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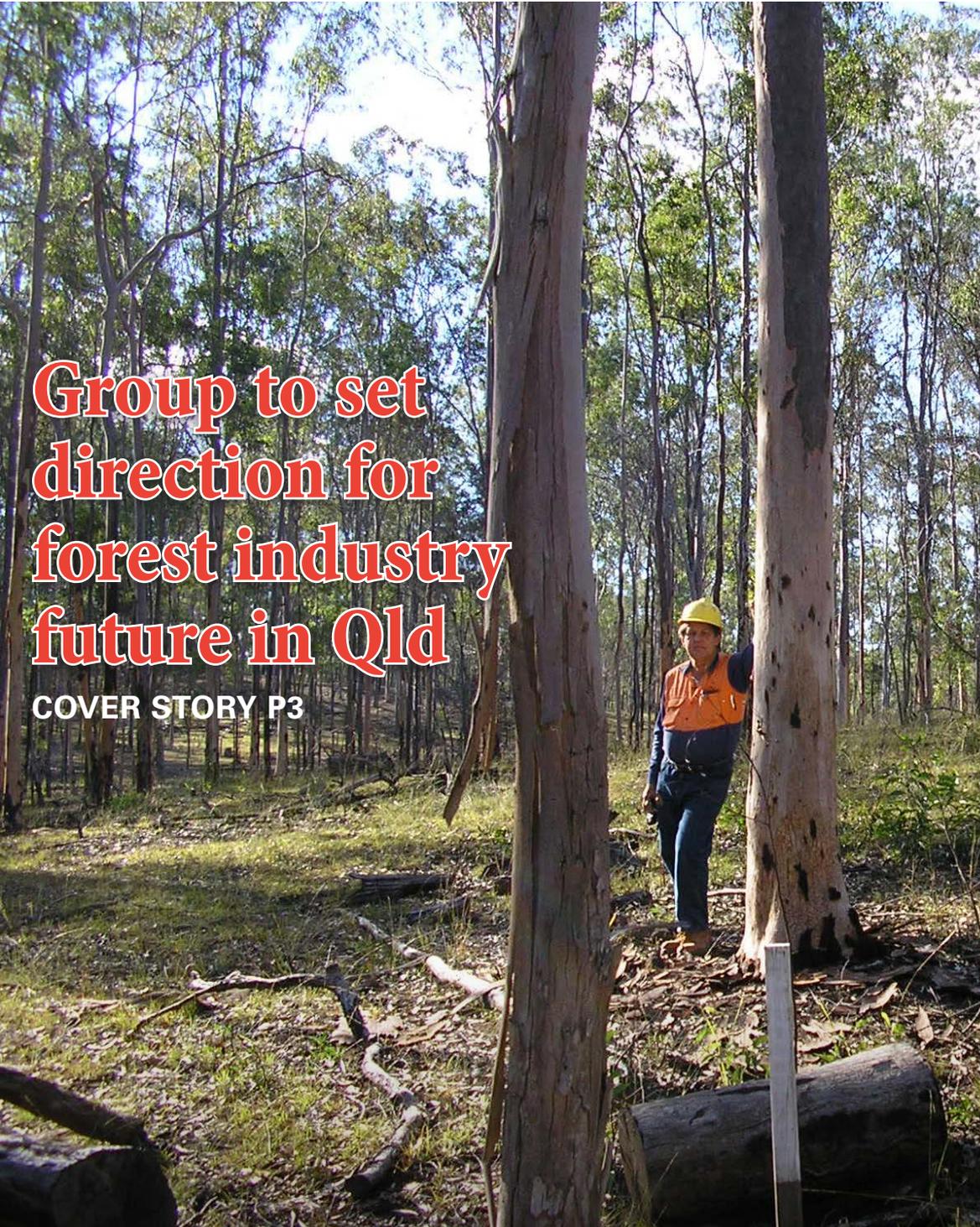
ISSUE **662** | **June 17, 2021**

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## Group to set direction for forest industry future in Qld

COVER STORY P3



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# State builds its way out of Covid with budget's \$1bn investment in housing

THE waitlist on Queensland's public housing register, as of September last year, was 26,397 households – and even those considered of the highest need wait, on average, for eight months.

In response, the Queensland State Budget, announced by Treasurer and Minister for Investment Cameron Dick on Tuesday, commits government to build 6365 new houses over the next four years.

Also, the state plans to establish a \$1 billion housing investment fund. According to the Budget, the fund is expected to generate \$160 million in four years which will be used to “drive new supply to support current and future housing needs”.

The budget detailed further investment in social housing including \$1.8 billion to increase the supply over four years with \$30 million to be spent on fast-tracking these



**1/ Queensland Budget has allocated more than \$900 million to build 10 new primary schools in high-growth areas and \$500 million for renewed infrastructure across existing schools.**  
**2/ Cameron Dick... government commits to build 6365 new houses over the next four years.**

projects this year alone.

Despite a projected capital spend of \$14.7 billion, the Master Builders Association has criticised the Budget, saying it fails to deliver a clear pipeline of work and that the industry is being hampered by red tape requirements on public sector projects.

The Budget has allocated more than \$900 million to build 10 new primary schools in high growth areas and

\$500 million for additional and renewed infrastructure across existing schools.

The state expects to record a deficit of \$3.49 billion in 2021-22, slightly lower compared with the \$3.803 billion recorded in 2020-21.

The state's debt is expected to grow from \$15.8 billion as at June 30, 2021, to \$24.8 billion by June next year and to reach \$42.6 billion by June 2025.

For the building sector, a significant positive can be seen through a healthy spend on capital works, which will increase from \$13.9 billion in 2020-21 to \$14.7 billion in 2021-22 and will total \$52.2 billion over four years.

Cameron Dick claims “the state's successful response to the pandemic” would allow investment in jobs.

Protecting the state from the worst of the Covid-19 outbreak “it had not only saved lives but allowed businesses, and people's wallets, to remain open.

“All the jobs that were lost during the pandemic downturn have returned.”

He added: “It's only because we got our health response right here in Queensland that our economy can now grow with confidence, and this is a budget that invests in that growth.

“We are building new hospitals, schools, roads and stadiums, because we are in one of the strongest financial positions of any major government in Australia.”



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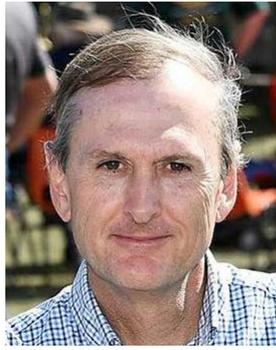
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Mark Furner



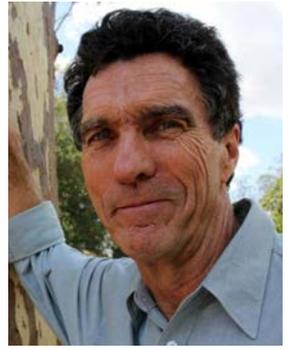
Curly Tatnell



Mick Stephens



John McNamara



Sean Ryan

# New advisory group to set direction for future of forest industry in Queensland

## Sustainable resource delivers on state's plan for economic recovery: minister

JIM BOWDEN

THE next step in the Palaszczuk government's plan for the long-term future of Queensland's timber industry is under way with the first meeting of the native timber advisory panel in Brisbane last week.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner said the panel brought together key stakeholders to work on ensuring a long-term sustainable future for the native timber industry that balances jobs and the environment.

The panel included representatives from the

native timber industry, the conservation sector, the research sector, unions and First Nations people, and was overseen by an independent chair Alan Feely, a former Deputy Director-General, Natural Resources and Mines and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, now retired.

"The panel will consider native forestry on state-

owned and privately-owned land, conservation outcomes, economic impacts and opportunities for regional communities," Mark Furner said.

"This broad representation ensures that all views are heard and fully understood."

The panel's role will be to advise the government

Cont P 4

“STUDY TO IDENTIFY SUPPLY OPTIONS”



Queensland's native hardwood industry has opportunities for further growth and development.

1 SEPTEMBER 2021

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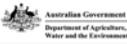
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From P 3

on policy options and implications for the native timber industry, which will form the basis of a public consultation process with the results to be assessed by the state government.

This could be a 12-18 month process for the panel, which is expected to meet six or seven times a year.

Mr Furner committed to a study that will identify sustainable future options for timber supply, including on private land, due to be

completed by the end of the year.

“We have brought the unsuccessful hardwood plantation program, a partnership between HQPlantations and the state, to a close, while ‘rolling-term’ permits in the western hardwoods region will be replaced from 2034 with fixed-term competitive permits,” he said

Bruce Saunders, MP Maryborough, said the panel was the latest step in the government’s Native Timber

Action Plan.

“We have already extended the continuation of hardwood timber harvesting in the Wide Bay-Burnett for an additional two years, guaranteeing access up to 2026,” he said.

“That has secured the employment of 500 Maryborough and Wide Bay locals working in the industry.”

Mr Furner said through the Native Timber Action Plan, the government would ensure a sustainable industry that “grows our regions and importantly

provide local supply for the building and construction sector,” Mr Stephens said.

He said the Queensland native hardwood industry already had a great story to tell through world best-practice for sustainable forest management, and with concrete action on resource security could take full advantage of state and privately-owned native forest resources.

The native timber advisory panel comprises:

- Curly Tatnell, executive director, Dale and Meyers, a diversified company with interests in hardwood timber harvesting, sawmilling, timber manufacturing and distribution to the construction and electricity industries.

- Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland, former deputy CEO AFPA in Canberra and manager strategic policy.

- John McNamara, CEO, Parkside Group, and former managing director Hyne Timber. Parkside is a privately-owned company and leading player in sawmilling, timber manufacturing, land and property and commercial development, home construction and retirement industries with operations across Australia and into PNG.

“NATIVE HARDWOOD INDUSTRY HAS GREAT STORY TO TELL”

continues to deliver Queensland’s plan for economic recovery.”

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the formation of the advisory panel recognised the economic importance of the state’s native hardwood industry and opportunities for further growth and development.

“With ever-increasing demand for high quality and sustainably managed timber, the state’s hardwood industry is well-placed to meet this demand and



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Cont P 9

# Statistics and economics role at FWPA

INDUSTRY'S research and development provider Forest and Wood Products Australia has seen a change to its staff in the last month, with Kevin Peachey set to replace Jim Houghton as statistics and economics manager.

Mr Peachey has an extensive background in the forestry industry and is excited to start his new role within the company. He studied forestry

**“WEBINARS TO FOCUS ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

at Australia National University.

In his most recent role at Australian Forest Products Association he was involved in policy advocacy. His specific roles included advocacy for increased R&D funding for the forest industry and he was also chamber manager for AFPAs pulp, paper and bio-products sector members.

Mr Peachey was also executive officer for Timber Towns Victoria and the National Timber Councils Association.

He has been getting up to speed quickly and is



**Kevin Peachey... specific roles included advocacy for increased R&D funding for the forest industry.**

undertaking an extensive contact program with the company contributors to

the FWPA data aggregation program, including recent participation in the growers and the processors respective safety forums. He is also hosting an upcoming series of five webinars that will begin on June 18. The webinars will help explain the recent changes in supply and demand for timber products, both domestically and internationally.

Jim Houghton will assist in the transition of this role over the next period as he focuses on his role as a forest industry consultant and director at HireThinking.

## The early birds are singing ... in the trees at Pokolbin

“THE weather’s stunning, the venue’s in a picture postcard setting among the trees and the speakers are primed,” TABMA Australia’s Alicia Oelkers enthused this morning from the Cypress Lakes Resort at Pokolbin in the NSW Hunter Valley.

More than 80 delegates and more than 100 dinner guests have gathered for the tree-day inaugural national conference that also celebrates TABMA’s 80th year.

“Masks are off, the temp is around a cool 18 deg and we’re rolling,” said Alicia.

In their welcome address chair Peter Hutchison and CEO David Little applauded industry’s magnificent support for the event in very trying times. Indeed, through the jubilation there is an undercurrent of concern about timber supply and this issue is being



**TABMA Australia conference takes off in the Hunter Valley.**

addressed during sessions.

Meanwhile, delegates are greeting old friends and there’s laughter in the background.

The first speaker is on the stage – social researcher Claire Madden with a

lively presentation on the implications of generational change, a timely subject as industry works with ‘Gen Zeders’, those born after 1996 and taking centre stage among the marketing community.

As part of the conference, TABMA is holding a Women in Forest and Timber Network breakfast. After busy sessions delegates can enjoy some recreational activities ... a sunrise hot air balloon ride, golf, wine and cheese tour and a luxurious ‘recover’ day spa.



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# Artificial intelligence forestry's future?

ARTIFICIAL intelligence presents both opportunities and challenges for industries in regional Australia ... and forestry is no exception.

A new collaborative research initiative is being proposed to enable communities, universities and government to work together to ensure the benefits of AI are maximised, and the threats mitigated.

The proposed Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre will work with commercial partners from various sectors including forestry, Agtech, mining, retail and IT. The AI-focused research projects it conducts will be determined and led by the industry partners themselves, in light of their own distinct issues and priorities.

FWPA and the University of the Sunshine Coast

are working together on the development of a proposal outlining potential areas of focus for forestry, informed by discussions with growers and timber processors. Optimising knowledge and knowledge transfer across the entire industry supply chain has been identified by industry as a key area of priority, due to its potential for supporting better short, medium and long-term decision-making.

In particular, AI techniques were identified during discussions as having the potential to uncover nonlinear relationships between the many factors impacting wood



AI... to the next level.

quality such as genetics, site conditions, rotations, management activities and environmental inputs.

The proposal will therefore recommend the CRC gathers and uses such insights to develop predictive models. These models would help ensure the implementation of short and long-term management strategies that

will allow regional Australia to grow the highest quality timber resource, at a rate that will satisfy future demand.

Other key recommendations will include measures to enhance processing capabilities, and optimise supply chain and logistics to match timber produced with the right attributes for market opportunities.

Research projects conducted in the CRC will be determined and led by the partner organisations. This will enable industry to describe their own problems to researchers who can design innovative solutions.

This month, the Smarter Regions CRC Bid Development Committee will submit the case for establishing a unique and innovative CRC.

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**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/>

**16-17: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC.** New global ‘hybrid’ format will retain avital face to face element. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions.

For further information and registration visit the website [www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)

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**JUNE**

**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/>

**7-11: New Forest Folk Festival – Powells Farm, Salisbury Road, Plaitford, Romsey, UK.** For further information see: [www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk](http://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/](http://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](http://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, Pobeditelei 20/2 Minsk, Belarus.** International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: [www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html](http://www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html)

• Please send events to John Halkett: [johnh@timberandforestryenews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestryenews.com)

## Canada campaign pledges two billion tree plantings by 2030

CANADA’S Liberal campaign pledge to plant two billion trees by 2030 finally seems to have taken root.

Natural Resources Minister Seamus O’Regan has

announced 30 million trees will be planted this season out of the two billion his government promised over the next 10 years during the 2019 federal

election campaign.

That goal will see Canada plant an extra 200 million trees each year, which the government says will eventually help

sequester carbon.

To get two billion trees into the ground over a decade, around 33 million would have to be planted each month during a tree-planting season.



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From P 4

- Sean Ryan, with environmental management skills, represents Private Forestry Service Queensland, a forest management and hardwood plantation developer.

- Virginia Young, principal, Strategic Interventions, who has played a leading role as National Forest Campaign coordinator. Her work in Queensland resulted in the timber industry agreeing to transition out of native forest logging in 1999 and to the immediate protection of 425,000 ha of southeast Queensland's forests with 1.2 million ha eventually to be protected and restored.

- Dr Aila Keto AO, co-founder, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society. An environmental activist, she achieved the landmark closure of the rainforest timber industry in North Queensland in 1988 and the subsequent end of all rainforest logging on Queensland public land in 1994. She was also responsible for the Wet Tropics, Fraser Island and the Central Eastern Rainforest

Reserves of Australia, the listing of Queensland's Wet Tropics as a world heritage site, then in 1999 another 1.25 million ha of Queensland hardwood forests was preserved through the historic South East Queensland Forest Agreement.

- Laura Hahn, conservation principal, National Parks Association of Queensland.

- Laura Gowdie, Australian Workers Union.

- Leann Wilson, general manager, Regional Economic Solutions, developed to bring economic change for indigenous Australians.

- Prof. Brendan Mackey, director of Griffith University's climate change response program who has a PhD in ecology from ANU with special expertise in climate change, forest ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

**On the cover: Cliff Raddatz, retired forester and part-time consultant for Private Forestry Service Queensland, inspects native timbers at Gundiah in southeast Queensland. The minimal under-storey is the result of combining grazing with forestry. Photo PFSQ.**



# Engineered wood supply running out in UK

THE volume of timber and panel products imported in the first quarter of 2021 was at its highest in more than a decade, the latest UK Timber Trade Federation statistics show.

Import volumes were 23% higher, nearing almost 3 million cub m compared to 2,396,000 cub m in the same period last year.

Based on the strength of demand, the federation estimates the total volume of imports in the second quarter this year could reach 3,300,000 cub m to rival the 2007 figure of 3,371,000 cub m.

With demand so strong that even record imports cannot satisfy it, CEO David Hopkins believes supply is likely to continue to tighten, particularly as Swedish mill



1

**1/ Swedish sawmills... increasing global demand has significantly reduced stock levels**

**2/ David Hopkins... supply of structural timber will continue to tighten.**

stocks are the lowest for 20 years.

The federation has warned that these low stock levels will mean the balance between supply and demand is likely to further tighten this summer.

In terms of construction, Sweden is the single largest supply source providing almost half of the structural wood used in the UK.

Swedish sawmills have been able to keep production going during the pandemic, but increasing demand for wood products globally has



2

seen stocks at run down, leading to the lowest stock levels for more than 20 years. Production is continuing at full throttle and March became the best production month ever for Swedish sawmills.

The federation says as structural wood buyers will already be more than aware, the supply-demand balance means that almost all wood

arriving in the UK has been presold to customers. And despite strict allocation, most buyers are not able to obtain full quantities needed to meet demand.

This situation has been made worse because there are insufficient heavy goods vehicles

available to get the wood out of UK ports and into customers' yards.

Approaching July, sawmills and wood production facilities in Sweden and other European countries start to close for essential summer maintenance and this will significantly reduce the available supply of structural wood from the region.

In order to maintain the supply chain during this summer shutdown period, there has been a significant reliance on Swedish sawmill stocks. However, if these stocks are now at their lowest level for 20 years there will not be sufficient supply to satisfy UK structural wood demand into 2021.

**“ SWEDISH STOCK LEVELS LOWEST IN 20 YEARS ”**



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# NZ climate change commission report treats forest sector with jaundiced eye

DENNIS NEILSON

THE eagerly-awaited final report from the New Zealand Climate Change Commission was released last week, after a draft was issued in January and after which it received 15,000 submissions.

While this is non-binding on the Labour government, it has already been well received, with many, if not all, recommendations accepted in principle. The government itself has to announce a Climate Change Policy by the end of this year.

As expected the CCC wants to transform New Zealand into a carbon-neutral society by 2050, and has a number of plans of how that might happen. These include:

- Reducing greenhouse emissions by 15% by 2025 and by 63% by 2035.
- A 47% reduction in agricultural emissions, which will mean a big reduction in livestock numbers.
- Nearly all cars need to be electric by 2035.
- Phasing out coal “as soon as possible” (although in 2021 the government is importing three times more coal than was imported in 2017, so it will have to get its act together soon).
- Planting 680,000 ha of new land forests by 2050.
- Deeper integration of Treaty of Waitangi principles (the treaty is mentioned 193 times in the 400-page report).

As expected, a number of high-profile people and organisations have come out against the recommendations.

However, the government is already into this transformation, with its

announcement that from July 1 it will heavily subsidise the purchase of electric vehicles, and will from January 1, 2022, penalise petrol and diesel cars with heavy new taxes.

Howls of protest are being heard, especially from farmers and tradespeople who need heavy utility vehicles and vans for their employment, but for which no electric vehicle models exist.

The climate commission treats the forest industry sector with a jaundiced eye. On one hand it concedes that to meet its 2050 carbon emission targets, New Zealand will need to add 380,000 ha of new land exotic tree plantings (like radiata pine) on farmland by 2035. But then it wants to put a stop to ‘any further such nonsense’ (as it wants to discourage pine trees) and instead encourage the planting of native trees on an additional 300,000 new land hectares by 2050.

These will grow at one tenth the rate (and sequester one tenth of the carbon) of radiata, and will be at least 10 times the cost to establish. In addition, there will be large risks that many will not survive seedling-hood, as they are ravaged by droughts, rabbits, hares, deer, sheep, cattle, fungi, and insects – and for the survivors, fires.

DANA director Dennis Neilson suggests the government subsidy necessary to achieve this goal



*Eat up and chew the cud while you may.*

might total \$10 billion – and it could be double this.

New Zealanders are in three camps over this transformation plan:

- Those who embrace this revolution, and for whom the cost is irrelevant.

• Those who are horrified by the plan, and think it will bankrupt the country.

• Those who are horrified by the plan, but look to the pitiful (non)-performance of everything else the NZ government has proposed over the last four years, but has achieved less

than 5% of its targets – and so are not losing any sleep, one way or the other.

In any event, the next election is in 2023. That is before any Toyota ‘electric utes’ will arrive in the country.

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# Native forestry industry 'left in the lurch' as green lawfare attacks continues in Vic.

## Senator ... 'and we still have Bunnings importing timber from overseas'

EXTREME green lawfare continues to threaten Australia's timber supply and jobs with the native forest industry in Victoria 'left in the lurch' while Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc. continue to seek to permanently end native forestry operations.



Harvesting will continue to cease until the appeal to the High Court is heard, which could take place much later in the year. This subsequently affects timber supply, industry supply chains and local job security despite the fact VicForests successfully appealed the original decision of Justice Mortimer just last month.

This ruling reinstated that VicForests' native forest operations were in fact carried out in accordance with requirements set by the Central Highlands Regional Forest Agreement.

However, Friends of Leadbeater's Possum have not accepted this decision and continue to wage their unfair attack against Victoria's native forestry industry by appealing the recently handed down judgment.



Leader of the Nationals in the Senate and senator for Victoria Bridget McKenzie said environmental extremists continued to disrupt the native forest industry, effectively shutting down operations while the appeal waited to be heard.

"In the meantime, industry is left with its hands tied, unable to supply the nation with timber which is in short supply," Senator McKenzie said.

"This cannot be allowed to

1/ **Victorian native forestry sector... it's all about communities, sustainability and jobs.**

2/ **Bridget McKenzie... VicForests adheres to some of the strictest environmental regulations in the world.**

continue time after time," she said.

"Being unable to harvest 44 coupes in the Central Highlands regional forest area means VicForests is at risk of not being able to fill supply contracts. This puts the livelihoods of hard-working people at risk, and shows that extremists do not care about the broader implications of their actions."

**VICFORESTS FACED WITH BEING UNABLE TO FILL SUPPLY CONTRACTS**

Senator McKenzie said VicForests adhered to some of the strictest environmental regulations in the world. Timber was a sustainable industry under an increasing threat from so-called 'environmental groups' who were not willing to examine the facts about its environmental credentials, including forest management.

"On the back of the actions of Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc. and other activist groups, we still have Bunnings importing timber from overseas rather than supplying Australians with stock harvested from Victoria," the senator aid.

"This shows there is undermined confidence in the forest harvesting industry due to the actions of extremists. When you have conglomerates like Bunnings making these sorts of decisions on green lawfare, the public are misguided and ultimately, they unknowingly are unaware of the truth of matters such as this.

"This has huge and unfair impacts on the native forest industry, putting at risk real jobs in real communities.

"Timber workers need job certainty, and industry needs assurance that it has an economically viable, long-term sustainable future."



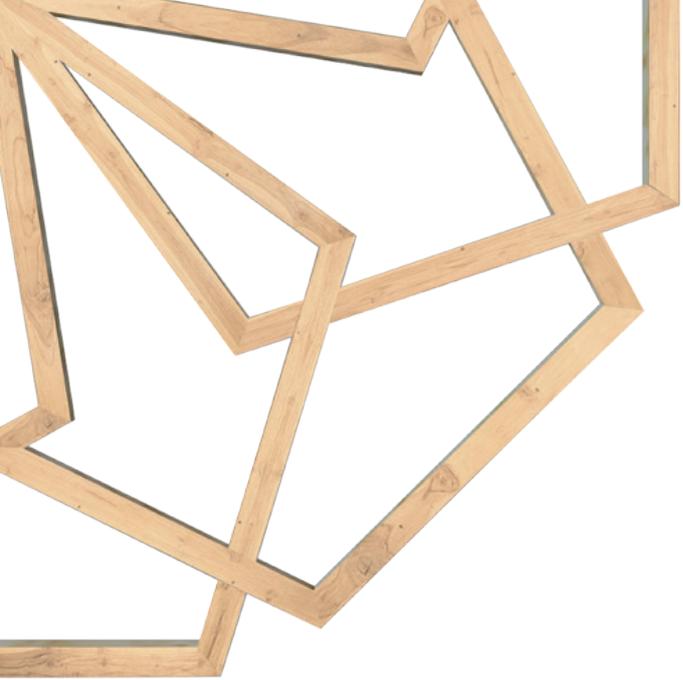
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# Shipping logistics, changed demand patterns challenge international trade

## Timber imports impacted by booming demand in Europe and North America

OLD-FASHIONED economists (and I must include myself in this category) when talking about market dynamics are really talking about the interplay between supply and demand with price the allocative mechanism. In simple terms, higher prices means more supply while lower prices means more demand. As the market nears equilibrium, supply and demand are in reasonable balance at steady price levels.

However, as we all know life is never that simple!

Many challenges are impacting international trade at the moment. In recent months the effect of Covid-19 on supply chains has become apparent across a number of industries not just the wood products sector. This has resulted in stock outs of items that in more normal times were readily available. A number of factors would appear to be at play ranging from shipping logistics through to changed demand patterns.

The trade war between the US and China appears to have impacted the flow of goods and also the movement of containers. This has been supercharged by Covid and associated lockdowns through



*The volume of trade and the relocation of containers have combined to cause freight rates to go through the roof.*

2020, which have unleashed a significant consumer spending binge.

Shipping Australia Limited, the peak industry body, in a detailed article on January 15 commented:

“A massive follow-on issue is the management of empty shipping containers. All around the world, empty shipping containers are in the wrong place. They are in the countries that receive cargo, like Australia. They need to be in the places that send cargo, like China.

“The volume of trade and the relocation of containers have combined to cause freight rates go through the roof. The Freightos Baltic Index, a composite of 40 ft container freight rates, has seen rates increase some 230% in the past 12 months from \$US1785 in July 2020 to \$US5893 in June this year”

To bring this story back home, imported timber products supply an important 10-20% of the Australian

markets in Europe and North America, detached housing approvals in Australia have now exceeded the high point of the last cycle in June 2018 of 122,803 to reach a new record in April 2021 of 137,991. These are big numbers which have generated a supply response from local processors and importers of saw timber.

Apparent consumption shows the increase in local production of some 8% and import volumes which have increased 15% over the past 12 months.

In 2018, local production was running at similar levels to current levels at some 3.2 million cub m. The difference at the moment is the important balancing volumes provided by imports is not at the same level. This reflects the dynamics of markets in Australia and overseas, the current challenges with shipping logistics and the unprecedented demand for new detached housing.

Markets always respond and some of the factors to keep an eye on will be the rate at which approvals get turned into starts in coming months and if work in the pipeline is extended. It will also be interesting to see how global supply chains adapt to changes in the flow of goods and whether prices ease in North America.

Plenty of moving parts!

• *Jim Houghton is a timber industry consultant. Email [jim@hirethinking.com.au](mailto:jim@hirethinking.com.au)*

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market. These imports are impacted by all the freight and logistics issues mentioned above. In addition, as economies recover from the pandemic demand in Europe and North America is booming.

There was a pause in August 2020 when prices rose to just under \$US1000 per mBf but have since reignited and moved up to over \$US1400 per mBf. So within a space of just over 12 months prices in North America have risen a staggering 360%.

As with strong housing

**“BALANCING VOLUMES OF TIMBER IMPORTS IS NOT AT THE SAME LEVEL”**



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*'If you have any social conscience in relation to this threat to koalas, faunal species in general and your policy holders, I strongly recommend you begin working with people within the forest industry to collectively force a change to current lock up and neglect forest fuel management'*

# More about activist reaction after a disaster, rather than risk mitigation

I READ your article on the NRMA koala advertisements (June 3) . These advertisements are an ongoing annoyance.

I have written to Nick Hawkins, managing director and CEO, IAG, as a NRMA policy holder of more than 48 years to provide information about the implied protection of koala habitat contained in the NRMA Insurance's 'Every Home Is Worth Protecting' advertising campaign.

Scientific evidence shows that the biggest causes of koala population decline in Australia are droughts and loss of habitat from urban expansion, bushfires, car strikes, wild dogs, and disease.

Hundreds of thousands of hectares of state forest have been transferred to national parks on the north and south coasts of NSW, as well as the Pilliga in the past 25 years. These high-density koala populations have been sustained in regeneration following sustainable harvesting operations. The nutritious young foliage provides more koala browse and higher koala populations than most "permanently protected" national parks.

It is somewhat perverse that good forest management including timber production is punished as these state

forest koala populations are reduced in the bushfire cauldron of our parks and reserve system

NRMA Insurance's implication that the forest and wood products industries are contributing to the decline of koala habitat is misleading and something I would expect from an activist organisation fundraising campaign ... not the third strongest insurance brand in Australia.

The koala campaign misleads the community; ill-informed communities resulting from this campaign and ongoing activist campaigns paint forest harvesting as the scapegoat and allow governments and public land managers to get away with currently inadequate levels of bushfire risk mitigation in NSW and Australia generally. Consequently, it will be ongoing megafires, which continue to slaughter koalas by the thousands, as well as causing the death of billions of other fauna.

Property losses and pressure on insurance premiums will continue to



**Misleading... NRMA koala advertising campaign.**

escalate, unless government and public land management agencies undertake landscape level fuel management operations via fuel reduction burning.

Unfortunately, the government is as blind to the flawed research outcomes, as is the Insurance Council of Australia. Unlike submissions from forestry experts and organisations, the ICA submission to the NSW bushfire inquiry failed to recognise the risk that the mass build-up of three-dimensional forest fuel loads pose to biodiversity, property owners and insurance company bottom lines.

Some of the (NRMA)

**“THE KOALA CAMPAIGN MISLEADS THE COMMUNITY**

background material such as the "green fighting teams" seem to be more about activist reaction after a disaster, rather than risk mitigation to minimise the risk of a disaster occurring.

Why has NRMA Insurance chosen to target the forest industry when timber is the product communities rely on when rebuilding bushfire ravaged homes that NRMA Insurance covers?

I have noted the drone footage NRMA has of bushfire devastated forest on the NRMA Insurance website. If NRMA has any social conscience in addressing this threat to koalas, faunal species in general and your policy holders, I strongly recommend you begin working with people within the forest industry to collectively force a change to current lock up and neglect forest fuel management.

As a result of NRMA's koala campaign, I am reminded almost every day that the insurance association I have had with NRMA for more than 48 years will end next January.

**PETER RUTHERFORD BSc (Forestry), formerly with the Forestry Commission of NSW and VicForests, Meribula, NSW.**



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## KEY DATES 2021

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<b>JUNE 10</b>	Nominations Open
<b>AUGUST 15</b>	Nominations Close
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Judging Process
<b>OCTOBER 29</b>	Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

# 2021 NOMINATIONS OPEN JUNE 10-AUG 15



# \$85,000 grant to support SA communities

TRANS-Tasman forests and sawmilling company OneFortyOne and charity foundation Stand Like Stone have granted \$85,000 to community groups across the Limestone Coast in southeast South Australia to support a range of projects from upgrading tools at Men's Sheds to regulation and mindfulness training empowering local educators.

Allendale East Area School is one of 10 groups that will receive a grant, and plans to purchase a luggage trailer for the Steven Noble Community Bus.

The school's governing council chair Jenna Griffiths said the grant would help provide a better service to those using the bus.

"The bus is used by a number of local groups to



**On the bus... Allendale East Area School governing council chair Jenna Griffiths, OneFortyOne Jubilee sawmill general manager Paul Hartung, Stand Like Stone CEO Anne Kerr, and AEAS school captain Luke Bald.**

keep people safer on the roads, to and from functions and events," Ms Griffiths said.

"Until now we've had to have people's luggage, such as sports equipment, in the bus itself. Having the trailer will separate passengers and their luggage, making it more comfortable and safer."

OneFortyOne Jubilee

sawmill general manager Paul Hartung said there was a clear need in the community, and the company would provide further funding beyond their \$50,000 commitment with Stand Like Stone, to directly support more projects.

"We are in a position this year where we are able to support a number of

worthwhile projects beyond our partnership with Stand Like Stone," Mr Hartung said.

"The amount of applications received made it clear there was a need in our community. Even more so, it is clear that groups are passionate about taking action on meaningful projects that will help their communities and beyond."

When assessing grant applications, the committee considered factors such as wider impact of projects, longevity of a project and in-kind support.

Stand Like Stone CEO Anne Kerr said the value of the grants went well beyond a dollar value.

"The positive effect of the projects we're able to support can be life changing," she said.

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# Santa Fe a family SUV for the long trail

CHARGING up the 'Bruce' – the 1680 km highway that connects Brisbane with Cairns – I reflected on America's more romantically-sounding Santa Fe Trail. Opened by the Spaniards at the end of the 18th century, it runs 1465 km through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado and is the mother of the US rail system.

What brought on this brain-storm? It's about 30 years since I travelled on the Santa Fe Trail, albeit only across the Kansas-Missouri state line to Kansas City – and on a Greyhound. The full trail winds through six states

The Santa Fe Trail, the given name more correctly taken from New Mexico's capital Santa Fe (Holy Faith), is the badge on Hyundai's seven-seater SUV that took us to Wild Horse observatory above the Beerburum state forest, 60 km north of Brisbane.

Hyundai introduced its first SUV in 2001, named it Santa Fe, and sat back to see it become the South Korean manufacturer's best-ever seller in the US.

The 3.5 multi-point injection eight-speed 4WD V6 auto sits on the same



**Santa Fe... Hyundai's best-selling seven-seater SUV.**

platform as the latest-generation Kia Sorento and has V6 petrol and diesel powertrains, the 2.2-litre twin-clutch turbo-diesel offering a 19% improvement in fuel economy.

The petrol we're told is quieter. It's a city family car that suits long highway travel and at a compelling price of \$44,700 (manufacturer's listing).

Extra driver tech includes forward collision avoidance assist with a new junction turning assist feature, lane following assist and multi-collision braking. The range retains a five-star ANCAP safety rating.

Standard equipment includes 17-in. alloy wheels (with a full-size spare), automatic LED headlights

and daytime-running lights, an 8 in. infotainment touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a 4.2-in. instrument cluster display, leather-trimmed steering wheel and gear selector, black cloth seats, an electronic parking brake, rear parking sensors, reversing camera and wireless phone charging

Those features are joined by a range of drive modes (including a set of 'terrain' off-road modes on diesel models), auto up/down windows, tyre pressure monitoring, manually-adjustable seats with

electric lumbar support, second and third row air conditioning vents, heated side mirrors and roof rails.

Towing capacity has been bumped up to 2500 kg braked and the tow ball can be loaded up with 200 kg.

The 3.5-litre V6 petrol develops less power and torque – 200 kW and 330 Nm but slightly better economy at 10.5 L/100 km.

One of the smart features is a new bridge-style centre console with a rotary-style gear shifter and a vertical wireless charging pad that can be swapped out for a storage cubby.

The Santa Fe is fitted with two ISOFIX attachment points in the outbound second row seats, plus three top-tether points.

Hyundai has flagged a hybrid powered SUV hybrid combining a small 1.6-litre turbo-petrol engine (132 kW/265 Nm) and an electric motor (44 kW) to deliver a combined 169 kW of power and 350 Nm of torque.

“HYUNDAI'S  
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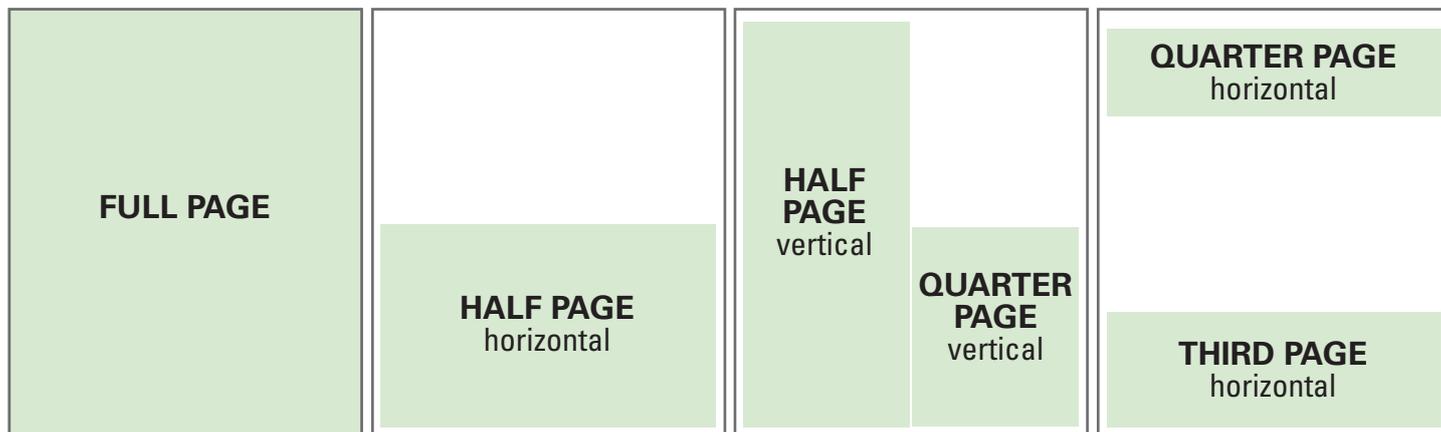
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