sawlog stumpages around \$130 to \$150 cub m – and log prices from natural forests could be even higher due to the premium qualities of our local hardwoods and consumer choices for these natural products.

Mr de Fégely said while these prices might look ‘eye-wateringly’ high, their impact on the cost of building a new house would be relatively minor, possibly less than 5%,

but they might be enough to recommence softwood plantation establishment .

Importantly, doubling the price of timber would not double the price of a new home. This was because timber was a critical element in building a new house but it was not the major cost.

“Sadly, I am still hearing stories of perfectly good plantations (previously established by managed investment schemes) being cleared for agriculture,” Mr de Fégely reflected.

“This will continue unless we improve the transparency of log prices so that they are freely and publicly available for potential investors

“ I DON’T KNOW ANY SAWMILLER WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND

in forests to observe. Otherwise, they will look to alternative investments for their funds.”

Mr de Fégely said money for new forests was not the problem!

“Agricultural prices are booming, so we need to compete openly in the market so we give ourselves a chance,” he said.

“To grow new plantations we need access to land and so we must develop a more open and trusting relationship with farmers. Forget indexes, farmers need to see real log prices and examples of successful plantation and natural forest investments.

“We cannot wait for government assistance as they do not have any significant areas of cleared land, and have more urgent funding priorities in other sectors.

Cont P 10

From P 9

“Carbon credits will be important but we cannot over-rely on them – they are not a silver bullet – and they could easily distort the market with serious social consequences in rural communities.

“Just look at the disputes in New Zealand between forest growers and farmers. We must not end up there.

“WE NEED A MORE OPEN AND TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP WITH FARMERS

“Our fundamental aim must be to get the profitability of growing trees and managing forests right, then the market will take care of the rest.

“In developing my opinion, I know some people will disagree with me and I would not use these figures as the basis for any investment, but if we don’t use this surge in demand to



Rob de Fégely... the beginning of a wider consideration of the value of wood.

reset the wood market we will be losing an amazing opportunity to fix a two-centuries-old problem of not being able to grow enough

domestic wood to meet Australia’s future demand.”

Mr de Fégely said the industry had a great opportunity to be part of the climate change solution by growing more trees and encouraging more people to build healthy, carbon-storing wooden buildings.

“Hopefully, this opinion is the beginning of a wider consideration of the value of wood,” he added.

Gottstein Trust celebrates a wonderful legacy



GOTTSTEIN TRUST
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THE Gottstein Memorial Trust will celebrate its half century at the National Press Club in Canberra on June 22.

The evening will be hosted by the current trustees and chair Suzette Weeding will do the honours with an address of thanks and recognition of the educational trust’s significant benefits to industry over 50 years.

Among invitees are many former trustees, the ranks of which include industry luminaries such as Denis Cullity (snr). Many trustees

sadly are no longer with us including Peter Gunnersen, Warren Hyne and Glen Britton.

Suzette Weeding expressed appreciation to the major anniversary event sponsor Wesbeam and to sponsors Forico, Hyne Timber and ForestOne.

“The generosity and goodwill of the sponsors has made this event possible, and we are delighted that firms with decades-long links to the trust will be with us on the night as well as those who are fresher to the fold,”

Ms Weeding said.

Company representatives from the trust’s impressive roll call of regular industry donors are expected to shake off Canberra’s cold winter air and enjoy the warmth of a special celebration, along with others who have been supportive of the efforts of the trust which is the industry’s philanthropic educational fund.

It is hoped that many of the Gottstein Trust’s 151 fellowship alumni will come forward to reconnect.

“We are endeavouring to

get invitations out to every single former fellow that we can find,” Helen Murray of the Gottstein secretariat said.

“So, we urge people to come forward with their current contact details to be part of a wonderful celebration,” she said.

The anniversary event will be available for alumni on Zoom later this year.

For information contact the Gottstein Team gottsteinsecretary@gmail.com or call Helen Murray on 0419 991 424.



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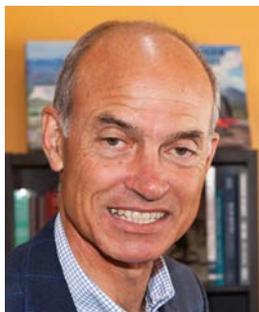


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Barnett retains forestry in 'historic' election win for Tasmanian Liberals

THE counting is done and Premier Peter Gutwein has welcomed a "historic day" for the Liberal Party, after government was re-elected in majority for the third consecutive time at the May 1 poll.



Guy Barnett... proud of forest industry's approach in working in unprecedented circumstances.

At a press conference in Hobart, Mr Gutwein said Tasmanians had voted for stability and certainty.

He pointed to "incredibly strong results" for the Liberals in the northern seats of Bass, Braddon and Lyons.

Mr Gutwein became Tasmania's 46th premier in January 2020 after Will Hodgman announced his intention to resign from politics altogether.

Tasmanian Forest Products Association CEO Nick Steel welcomed the return of minister Guy Barnett who will continue to take on the resources portfolio along with the additional job of trade, retaining responsibility for the export orientated aspects of Tasmania's economy.

"Tasmania's forest industries have always played a major in the economy and it is critical that the state has an experienced minister like Mr Barnett who understands the complexities and benefits of our industries," Mr Steel said.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton added: "From a national perspective, we look forward to working with Mr Barnett to ensure the right policy direction is chartered for forest industries as the sector faces a number of hurdles,

not the least of which is the ongoing trade dispute with China.

Mr Barnett said the government remained committed to protecting and building the forestry sector, recognising it was a vital employer in many regional communities.

"While we have all faced with the extraordinary challenge of Covid-19, I am extremely proud of the way the forestry industry has proactively adapted to working in unprecedented circumstances," he said.

"The forestry sector will be a key leader in the recovery and rebuilding phase for the Tasmanian economy, driving investment and providing thousands of jobs, many in regional areas."

Michael Ferguson will be responsible for building Tasmania. He was appointed minister for the new portfolio of State Development, Construction and Housing.

He will also retain the portfolios of infrastructure and transport. This effectively consolidates the building and development portfolios under one minister to aid strong delivery.

State Parliament will return on June 22.

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HQP contract tops up log supply at AKD

On-going investment in sawmills across Victoria, NSW and Queensland

AKD's Tumut sawmill in the NSW Riverina will drop from its current contracted volume of around 485,000 cub m per annum to around 320,000 cub m at the end of June as a result of the recent fierce fires in the region.

The Tumut site has been receiving and processing salvage log since March last year.

The integrated forestry and timber processing company has secured additional sawlog at various sites and believes it will produce a similar volume in FY22 as it did in FY21 – essentially negating the volume impact at Tumut.

AKD has signed a long-term

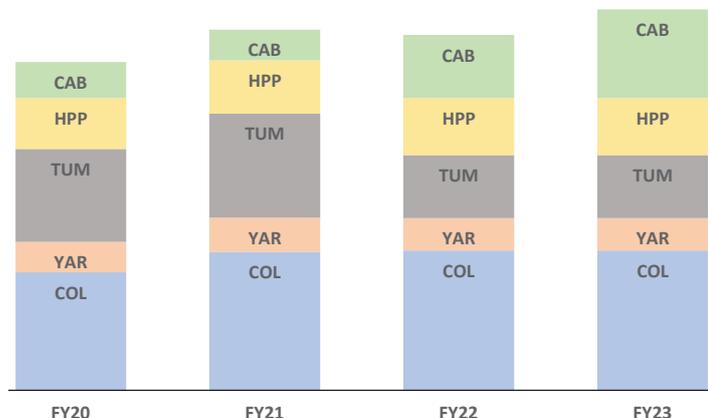
log contract in Queensland with HQPlantations for additional volume and once new kilns are installed at Caboolture on Queensland's near north coast mid-next year, AKD's volume will increase.

HQPlantations sustainably manages 320,000 ha of plantation forest in Queensland which produces up to of 2.3 million cub m of logs annually that support



AKD shareholder/director Ian Colless countersigns a long-term log supply agreement with HQ Plantations, while CEO Shane Vicary looks on.

ANNUALISED LOG IN



Legend: CAB = Caboolture, Qld; HPP = Highland Pine AKD Oberon, NSW; TUM = Tumut, NSW; YAR = Yarram, Vic.; COL = Colac & Irrewarra, Vic.

both domestic and export industries.

AKD CEO Shane Vicary said the company continued to invest in all of its six large-scale sawmills across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to ensure the long-term sustainability of the

“FOCUSED ON MAXIMISING VOLUMES FOR AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMERS

timber industry.

“We are focused on maximising volumes for the Australian market,” Mr Vicary said.

AKD, based in Colac, Vic, where it was founded in 1955, is equally owned by four founding family company shareholders.

Vertically-integrated operations comprise a 9000-ha radiata pine estate and include three post and preservation businesses, export operations from multiple locations and its own transport fleet.

Responsible Wood hosts product trends and trademark webinar

RESPONSIBLE Wood will host a special webinar with thinkstep-anz to examine the evolving trends in products, trademarks, and declarations.

The webinar will provide an overview of responsible products trends in green building markets, new trademarks for Responsible Wood, as well as environmental product

declarations for Australian and imported timber products.

The webinar is scheduled for 12.30 pm-1.30 pm on June 16. Click [HERE](#) to register.

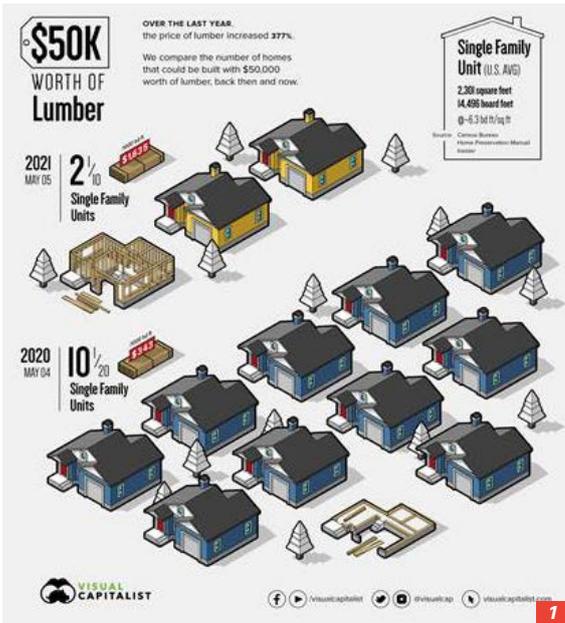
Presenters include Nicole Sullivan, head of strategy and impact Australia, thinkstep-anz; Simon Dorries, CEO Responsible Wood; and Steve Mitchell, chair, EPD Australasia

and principal consultant, thinkstep-anz

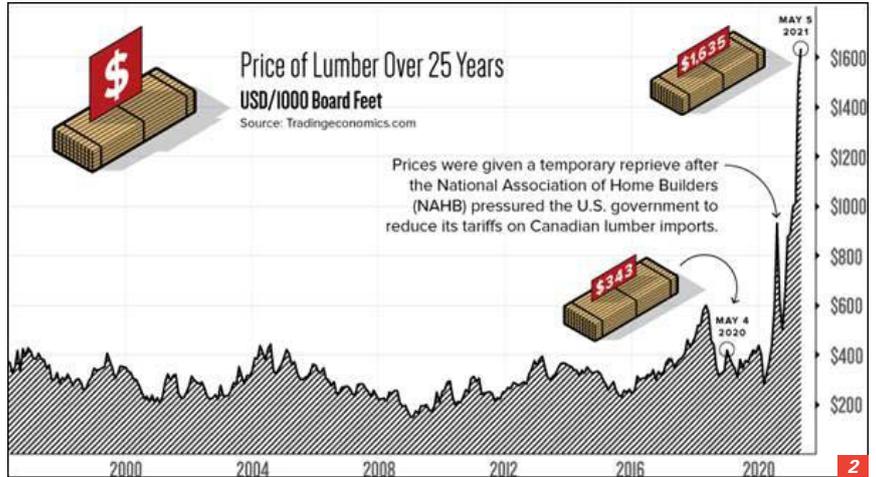
Before joining thinkstep-anz Ms Sullivan was senior manager of Green Star Solutions at the Green Building Council of Australia, where she led the development of the responsible products framework for the new Green Star Buildings rating tool.

She has a Chemical Engineering (Hons I) degree from the University of New South Wales.

Steve Mitchell is a qualified sustainability professional and co-author of the first Australian timber industry Environmental Product Declarations registered with EPD Australasia.



- 1/ How many houses will \$50,000 worth of timber build in May 2021 versus May 2020?
- 2/ After 20 years of almost steady timber prices, they have exploded in 2021.



From P 4

(those who ‘shop around’ for the cheapest prices) in times of over-supply, and who get away with it – but who are the first to be dumped in a tight timber market.

The perfect storm is in play for Australian sawmillers to

extract much higher timber price increases from big box stores, builders and consumers.

Purely based on the Paul Samuelson principle of supply and demand, prices should double, treble or even more in the next 6-12

months (as iron ore export prices from Australia to China have done in the last 12 months).

“PRICES MIGHT TREBLE IN NEXT 6-12 MONTHS”

In fact, a failure to do so – perhaps to at least double timber prices – might encourage the directors of major Australian sawmilling companies to ask tough questions of their CEOs and marketing managers.

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Construction using peeler cores seen as a low-cost solution to timber shortages

System developed to bridge gap in supply of engineered wood products

A VIRTUAL new industry for forestry, sawmillers and manufacturers – the processing of peeler cores and forest discards using low-cost machinery – is gaining merit as the gap in supply of sawn timber and engineered wood, particularly LVL, widens almost every week.

“New technology emerging on round timber construction opens new opportunities for transfer of small-diameter timbers and waste peeler cores from veneer production to high-volume, high value structural applications,” says Pat Thornton, a chemist and pioneer of round timber construction systems at his Wollongong, NSW, factory.

Mr Thornton, who presented at a collaborative workshop in Brisbane last month organised by the Centre for Future Timber Structures / Future Timber Hub, says the application of the new technology is very promising for the transfer of small-diameter timbers and waste peeler cores from veneer production to high-volume structural applications.

“We see the potential for these products to open a high-value structural market for low-value thinnings and peeler cores to address forest sustainability and housing issues,” he said.



Talking new engineered wood systems at the Centre for Future Timber Structures at the University of Queensland are Peter Blair, project director, Structured Project Management (Australia), Sydney, Dr Joe Gattas, senior lecturer at UQ's School of Civil Engineering, Kelly Rischmiller, manager, ARC Future Timber Hub and Centre for Future Timber Structures, Dr Rob McGavin, research facility project manager, DAF Salisbury Research Facility, and Pat Thornton, Loggo Building Systems, Wollongong, NSW. Collaborative workshop chairman Dr Keith Crews, Professor Emeritus, University of Technology Sydney, now based in Queensland, joined the meeting via Zoom.

Mr Thornton's company Loggo Pty Ltd has completed successful tests on three different joist/beam samples at the University of Queensland. Each sample used 2400 mm peeler cores, low-value by-products from the plywood industry. Both fatigue testing (100,000 cycles) and strength testing were carried out to assess the abilities to carry design loads.

Loggo consulting engineer Peter Blair, project director at Sydney-based Structured Project Management (Australia), referenced Loggo's patented Lamilog which uses materials to produce a laminated structural section for beam, beam/column and column applications.

The product is assembled by slabbing the rounds and then stitching them by drilling and lacing with steel dowels which are chemically bonded to the

timber.

“By varying the stitching pattern and incorporating internal high modulus timber fish plates we have lengthened the elements to 2.5 times the base material. That is a 2.4 m peeler core can be incorporated to produce 6 m beams,” Mr Blair said.

“Utilising Lamilog bearer elements and either Loggo's Bi-Log or I-Log joists, dependent on required loads and spans, floor cassettes can be assembled either off site or on site subject to transport and logistics to produce modules from 3.6 m to 6 m,” he said.

“The modules can be

“**OPENING FOR HIGH-VALUE STRUCTURAL MARKET**”

constructed with floors in place and connectors ready to receive adjoining modules and floor support elements.”

Mr Blair said Loggo wall frames were factory-assembled for external and internal shear walls as well as load bearing party walls, constructed complete with ply sheathing and lifting points to allow rapid framing advancement on site.

Factory bi-directional lamination of the

Lamilog section into column sections utilises any required structural confirmation from a “2 x 2” column up to a “6 x 6” to carry the heaviest vertical loads. Compressive forces are restrained by bi-directional internal stitching to provide a ligature-like support.

Loggo is seeking a manufacturing partnerships to transfer methodologies from lab-based development to commercial production. The company has connections with domestic and overseas contractors with interest in adapting the system.

Dr Keith Crews, Professor Emeritus at University of Technology Sydney, who chaired the Future Timber Hub workshop, says the biggest challenge in developing a new building product that's linked to a different type of fabrication are the obstacles

AUSTimber 2021 ‘all-go’ reflects amazing resilience of forest sector

IT’S all go for AUSTimber 2021 in November.

Initially planned for November last year, after being postponed in April, devastating bushfires that swept across the Gippsland region of Victoria forced organisers to carry the event over to 2021.

With the green light shining, AUSTimber 2021 will run from November 10 to 13 at Traralgon in the east of the Latrobe Valley.

Event manager Dionne Olsen reports that everyone involved is getting excited.

“All exhibitors and suppliers who had signed up for April 2020 and then for November that year have recommitted to the event,” she said.

“The biggest, and perhaps only, difference will of course be the level of international participation. Past activities like the forwarder competition and wood chopping will take place along with other events and entertainment.”

“EVERYONE INVOLVED IS GETTING EXCITED”



All exhibitors and suppliers who had signed up for April 2020 and then for November that year have recommitted to the event.

“It could have been expected that exhibit numbers would be down but the opposite is the case. Although Covid-19 is still in the minds of organisers ... we are fortunate that AUSTimber takes place in an



1/ Wood chopping ... one of several exciting events on the AUSTimber program.

2/ Dr Karl... special guest celebrity at AUSTimber welcome dinner.

Ms Olsen said AUSTimber would now essentially be a national event with New Zealand involved as well.

None of New Zealand exhibitors has pulled out with the trans-Tasman bubble working in both directions for travel.

Dionne Olsen said clearly AUSTimber would be the

premier forest industry event for the year, given everything that’s happened.

“Most of us have not had any opportunity for more than a year to meet in person so we are all looking at AUSTimber as the first opportunity come together face to face as an industry,” she said.

outdoor open space venue so maintaining social distancing will be easy to accomplish.”

Science communicator, author and a science commentator on Australian radio and television Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will be special guest speaker at the AUSTimber welcome dinner scheduled for November 11.

A site visit is planned closer to the date to ensure all exhibitors are up to speed with any health and safety planning issues that now, of course, include Covid-19.

“The go-ahead for AUSTimber shows the amazing resilience of our industry,” Dionne Olsen said.

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From P 15

a construction industry must tackle.

“It will take some bold thinking by businesses or large corporations to bite the bullet and say ‘we are going to have a go at this,’” he said.

“A change of building practices requires a change of mind-set as we advance more into prefabricated assemblies that have very high tolerances.

“Any new and proven product or system that goes into the construction industry has to be prepared to build a prototype and demonstrate the feasibility of it.”

Pat Thornton has put his money where his mouth is – at the mouth of the Tweed



1/ Offsite-manufactured floor panel... cost-effective component when combined with CLT floor-above sits on prefabricated and transportable panels 4.8 m wide and up to 12 m in length.

2/ Full scale prototype components of the Loggo flooring and framing system have been tested with a range of flooring, cladding and lining materials.

River in Northern NSW where he is constructing a three-level building using Loggo systems.

Research facility project manager, DAF Salisbury Research Facility, Dr Rob McGavin, said the Timber Hub – under the arch of Future Timber Structures – was now recognised as an international entity, working with large sections of industry and researchers globally.

“The collaborative workshop was a timely opportunity to discuss and review the evolution of the Timber Hub and bring together a large section of industry and researchers in one forum to debate how the hub will drive present and future construction systems – a driver for the shift and progression in the mid-to-rise space,” he said.

“The challenge is two-fold – separating the R&D requirements (which the centre can provide) and commercial interests and engaging with co-investors.

“From my perspective, the workshop was a good and timely opportunity in the evolution of the hub – to invite large sections of industry and researchers to one forum.”

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US awards \$15m to expand wood products

THE US. Department of Agriculture has awarded more than \$US15 million to fund grant proposals to develop and expand the use of wood products, strengthen emerging wood energy markets and protect community forests.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the grant funding, delivered through USDA Forest Service programs, would support 60 projects that covered a diverse range of activities from the development of affordable housing to expanding markets for mass timber, biochar, wood energy and other emerging wood products.

The grants also include funds to help tribes, local governments and qualified non-profit organisations permanently conserve working forests that benefit communities.



7 Photograph / Andrew Mella

1/ Fund grants will expand the use of forest products in the US.
2/ Tom Vilsack... to manage wildfire and address climate we need to manage our forests.

Forest Service awards will leverage an additional \$30 million in matching and partner funds bringing the totals well above \$45 million.

"To manage wildfire and address climate, we need to manage our forests," Mr Vilsack said.

"The investments underpin USDA's commitment to address the climate crisis with a market-based approach that begins to move us toward a clean energy economy, led by production of renewable fuel and energy and bio-based products grown and manufactured in



the US," he said.

"The American Jobs Plan and USDA's budget request for 2022 make sure the Forest Service can prioritise forest management and restoration."

**SUPPORTING
60 DIVERSE
PROJECTS**

"The USDA is placing emphasis on assisting wood energy facilities in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology to replace systems that are inefficient or fuelled by fossil fuels," Forest Service chief

Vicki Christiansen.

"The grants will also expand markets for CLT timber in commercial and multi-family housing, which supports the important connection to healthy forests and manufacturing in rural communities."

Seven of the projects will focus on developing affordable housing using mass timber as a major building component to support equity, economic opportunity, and climate change priorities. Additional projects focus on developing markets for emerging wood products such as biomass, biochar and cellulose nanomaterials, and support installation of new wood energy systems.

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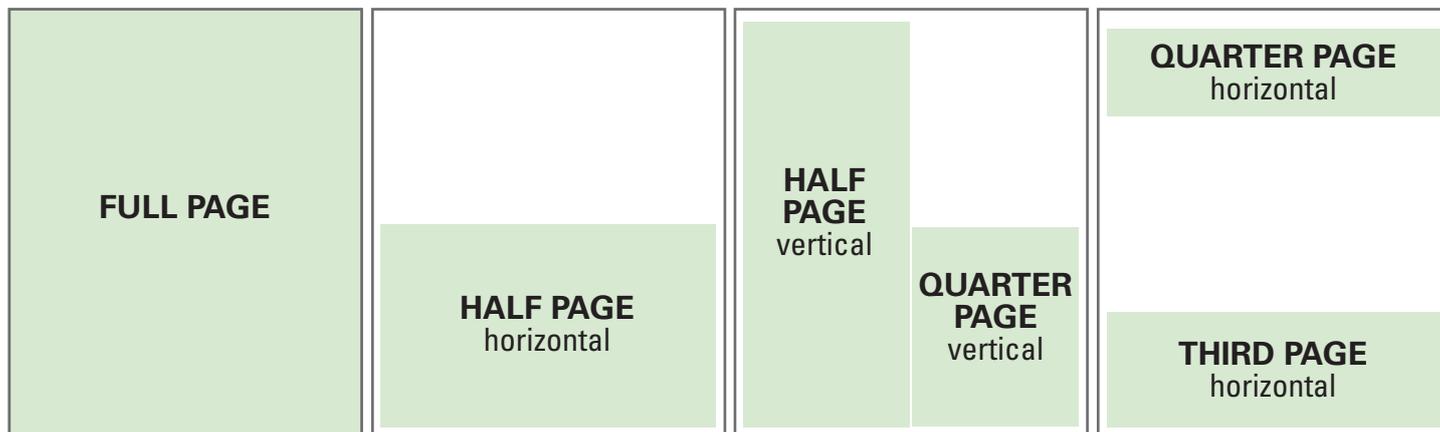
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