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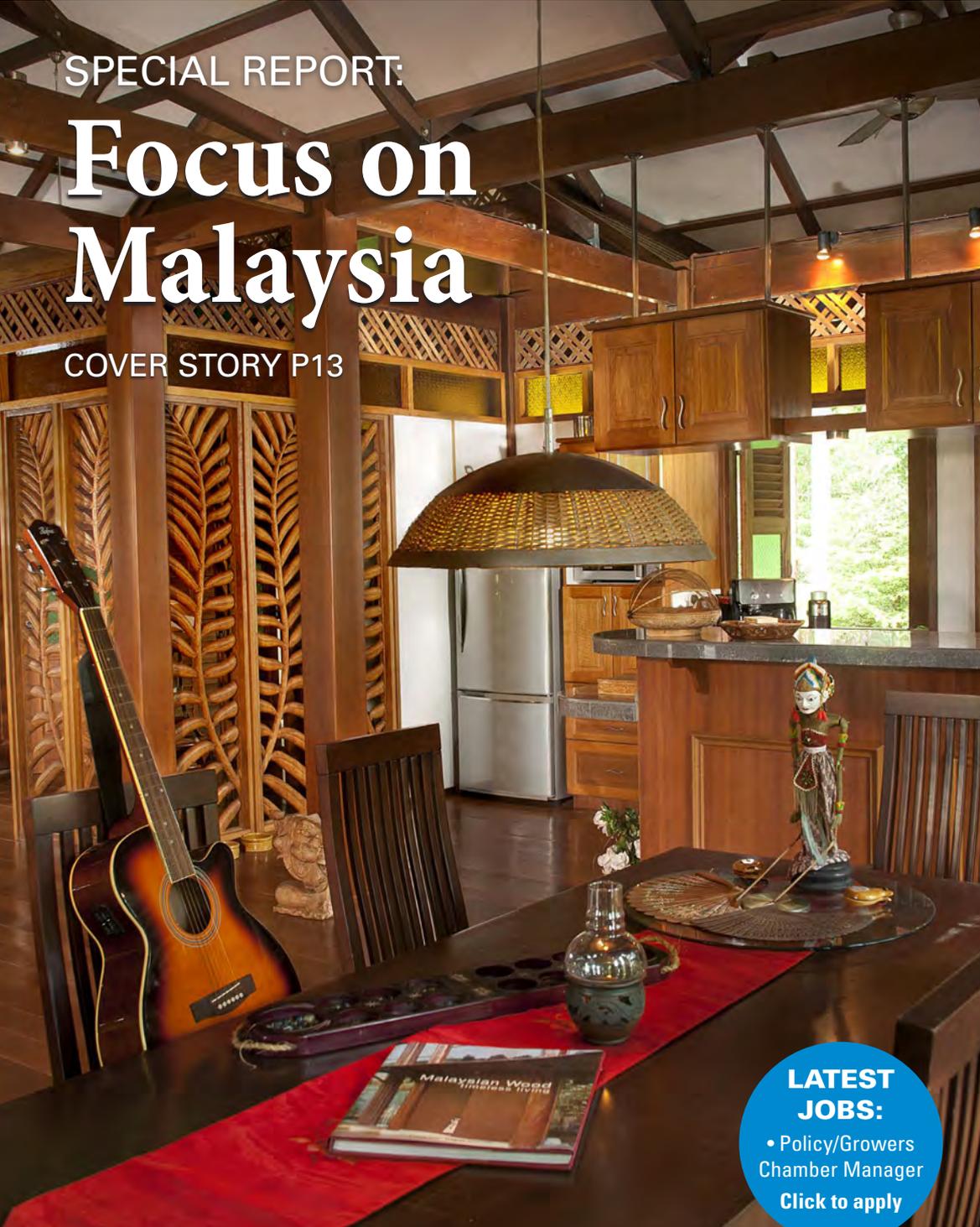
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Forest champion Joel Fitzgibbon closes last chapter on a 25-year political career

VETERAN Hunter Valley MP Noel Fitzgibbon who has departed the seat he has held since 1996 was a champion of the forest industry.

Popular in the electorate's central coal and timber sectors, Mr Fitzgibbon, 59, has confirmed he will end his 25-year political career.

Australian Forest Products Association CEO Ross Hampton said Mr Fitzgibbon had provided bipartisan support for Australia's sustainable native forest industries ... "at odds with what we've seen with Labor governments in Victoria and Western Australia."

Mr Hampton said Mr Fitzgibbon recognised the importance of the industry to the economy and the fact that plantation forestry could not offset the loss of the native resource.

"During his career, he spearheaded Labor's strong forestry policies at the last federal election and recognised its importance to the economy. Furthermore, he dedicated his time in

parliament to co-convening the Federal Parliamentary Friends of Forest Industries group, alongside Liberal Member for Barker Tony Pasin," Mr Hampton said.

"Through this office Joel has helped us educate and inform federal parliament of the sustainable nature of forestry in Australia."

Mr Fitzgibbon was a sharp critic of the decision by the Andrews government to phase out Victoria's native timber industry, saying a strong relationship between the commonwealth and the states was needed to sustain regional jobs.

He warned Australia could not sustain a forest and forest products industry and "all the jobs and wealth it creates" without a native forest industry.

Mr Fitzgibbon also called



Joel Fitzgibbon... recognised importance of forestry to the national economy.

out the "fallacy" of Premier Andrews' claim that the hardwood timber industry in Victoria can transition to plantations by 2030.

Speaking at an AFPA members' dinner in Canberra he said: "We have the land and the resource to supply

“STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATIVE FOREST INDUSTRY”

much of this timber from our abundant native forest estate and through an expanded plantation estate.

"It's this sustainably harvested native forest product that generates most of the work in our local hardwood sawmills. Even if plantation forestry could be grown sufficiently quickly to offset the loss of our native resource – and it can't – it is no replacement for our renewable native forest product."

Joel Fitzgibbon's departure from the seat comes after he quit the shadow cabinet in November, vowing to use his time on the backbench to pressure the party to return to the issues of concern for its working-class base. He held onto the seat at the 2019 poll, despite a significant 9.5% swing against Labor.

After the 2019 election, he urged his party to adopt the Coalition's climate policies.

Mr Fitzgibbon's father Eric held the seat of Hunter from 1984 to 1996.



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Malaysia well prepared for rising world demand in certified, sustainable timbers

JIM BOWDEN

RICH in tropical wood products, Malaysia foresees an ever-increasing demand for certified and sustainably acquired timbers from major importers in Europe and other developed countries as industries recover from pandemic restrictions.



Global market demand for PEFC-certified Malaysian timbers.

Chief operations officer of the Malaysian Timber Council Roger Chin said this trend would intensify; timber was increasingly recognised for its contribution towards economy and green living in the form of low carbon and low emission building material.

Mr Chin's comments are from an interview with Timber&Forestry enews (Page 13-15).

"As Europe is pioneering the region via the European Green Deal and with others following suit, we foresee there will be growth pockets for the trade of sustainable timber products globally in the next five to 10 years," Mr Chin said.

"Therein lies an opportunity for Malaysia ... to market its certified sustainable timber products to be used as a carbon neutral or as sinks compared to other conventional building materials such as concrete and steel."

Malaysia has 5.27 million ha of forests certified by the

Malaysian Timber Certification Council-PEFC with 382 CoC certificate holders

In the past five years, the export of Malaysian timber products has maintained its momentum at \$AUD7.6 billion. However, due to the pandemic, the industry at a global level is going through an economic slowdown.

"But despite this slowdown, we are seeing a steep rise in timber prices, due to the supply shortages," Mr Chin said.

“ OPPORTUNITIES OPEN FOR AUST MALAYSIA TRADE COLLABORATION

"For instance, the US housing boom has driven timber prices up by more than 200% at one point. The massive price hike has made the American market an attractive destination for many, including tropical timber suppliers.

"Delayed building projects around the world are

expected to be pumping up momentum once the pandemic situation eases. Demand for building materials will be on the

rise. Timber, as one of the most environmentally friendly building materials, is expected to be in demand."

Mr Chin said the expected growth of the housing and construction sector would not only have a positive impact on building materials, but it would also bring about positive growth for products such as mouldings, claddings, wall panelling, flooring, windows and doors.

"The furniture sector will also see a rise with a boost to the interior furnishing segment," he said.

Mr Chin sees potential for

Cont P 4

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Crime Stoppers anonymous tool for reporting non-compliant native logging activity in Qld

TIMBER Queensland has highlighted significant concerns with the risk of illegal logging and regulatory non-compliant native forest log exports from the state.

The peak industry body has taken the unprecedented step of calling for a suspension of such exports until an effective compliance and enforcement regime could be put in place. "These concerns were outlined in a detailed bulletin and fact sheet that we distributed more widely," CEO Mick Stephens said

Crime Stoppers is an anonymous way for landowners and stakeholders to report suspected non-compliant activity," Mr Stephens said.



1/ Mick Stephens
2/ Stephen Mitchell

"In particular, details of where the harvesting or incident has taken place is important in terms of assisting with investigations from relevant compliance authorities."

Timber Queensland members, landholders and industry stakeholders who encounter suspicious native log export activities (e.g.

harvesting in protected areas, theft of timber from leasehold land, harvesting in obvious contravention of relevant forestry codes of practice) should report them to Crime Stoppers.

A written report can be sent to the Crime Stoppers web site crimestoppers.com.au or call 1800 333 000.

Timber Queensland has also made a submission calling for native log exports

from Queensland to be declared a regulated product under the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation. As outlined, Timber Queensland supports the overall intent of the regulation as an important mechanism to combat illegal log harvesting and timber trade both within Australia and globally.

Stephen Mitchell, principal consultant of Stephen Mitchell Consultants, an authority on the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012, said the Timber Queensland action on non-compliant native forest log exports from the state was a great initiative.

"The laws regarding harvest of log needs to be enforced all around Australia as we are imposing this requirement on our imports," Mr Mitchell said.

"If Timber Queensland, or any other party, has credible information that laws are not being adhered to these need to be reported and investigated," he said.

CALLING FOR REGULATION ON STATE'S NATIVE LOG EXPORTS

From P 3

collaboration and improving trade in timber between Malaysia and Australia.

"Australia has some of the most advanced timber processing technologies," he said. "Innovation has helped the efficiency of timber production and technological advancements had also led to a variety of new materials, especially for engineered timber products. "Malaysia and Australia can collaborate in such areas to further enhance the usage of timber."

Mr Chin said Covid-19 had

brought many challenges which included disruptions in the supply chain, slowing of global and domestic demand, cash-flow management, increase in freight charges and increases in raw material cost.

The pandemic also caused port congestion globally where timber supplies from and to Malaysia were delayed due to the unavailability of empty containers. This was on top of skyrocketing container shipment charges globally which had eaten into the profit margin of exporters.

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AFPA-FWPA a 'hand-in-glove' relationship

THE Australian Forest Products Association has worked collaboratively and beneficially with Forest and Wood Products Australia during Ric Sinclair's time as managing director.

While both bodies work for the betterment of Australia's forest industries, we do so in different ways, with different

“CODE CHANGES HAVE ALLOWED GREATER USE OF MID-RISE TIMBER

overarching roles.

AFPA's role is to raise the public and political profile of forest industries while FWPA manages the research and development aspects. As such, AFPA and FWPA have an effective 'hand-in-glove' relationship.

AFPA drives and promotes the policies forest industries need governments to adopt, while FWPA conducts the industry research that builds on those policies.

Under Ric's leadership FWPA forged a positive

COMMENT



With ROSS HAMPTON

relationship with Planet Ark to promote the 'wood and fibre storing carbon' story through advertising. FWPA

also created Wood Solutions – a brand to promote the use of wood and wood products.

Ric also worked on changes in the National Construction Code allowing a greater take-up of timber for mid-rise development, as well as creating ForestLearning.

A lot has been achieved under Ric Sinclair's leadership at FWPA and we wish him all the best for future endeavours.

• *Ross Hampton is CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association, based in Canberra.*

Ric and FWPA: a 10-year anniversary tribute

By DAVID ROWLINSON Campaign Manager Planet Ark's Make it Wood Campaign

BUILDING and construction is the primary source of CO2 emissions in Australia and around the world.

The UN Environment Global Status Report has highlighted that building operations – so-called 'operational carbon' – represent 28% of global emissions, and building materials and construction – so-called 'embodied carbon' – represents a further 11% of global emissions.

Planet Ark's Make It Wood

Campaign, the brainchild of outgoing FWPA managing director Ric Sinclair was launched in October 2011 aimed at increasing the use of responsibly-sourced wood as a building material to help reduce the emissions associated with the building and construction sector in Australia. Since then Planet Ark has developed the MIW brand and positioned the campaign as a key participant in driving consumer awareness and behaviour

change, and the acceptance of wood as a sustainable building material. Importantly, the campaign has sought to advance and underpin the Australian forestry sector's 'social license to operate'.

There have been many highlights over the last 10 years. We developed the MIW website – with a new look and feel introduced in 2018 – the MIW Facebook page, which currently has more

than 8300 'follows', regular news updates, quarterly E-newsletter, videos, project case studies, community service announcements, timber articles, conference presentations, advertisements and editorials, fact sheets and podcasts.

The MIW campaign has participated in media interviews on both radio and TV, including Channel 9, ABC Radio National and, most

Cont P 7



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2021 Tasmanian Timber Awards were full of clever people doing great things

30 recipients, 300 dinner guests celebrate industry excellence in Launceston

THIRTY recipients were applauded at the 2021 Tasmanian Timber Awards held at Launceston's Albert Hall last Friday – a sure sign that the industry is full of 'clever people doing very great things', according to the head of the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network.

Convenor Therese Taylor said the calibre of award entries was very high this year and that in many cases judges chose to award multiple winners, acknowledging the work of both individuals and organisations in some areas.

Additionally, judges in some of the 14 categories opted to award a highly commended or judges' commendation, such as the difficulty in choosing a winner.

"The Tasmanian Timber Awards recognises and celebrates excellence and best practice within our industry and acknowledges those who are leaders in their fields," Ms Taylor said.

"The event showcased our industry in the best possible way. It truly was a celebration of industry, by industry."

The biennial Tasmanian Timber Awards gala dinner was attended by more than 400 people from across industry and was made possible by the generosity of gold sponsors – Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Forico, Reliance, E.E. Muir, ForestWorks, Cusp, Neville Smith Forest Products, ARTEC, SFM Lenah Estate, Timberlink, Tasmania Forestry



1/ Trainee of the Year Meeghan Price, forwarder operator at Huon Valley native forest contractor TP Bennett and Sons, with her father and mother Harry and Tammy Price, and Eve James of AKS Forest Solutions (far right).

2/ Award winner Malcolm Larner, managing director, Tasmanian Eucalypt and Native Seeds, with Assistant Minister for Forests Senator Jonno Duniham, and Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network convenor Therese Taylor.



Hub, Midway Tasmania, Timberlands Pacific, Private Forests Tasmania; as well as: Esk Mapping and GIS, M2 Logistics, Britton Timbers, AKS Forest Solutions, Mood Food, Hydrowood, Technical Forest Services, Wood Based Products and Porta.

Award winners and sponsors:

Timber Processing Excellence (ARTEC): Cusp Building Solutions.

Harvesting Excellence (SFM Lenah Estate): Orana Enterprises. Highly Commended: MechLog

Regional and Community Development (TimberLink): Fortico.

Forest Growing and Management Excellence (Tasmania Forestry Hub): Malcolm Larner, managing director, Tasmanian Eucalypt and Native Seeds.

Excellence in the Design and/or Use of Tasmanian Timber (Sustainable Timber Tasmania): Denman Marine,

professional boat builders.

Highly Commended: Neville Smith Forest Products

Distribution and Logistics Excellence (E.E. Muir & Sons Pty. Ltd.): Padgett Group (organisation); Bradley Woodfield (individual).

Innovation and Technology Award (Neville Smith Forest Products):

Cusp Building Solutions (organisation); Judith Nantongo (individual). **Highly Commended:** Indicum Dynamics/Sustainable Timber Tasmania

Workplace Health and Safety Excellence (Cusp Building Solutions): MechLog (small organisation); Sustainable Timber Tasmania (large organisation).

Environmental Excellence (Forico): North East Bioregional Network (small organisation); TimberLink (large organisation)

Skill Development and Training Excellence (ForestWorks): Forest Practices Authority (large

organisation); The Safety Process (small organisation).

Highly Commended: Australian Research Council Training Centre for Forest Values (CFV).

Judges' Special Commendation: Oakdale Timber.

Outstanding Contribution to the Timber Industry – female (Reliance Forest Fibre): Jillian Aylett Brown. **Highly Commended:** Theresa Weller

Outstanding Contribution to the Timber Industry – male (Midway Tasmania): Michael Lee. **Highly Commended:** Joshua Turnbull and Mitch Roberts.

Trainee of the Year (Timberlands Pacific): Meeghan Price (small organisation); Kylie Kemp (large organisation). **Highly Commended:** Rosanne Champion and Luke Chamley

Tree Farmer of the Year (Private Forests Tasmania): Graham Freeman, Milabena, north-west Tasmania.

SEPTEMBER

TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award. Entries now closed. More than 90 submissions this year. Judging of People's Choice Awards starts late September. Last year was a virtual event. Traditional awards dinner will be held if Covid restrictions allow. More details and venue to be announced. Contact info@tdansw.asn.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

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

APRIL 2022

NB. REVISED DATE
3-8: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood

Science Course – Sunday evening, April 3, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, April 8, in Canberra. The course is fully booked and a wait list is operating on a first-in-first-served basis. Delivered in partnership with the ANU, the course timing prior to next Easter matches up with the semester break. The course program can be downloaded at www.gottsteintrust.org

From P 5

memorably, an interview with Myf Warhurst on ABC Radio which reached a national audience of over a million listeners.

It's also important to ensure there is government support for the increased use of wood in construction. A key vehicle for this is the promotion and adoption of Wood Encouragement Policies by councils and governments across Australia. To-date two local government authorities, 18 local councils and two states – Tasmania and Western Australia – have adopted a WEP in Australia. There is undoubtedly a need and opportunity to significantly increase the adoption and implementation of policies in

capital cities and urban councils where the majority of construction occurs.

Consumer tracking by Pollinate has concluded that consumer understanding that wood is renewable – 'the ultimate renewable' – remains high, and that over three quarters of Australians know that wood stores carbon after it has been harvested. While this is undoubtedly a result of the advertising and social media campaigns undertaken by FWPA and WoodSolutions,



David Rowlinson... unwavering support from the FWPA team.

linking back to the Make It Wood website, we believe that this level of awareness has also been positively impacted by the success of the MIW campaign.

None of this would have

been possible without the foresight, guidance and support from Ric, Eileen and the wonderful team at FWPA.

Prior to my arrival as the MIW campaign manager in January 2016 I had no prior knowledge or experience of the timber and forestry sector. I need not have feared – the unwavering support that I have received from both FWPA and the wider timber industry has been amazing.

Ric, your contribution to the timber and forestry sector in Australia has been extraordinary – undoubtedly your legacy will be eternal. The whole Planet Ark team is indebted to you. It has been a joy to work with you to help promote the undoubted benefits that our amazing industry provides.



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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/>

27-28: LIGNA Innovation conference – ONLINE EVENT – Hannover, Germany. Streamed live from Hannover Exhibition Centre from 9 am to 6 pm on both days. Registrations for digital participation now open: www.ligna.de/en/for-visitors/tickets/index-2

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, Pobeditelei 20/2 Minsk, Belarus. International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

31/10-12/11: 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – Glasgow, UK. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

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](https://www.accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney)

MAY 2022

23-24: International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments for climate action. The conference aims to bring together leading forest management organizations (TIMOs), investors interested in forest assets and carbon offsets (e.g., public and corporate pension funds, wealth managers and private banks, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and endowments) and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about challenges and opportunities for forest sector as a natural climate solution. The main theme of the conference is New Forest Business Frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

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

Key funding for AFCA forest haulage gap system

THE Australian Forest Contractors Association’s forestry haulage gap analysis system will receive key funding through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator’s heavy vehicle safety initiative, supported by the Federal Government.

The gap analysis system will enable industry participants to effectively understand relative transport risks resulting from the industry-endorsed Forestry Log Haulage Registered Code of Practice (LHC), now under consideration by NHVR for registration, and the actions required to reduce these risks.

This project is one of 28 successful heavy vehicle safety initiatives to receive



1/ Improving heavy vehicle safety for forest contractors.
2/ Sal Petrocchio... tangible safety improvements.

...nding from 5.2 million Round 6 of the heavy vehicle safety initiative.

AFCA general manager Stacey Gardiner said the HVSI funding would enable

the association to deliver the haulage gap system and improve heavy vehicle safety for forest contracting businesses, their drivers and loaders and the industry supply chain.

“It is important businesses

understand and implement the LHC to manage their risks and the gap analysis system development will support them to effectively understand their relative transport risks and suggest actions to reduce these risks,” Ms Gardiner said.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said the HVSI program supported key initiatives that delivered tangible safety improvements for the heavy vehicle industry and all road users.

“The grants enable the NHVR, local governments, industry and other stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to achieve a shared goal of safer drivers, safer vehicles and safer road use for all Australians.”

\$4.6m project will see Tiwi revenue soar

THE forestry industry on the Tiwi Islands could be set to double as a new \$4.6 million project turbo-charges export revenues for traditional owners.

The Tiwi Plantation Corporation, owned by the Tiwi Land Council, is taking part in a project and trialling a new model for the forestry industry on the islands that uses plantations of Eucalyptus pellita trees, which early evidence shows could be up to 100% more productive than the current acacia varieties.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia expects the model to increase the export value of the Northern Australian tropical plantation industry from \$6.5 million in 2018-19 to \$12.5 million in 2025-2026.

Chair of the Tiwi Plantations



Trees grown in plantations on the Tiwi Islands are sold as woodchips to China and Japan.

Corporation Kim Puruntameri said he was excited for the project to deliver new options for economic development and employment for the Tiwi community.

“This fundamental shift in the plantation production system will bolster the long-term viability of Tiwi plantations and provide an integrated socioeconomic model for the expansion of the planation forestry estate in the

north,” he said.

“Based on these figures, this is expected to secure a multi-million export market in future years.”

Trees grown in the plantations on the Tiwi Islands are sold as woodchips to customers in China and Japan; 24 shipments of the islands’ products have been sent overseas to date.

The project will continue

to export woodchip, but the transition to eucalyptus products means traditional owners will be able to offer buyers higher value specialty pulps for textiles and other products.

The project is also looking into implementing a \$100 million second planting rotation within the existing plantation areas.

If the corporation can secure investment for the project, it will create an extra 35 ongoing Tiwi jobs in plant nurseries and planting programs, as well as full-time, skilled work for 120 Tiwi people.

The Northern Territory Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture, and Northern Australia and Trade Nicole Manison said the project will help create long-term local jobs.

(National Indigenous Times)

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Massive CLT, glulam tower the element in architect studio's transition to net zero

A CULTURAL venue and hotel complex just completed in Sweden is among the tallest towers in the world rising 75 metres in the historic industrial city of Skellefteå.

An international showcase for sustainable design, the Sara Cultural Centre is a project by Swedish architecture studio White Arkitekter and features a structure made entirely of timber.

The building references the timber building heritage of the region with Skellefteå having a long tradition of wooden buildings as well as a flourishing timber industry.

"One of the biggest challenges was convincing people to build something that hadn't been built before," said White Arkitekter lead architects Robert Schmitz and Oskar Norelius.

"But with the will and ambition to break new ground in wood architecture and sustainable construction, we have now realised the project with a full timber structure," they said.

Featuring different volumes to suit the building's different

purposes, the cultural centre has been designed with flexibility in mind so that the premises can be easily adapted for future needs.

The mixed-use program called for a range of innovative solutions in mass timber construction.

In collaboration with structural engineering company Florian Kosche, two different construction systems were developed for the project – one for the cultural centre and another for the hotel.

While the 20-storey hotel is made from prefabricated 3D-modules in cross-laminated timber stacked between two CLT elevator cores, the lower rise cultural centre consists of a timber frame with glulam columns and beams along with cores and shear walls in CLT.



Rising 75 m in the industrial Swedish city of Skellefteå, the Sara Cultural Centre is among the tallest timber towers in the world.



The characteristic trusses above the grand foyers are a glulam and steel hybrid that enables a flexible, open-plan space to adapt to different uses over time.

A glass façade wrapping the building reveals the spectacular exposed timber-framed ceiling, which is a recurring motif throughout the venue.

The project represents an important milestone for White Arkitekter which envisions all

of its architecture will be carbon neutral or better by 2030 and timber construction is an important element in the studio's transition to net zero.

The timber structure sequesters more than twice the carbon emissions caused by operational energy and embodied carbon from the production of materials, transportation, and construction

at site. Combined with a ground-breaking energy system, the timber design reduces the energy use of the building.

Solar panels on the roof produce renewable energy that, together with the timber structure, more than compensate for the carbon emissions caused by construction. All the wood is sourced locally from the region's coniferous forests.

(Architecture News)



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The details in the devil: Tasmanian research set high standard for Richard Stanton Award

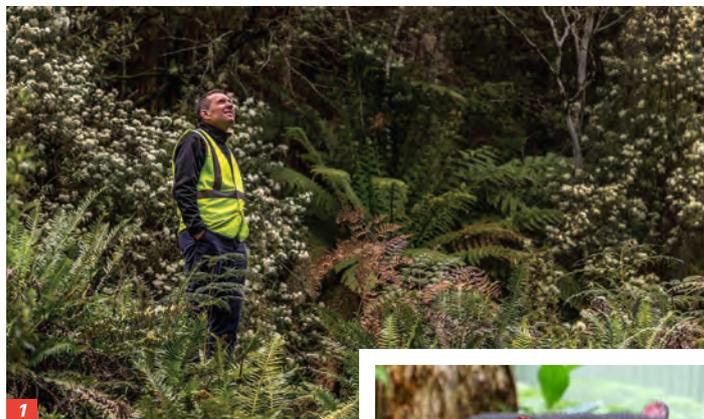
NOMINATIONS for the coveted Richard Stanton Memorial Award for forest management are open until October 1.

The award is open to individuals in Australia and New Zealand who contributed significantly to either forest management or chain-of-custody certification under the Responsible Wood certification program.

The award nominees will be those who have contributed to sustainable forest management under AS4708 or chain of custody under AS4707.

Applications close 5 pm (AEST), Friday, October 1, and are assessed by the Responsible Wood marketing committee with the successful applicant announced at the Responsible Wood annual general meeting in late October.

CEO Simon Dorries says he is encouraged by the quality of this year's applications for the award which pays tribute to a man who devoted his life to sustainable forest



1/ Simon Cook... recognised for work in biodiversity, carbon and cultural values.

2/ Tasmanian Devil... research has implications for cancer treatment in humans.

management in Australia and internationally.

"The award is open to, but not restricted to, forest owners and managers; chain-of-custody certificate holders; staff of certification bodies; forest scientists and researchers; and designers of products manufactured from sustainable timber," Mr Dorries said.

Last year's award winner Forico's sustainability manager Simon Cook was recognised for his work in



areas of biodiversity, carbon and cultural values, leaving a lasting legacy both inside the forest and outside.

In presenting the award, Simon Dorries reflected on Mr Cook's sustained commitment to sustainable forest management and certification standards.

"Simon's involvement with the Tasmanian Devil Facial

Disease research, CSIRO natural carbon initiative and working in conjunction with Reconciliation Tasmania in developing a Reconciliation Action Plan received high acclaim from the judging panel."

The Tasmanian Devil research program not only assists in understanding how cancer affects the marsupial, it has potential implications for cancer treatment in humans which has attracted global attention.

Working with CSIRO and other industry partners, Simon Cook has helped develop a framework and methodology for assessing and gathering data that will have significant implications for forest sustainability globally as foresters seek to develop a common language and understanding in this emerging area.

Nominations for the Stanton Award can be forwarded to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005 or emailed to sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au



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Scribbly gum work of art by caterpillar as it ‘em-barks’ on its culinary journey

THE scribbly dialect zigzags around in a seemingly random and indecipherable pattern.

A standout feature of the spectacular forests of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney is the extensive stands of scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), particularly in areas of poor soils on the typical sandstone country of the region.

The trunk of each scribbly gum is a work of art fashioned by nature.

Scribbly gum is usually a small tree, frequently of very poor form 12 to 15 m in height and 30-70 cm in diameter. On better sites in its northern distribution the tree may obtain a height of 25 m. The tree has white or silvery grey bark, lance-shaped or curved adult leaves, flower buds in groups of between nine and 15, white flowers and conical or hemispherical fruit. It is one of three eucalypts with prominent insect scribbles in the bark.

Scribbly gum is usually found on the coastal areas of eastern Australia from Batemans Bay in southern NSW to Maryborough and Fraser Island in south eastern Queensland. However, it is most plentiful in areas a



couple of hundred kilometres north and south of Sydney, and on the coastal belt of southern Queensland.

Scribbly gum commonly occurs as a principal species in poor open coastal forests of dry eucalypt forest and sometimes as pure stands on small areas of shallow soil. The most distinctive feature of this eucalypt is the ‘scribbles’ on the trunk, hence its common name. The iconic ‘scribbles’ on the smooth white trunks of Australian gum trees have intrigued many for years.

The scribbly dialect, which zigzags around in a seemingly random and indecipherable pattern, has found a place

- 1/ A standout feature of the spectacular forests of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney are the extensive stands of scribbly gum.
- 2/ Scientists and entomologists have now unlocked the mystery of the scribbly dialect made by moth larva tunnelling between the layers of bark.

the attention Of poets and writers over the years. In 1955, Judith Wright wrote her poem ‘Scribbly Gum’

The gum-tree stands by the spring/I peeled its splitting bark/ and found the written track/of a life I could not read.

Scientists and entomologists have now unlocked the mystery of the scribbly dialect – the result of moth larva tunnelling between the layers of bark. The life of a typical scribbly gum moth starts in autumn as an egg laid on the bark surface.

The hatching caterpillar burrows vertically down into the trunk then makes a 90 deg. turn when it reaches the depth where next year’s cambium layer will form. It then starts on a zigzag culinary journey, always taking care to stay beneath bark that will be shed in the following year. As it grows the caterpillar sheds its skin several times – an insect skin is a hard shell and can only stretch so much before its owner needs a new, bigger one.

TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

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in Australian literature and culture. Yet the cause of the scribbles has been somewhat of a mystery. They are old and dry with no sign of their creator, no ‘graffiti tag’ to identify the artist. How and why they are present and what creature is responsible had long been a mystery.

The scribbles have caught



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Sustainability, legality win global sales for Malaysia's forest and timber sector

Close collaboration with Australia on innovative engineered wood products

First of a two-part dialogue between Roger Chin, chief operations officer, Malaysian Timber Council, and Jim Bowden, managing editor, Timber&Forestry enews, who has visited Malaysia's forest, timber and manufacturing industries as a guest of MTC.

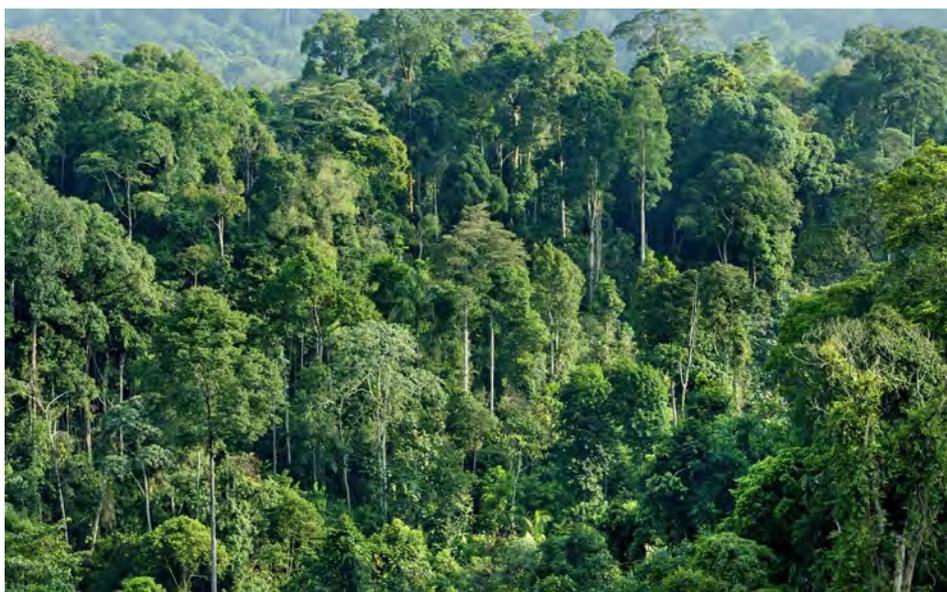
ENSURING forest sustainability across the Malaysian timber industry, improving competitiveness, enhancing market access and creating trade opportunities are high points of the Malaysian Timber Council's mission statement.

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), established in 1992 to promote the development and growth of the timber industry, is governed by a board of trustees whose members are appointed by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

In the past five years, the export of Malaysian timber products has maintained its momentum at \$AUD7.6 billion.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a global economic slowdown, MTC's chief operations officer Roger Chin, in this interview with Timber&Forestry enews managing editor Jim Bowden, points to many industry positives for Malaysia, not the least continuing to meet the legality and sustainability requirements of major consumers of timber products worldwide.

As at June this year, Malaysia has 5.27 million ha



Practicing sustainable forest management for more than a century, Malaysia is able to comply with a wide range of international trade regulations.

of forests certified by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council-PEFC with 382 CoC certificate holders.

Roger Chin took up his MTC appointment in March last year after being attached to Advance Information Marketing Berhad where he served as executive director for two years. A Bachelor of Law graduate from the University of Wolverhampton, UK, he has more than 25 years' experience in the financial services sector and with international banks.

Timber&Forestry enews: What are the main challenges MTC must face promoting Malaysia as a timber-producing country based on sustainable forest management practices?

Roger Chin: Negative publicity that leads to

the tendency to publish articles or air news on suspected illegal forest harvesting without seeking validation from relevant authorities such as the Forestry Department.

The legality and sustainability requirement of major consumers of timber products worldwide such as the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), the US Lacey Act, Australia

Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (AILPA), Japan Clean Wood Act and Korea's Act on Sustainable Use of Timber as well as emission regulations (from US EPA/CARB, JAS, JIS, EU and Canada) will dictate the future flow of timber and timber products.

T&FN: What is MTC's response to further increasing forest certification and further encouraging members to take up certification? We know the Malaysian Timber Certification Council is committed certification so that timber products coming to Australia from Malaysia are from a sustainable resource.

RC: MTC has always promoted Malaysia's legal and sustainable timber products. The council has



1/ Roger Chin
2/ Jim Bowden

negative perception that using timber and timber-based products contributes to the destruction of the Malaysian rainforest along with overstated claims by environmental NGOs on deforestation and illegal logging. The media has

“ SPREADING AWARENESS OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN TIMBER SECTOR

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been working with the Malaysian Timber Certification Council to spread awareness on the sustainable practices of the timber and forestry sector, encouraging industry players to obtain chain-of-custody certification. MTC has played a very active role in sustained advocacy of Malaysia's efforts leading to the acceptance of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme by governments and authorities around the world.

The MTCS was the first tropical timber certification scheme in the Asia-Pacific region, endorsed by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification on May 1, 2009. This gives further assurance and credence that certified forests are implementing best management practices and contributing to the challenging efforts to achieve SFM at the global level. As of June 2021, Malaysia has 5.27 million ha of MTCS-PEFC certified forest with 382 CoC certificate holders.

T&FN: To what extent has MTC influenced timber policies of importer countries (such as Australia) and perceptions of end-users and the general public in Malaysia towards tropical timber?

RC: MTC plays a pertinent role in advocating these matters, especially on the importance of sustainability and how raw materials for Malaysian timber products are sourced responsibly. Today, 55.3% of land area



Malaysia-Australia collaboration... technological advancements in a variety of new materials, especially for engineered timber products.

remains under forest cover in line with Malaysia's pledge to maintain at least half of its total land area under forest cover, in perpetuity, made at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. A significant achievement in this aspect is the government's ban on the conversion of forest reserve areas for commodity cultivation purposes.

Having practised sustainable forest management for more than a century, Malaysia is able to comply with international trade regulations such as the US Lacey Act, Australia's Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, and the European Union's Timber Regulation, among others, which share the critical position that only legally harvested timber can be imported into these countries.

MTC has regularly participated in intergovernmental meetings related to forestry and timber trade policies for latest updates such as the International Tropical Timber Council, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Association Trade, ASEAN Senior Officials of Forestry and the Australia-

Malaysia Forestry and Timber Technical Working Group.

Malaysia is also a signatory to several significant multilateral environmental agreements ranging from climate change to safeguarding biodiversity including endangered species, wetlands, and forests.

MTC continues to have dialogues with trade, government representatives and reasonable NGOs from importing countries to protect the interests of the Malaysian trade and further enhance the competitiveness of the timber industry in the sustainability aspect by improving corporate governance and being receptive to sustainable development agendas.

MTC also disseminates information on SFM to stakeholders through its publications, website, and social media.

MTC also has in

“MALAYSIA AND AUSTRALIA CAN COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE USAGE OF TIMBER PRODUCTS

place various activities such as engagement programs with NGOs, schools and universities, media, and the public to improve their confidence and trust in the timber industry as well as for them to have a better understanding on how our forest resources are being managed sustainably.

T&FN: What are the potential areas of collaboration

that MTC could explore to improve the trade of timber products between Australia and Malaysia?

RC: Australia has some of the most advanced timber processing technologies. Innovation has helped the efficiency of timber production ... producing more from timber. Technological advancements have also led to a variety of new materials, especially for engineered timber products. Malaysia and Australia can collaborate in such areas to further enhance the usage of timber.

The Malaysian forest, being in the tropics, has a palette of timber types and is home to thousands of timber species which have been utilised in various structural and interior applications, most notably luxury resorts and private 'dream homes'. The multitude of colours and grains available will enable the endless expression of creativity for architects and interior designers.

T&FN: Tropical timber had been the target of discrimination, bans and boycotts in the western world. Do you think this

Cont P 15

From P 14

anti-tropical campaign will become prevalent in Malaysia?

RC: It was indeed the greatest challenge for Malaysia when the campaign against tropical hardwood intensified in the 1990s with unbalanced reports on Malaysia's forestry practices going around the globe. MTC had to deal with the arduous task that involved endless engagement with various parties.

MTC has since been very vigilant and expeditious in responding to the varying issues from anti-tropical timber campaigns to governmental initiatives for

“ STRATEGIES ARE BEING REFINED AS CHALLENGES CONTINUE TO GROW

tighter chemical and emission regulations to issues on human rights and responsible purchasing.

MTC's strategies are being refined as the challenges grow. Countering attacks by NGOs has over the years metamorphosed into valuable dialogues. MTC sees its position within the trade and its proximity with the government as a strength and an opportunity to further enhance the competitiveness of the Malaysian timber industry in the sustainability aspect by improving corporate governance and being receptive to sustainable development agendas.



Malaysia, being in the tropics, is home to thousands of timber species and the country's timber products are utilised in many structural and interior applications.

Various engagement programs with the stakeholders and publicity campaign domestically have created awareness on sustainable forest management practices which have been a critical component in the Malaysian

timber industry. It also convinces that timber harvested from sustainably-managed forests helps address climate change, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as carbon is imprisoned in the wood.

• Next week: The expected growth of the housing and construction sector post-pandemic will have a positive

impact on building materials.

On the cover: The Malaysian forest has a palette of timber species which have been utilised in various structural and interior applications, most notably luxury resorts and private 'dream homes'. Photo: Malaysian Timber Council



Some standards enforced in Australia originate from international certifying bodies

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Waste management hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, recover ... and dispose

Disposal of wood waste a looming problem for Australia's preservation industry

IN my day job I get lots of inquiries about the safety of preserved wood. Add to this the various interactions I have with governments and specifiers, and one thing that regularly bubbles into discussions is the perception that preserved wood means CCA.

Overlay this with Brandolini's Law (look it up) and getting rid of preserved wood waste becomes a problem.

Copper chrome arsenic (CCA) wood preservative chemicals have been used in Australia for more than 60 years. The first non-arsenic alternative to CCA, ammoniacal copper quaternary (ACQ), was approved for use in Queensland in 1993 followed in 1999 by approval of copper azole (CuAz).

Since the early 2000s, there has been an increase in the production of organic solvent envelope-treated framing to protect against termite attack. While envelope-treated framing may only be used south of the Tropic of Capricorn, most timber frame construction occurs below this

“THERE'S A PERCEPTION THAT PRESERVED WOOD MEANS CCA

line. In 2014, treated house framing was estimated to be 35% of all the preserved wood produced in this country.

Estimates of the total volume of preserved wood produced in Australia vary from 1 million to 1.5 million cub m a year. It's hard to get accurate information because many companies don't like to share their production data.

I have been told that the amount of CCA-preserved wood produced in Australia today is probably less than half the total preserved volume. Sounds reasonable.

Compared to non-arsenic wood preservatives, a great deal more research has been carried out on the disposal of wood containing CCA. This limits the disposal options for a lot of preserved wood.

Industry and government recognise two types of waste – construction and demolition (C&D) waste and commercial and industrial (C&I) waste.

C&D waste is material generated during construction or demolition of buildings, often containing sand, bricks,



JACK'S RANT

With JACK NORTON
Secretary, TPAA

concrete, steel, plastic pipes, plasterboard, timber and packaging materials. Construction waste tends to be 'cleaner' than demolition waste.

C&I waste is the solid part of the waste stream from commercial, industrial, government, public or domestic premises not collected as municipal solid waste.

Many years ago, and I don't know where it came from, I was told that you can deal

with any waste stream as long as it is consistent. This too sounds reasonable enough!

So how should you get rid of preserved wood waste? A waste management hierarchy involves the following options in decreasing order of desirability – prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover ... and finally dispose.

At the moment, because of a tendency to treat all preserved wood waste as containing CCA, disposal of preserved wood wastes is a looming problem for the preservation industry with disposal becoming harder and more expensive.

However, if we can source separate, develop fast and use cost-effective in-line sorting technologies and accept that probably more than half the preserved wood produced in Australia is non-arsenic containing material, there is light at the end of the tunnel – and it's not necessarily a train coming in our direction.

New AS 4707 chain-of-custody standard will benefit industry management process

REVIEWED by Responsible Wood every five years, a revised AS 4707 standards for chain of custody has been approved for publication.

“With more than 300 chain-of-custody certified companies in Australia, the AS 4707 standard has a tremendous impact on internal management processes of businesses along the timber value chain,” Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

“The standard provides organisations in the wood or forest products certification chain with the minimum criteria and requirements to implement a credible system,” he said.

“The standard incorporates the latest knowledge, best practices, and evolving stakeholder expectations.”

Mr Dorries said the system tracked wood or forest products originating from Responsible Wood-certified



Simon Dorries... more than 300 chain-of-custody certified companies in Australia.

forests through all phases of ownership, transportation, and manufacturing to the end consumer.

The AS 4707 standard reference committee and working group has revised the AS 4707 standard to align with changes in the chain-of-

economic and social benefits.

The reference committee and working group includes the Association of Accredited Certification Bodies, Australian Forest Products Association, Australian Institute of Packaging, Omega Consulting, Timber Development Association, Tasmanian Forest Products

Association, the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Forest Products Association, and the Women in Forestry Network.

The release of the new standard and key changes will be covered in Timber&Forestry enews next week.

Visit responsiblewood.org.au

custody rules for PEFC ST 2002:2020 and trademark-requirements and PEFC ST 2001:2020 trademark rules.

Responsible Wood is the governing body in Australia for PEFC International, the world's largest forest certification authority with more than 20,000 companies certified under the chain-of-custody standard.

PEFC provides mutual recognition across a diverse number of countries allowing effective and efficient access to international markets. It also provides best practice international benchmarks for sustainable forest management ensuring that global forests are protected while providing environmental,

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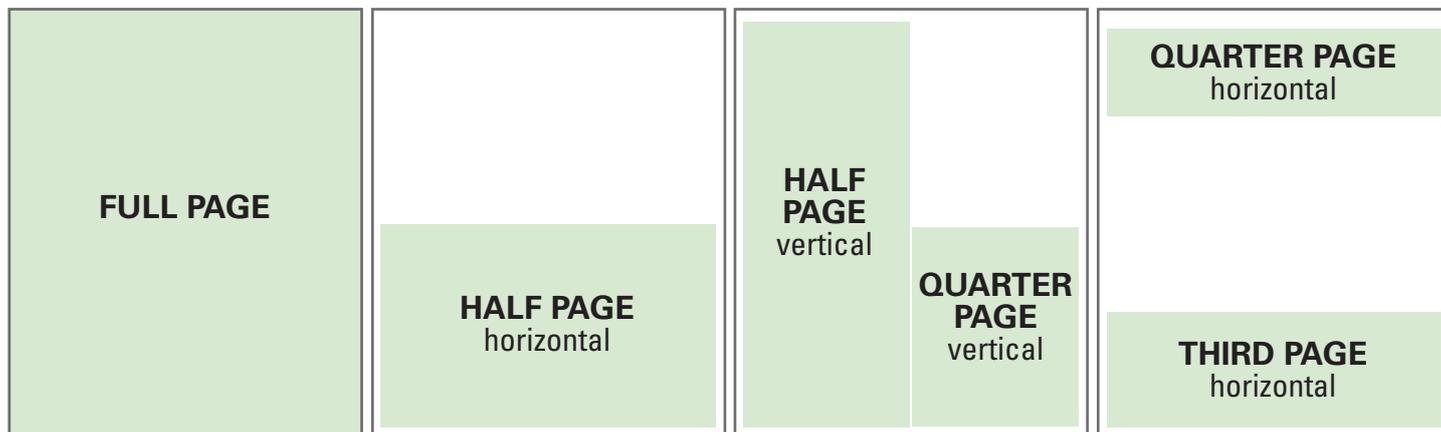
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