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There's WOOD in the WIND as timber shapes up

COVER STORY P4

The Responsible Wood
Community Grants Program:
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Australia's commercial plantation estate steady, long-term log availability increasing: ABARES

AUSTRALIA'S commercial plantation estate stood at 1.8 million ha in 2019-20, according to statistics released this week by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

ABARES acting executive director Dr Jared Greenville, said the report showed the softwood estate remained relatively stable at about 1 million ha.

"However, the hardwood estate declined by about 200,000 ha compared to the previous estimate for 2014-15," he said.

"Annual softwood log availability is forecast to decline from an average of 17 million cub m over the period 2015-19 to about 15 million cub m a year over 2020-24."

Dr Greenville said the lower projected softwood production was due to a range of reasons including the bushfires in the summer of 2019-20 and the age of the trees in the ground. Softwood plantations were based on a 30-year rotation so planting trees now wouldn't increase wood supply for



some time to come.

"However, we are expecting wood supply to gradually recover out to 2050," he said.

"By 2035-39 we are projecting softwood production to be about 18.5 million cub m, off the back of replanting and productivity gains. If realised this would be a record."

There could be an average of 2.8 million cub more softwood sawlogs a year available over 2035-39 compared to the average annual harvest over 2015-19.

For hardwood plantations, the reduction in the estate is expected to have a relatively

small impact on projected hardwood availability.

"Most of the removed hardwood plantations were low yielding or far from processing or export facilities, so converting them to another use has had minimal impact on projected supply," Dr Greenville said.

"We are also seeing a slight shift for both softwood and hardwood from lower-value pulp log production to higher-value sawlog production. For example, some plantation managers have been successful in finding new markets for saw and veneer logs."



1/ The softwood estate remains relatively stable at about 1 million ha.
2/ Dr Jared Greenville... wood supply to gradually recover out to 2050.

The Australian plantation statistics and log availability report series supports strategic forest industry planning and decision-making by presenting information on total plantation area, new planting and ownership along with forecasts of future softwood and hardwood sawlog and pulplog availability.

In the 2021 report, plantation areas and forecast log availability are presented nationally and by National Plantation Inventory regions for softwood and hardwood plantation types. This is based on data collected from private growers and grower representatives and public state and territory agencies. This data is published every five years and supports strategic forest industry planning and decision-making.



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Australian architects declare net zero carbon for national construction code

AUSTRALIAN architect members of the global organisation Architects Declare are having their say on the National Construction Code updates to make sure every new home – without costing more – will raise the required standards of sustainability.

Submissions to the National Construction Code close this month, and Architects Declare is proposing to mandate nothing less than net zero emission for new homes and major alterations and additions.

Their submission emphasises “the twin crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss as the most serious issues of our time.”

Globally, buildings and construction play a major part, accounting for nearly 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions while also having a significant impact on natural habitats.

“Meeting the needs of communities and staying within our ecological limits will require a shift in behaviour as well as the design, delivery and performance of buildings,” the submission emphasises.

Together with their clients, architects will need to commission and design buildings, cities and infrastructures as indivisible components of a larger, constantly regenerating and self-sustaining system.

The architects added: “The research and technologies exist to begin that



Andrew Waugh... pivotal player in the global uptake of engineered timber.

transformation now, but what has been lacking is collective will. Recognising this, we are committing to strengthen our working practices to create architecture and urbanism that has a more positive impact on the world around us.”

“THE MOST SERIOUS ISSUES OF OUR TIME”

Timber Offsite Construction 2022 conference keynote speaker Andrew Waugh is a founding member of Architects Declare in UK and Europe, with a practice dedicated to designing buildings and places of the highest architectural quality that acknowledge their impact on the environment.

He is a world-renowned

spokesman for low-impact materials and a regenerative approach to architecture.

A pivotal player in the global uptake of engineered timber, he was responsible for the design and delivery of Murray Grove, the project that spearheaded the international movement in tall timber buildings.

Believing that engineered timber on a global scale can make a vital difference to our planet, Mr Waugh lobbies and lectures internationally, communicating the urgent need for change to mitigate the climate crisis.

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There's WOOD in the WIND

Timber shapes up to the challenge of carbon-positive turbines

THE Prime Minister's 'uniquely Australian' proposal to the Glasgow climate summit to reduce net zero emissions by 2050 relies on technology such as solar and wind power and green hydrogen.

Scott Morrison reckons Australia will get 85% of the way to net zero with existing technologies and offsets while the other 15% will be achieved with 'further breakthrough technologies' that don't exist yet.

The package, estimated to cost \$120 billion in new-tech, comes without clear targets and a plan to achieve them. It includes the elevation of the resources portfolio to cabinet and a refusal to support any measures that would force



Swedish engineer Modvion has entered into collaboration on using wooden towers for onshore wind turbines, a venture expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in manufacturing by at least 25%.

the closure of resources or agricultural industries.

Where's Wally? Where's

forestry? After trawling through the PM's "let-us-protect-resources" pledge we couldn't see the wood or the trees.

Call it out, forests can do it!

AFFPA chief Ross Hampton in Timber&Forestry enews last week called for 400,000 ha of new trees to complement the existing 2 million ha plantation estate to avert a national timber shortage.

He said: "Now here's the major kicker on the climate solution front. If we plant those 400,000 ha of new trees by 2030, that would offset the equivalent emissions produced by almost 50 million cars in a year by 2050.

"That's two and a half fold the number of cars in Australia or 200 million tonnes of CO₂-e in total!"

What a great message we could have taken to COP26.

And gnawing in the background, is the anti-resources proclamation by

Dan Andrews and Mark McGowan to lock up native forests in Victoria and Western Australia. And how long before Queensland's native timber advisory panel makes a decision on resource security?

Meantime, let's throw some positive light on a bright idea. If we must have wind turbines on farms and poking out of the sea,

then let's warm to a Swedish engineering company's claim it could become "the Ikea of turbines" producing modular, laminated wood towers.

“WHERE'S FORESTRY IN PM'S NET ZERO PLAN?”

As the world's largest supplier of steel wind generators, China's CO₂ emissions have grown at their fastest pace in more than a decade, increasing by 15% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2021.

The post-pandemic surge means China's emissions reached a new record high of nearly 12 billion tonnes in the year ending March – some 600 million tonnes above the total for 2019.

China is responsible for the biggest share of world CO₂

Cont P 5

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From P 4

emissions – now 29.18% – and Xi Jinping has rudely snubbed Glasgow – and the chance to compare notes with Australia and its 1.1% share of emissions.

Xi must be expressing a lot of Xingfú (happiness) that China could be manufacturing even more high-emission ‘non-renewable renewables’ for world consumption after COP26.

The carbon footprint of a wind turbine with 45 tonnes of reinforced steel and 480 cub m of concrete is a massive 241.85 tonnes of CO₂ – and one megawatt of wind turbine capacity requires 220 tonnes of coal to produce.

Even before the blades start spinning, the average wind farm clocks up thousands of tonnes of CO₂ emissions ‘embedded’ in thousands of tonnes of steel and concrete. So, every wind farm starts with its CO₂ abatement ledger in the negative.

The costs for a utility scale wind turbine range from about \$1.3 million to \$2.2 million per megawatt nameplate capacity installed. Most of the commercial-scale turbines installed today are 2 megawatt in size and



Scott Morrison's net zero pledge... but where's the forests and the trees?

cost roughly \$3-\$4 million installed.

So... a new Swedish design for wind turbine towers could see them made from wood rather than steel, soaring to ever-greater heights and producing more power, if a new trial proves successful.

Engineering company Modvion has erected a 30-m tower at the Swedish Wind Power Technology Centre outside Gothenburg and says the first wooden towers will be built on a commercial scale as early as 2022, or earlier if the full EU wood

industry gets wind of the benefits.

The company claims the wood structure is as strong as steel but carbon-neutral from the outset. Wood towers have a drastically lower carbon footprint because the trees they are made from absorb CO₂ as they grow. The wood is also lighter, and because it comes in stackable sections, it is easier, cheaper and more efficient to transport.

This advantage is enhanced by the fact that the towers are modular, so there is no need to transport structures hundreds of meters long on public roads – the pieces can be put together on site.

Modvion says that because wooden towers are lighter and modular, it will

be possible to build taller towers. If the height of the tower increases from 80 m to 140 m, a turbine can produce triple the amount of energy, according to the US Department of Energy.

This is a major breakthrough that paves the way for the next generation of wind turbines.

“Wood has fantastic properties and we need to build much more in wood if we are to meet the climate goals,” says CEO Johan Åhlén.

And Ola Carlson, director of the Swedish Wind Power Technology Centre, says wind power is expected to become the EU's largest power source.

“With wind towers in wood, we get even more climate-smarter renewable electricity to face the climate crisis,” he said.

Queensland glulam pioneer John Muller says he had approaches to manufacture wooden turbine blades more than 15 years ago, about the time he was selling his commercial business Tasbeam.

The difficult part was to first create a structural joint to join the large sections of

“TURBINES SPIN GOOD MESSAGE FOR TIMBER”

Cont P 14



Royd Clan's House, entrant in the 2021 Australian Timber Design Awards – Australian certified timber category.

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Second of a two-part series examining the role trees and forests could and should play as Australia seeks to develop a carbon reduction target ahead of the climate change summit starting in Glasgow this Sunday.

Zero carbon: Australia must elevate importance given to forestry science

Without an emphasis on trees and forests it is difficult to see how Australia can make a commitment even approaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050

JOHN HALKETT

CONTRARY to the belief that there is a causal link between using wood and the destruction of forests, increasing the use of wood makes a positive contribution to maintaining and increasing forests and tree plantations. It creates a market value for forests that is a powerful incentive to perpetuate them, and to establish further plantations.

Plus ... any increase in the global volume of 'wood storage' will reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, so increasing the use of wood is a simple way of reducing climate change.

The saying that 'a forest that pays is a forest that stays' might be a simplification, but it illustrates a simple truth – a forest's long-term survival depends on its value to the community and economy. Developing a market for wood helps owners and governments see forests in a positive light that recognises their contribution to local and national economies. When community prosperity is



Forests and well managed tree plantations... both store carbon and provide an alternative energy source.

associated with the presence of a forest, the principles of sustainable management are respected and the enthusiasm for additional tree plantations increases.

The essential point here is that only by continuing to grow a forest or plantation and removing biomass from time to time in the form of wood can the forest continue to absorb and store atmospheric carbon dioxide.

As long as the carbon dioxide remains stored in wood, any increase in the volume of 'wood storage' will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. So obviously increasing the use of wood from sustainable forest and plantation sources

is a simple way of reducing climate change impacts.

The use of forests, particularly well-managed tree plantations, to both store carbon and provide an alternative energy source is worthy of greater consideration and application.

While it would seem logical and essential for the federal and state governments to place increased emphasis on trees and forests as part of the solution to reducing carbon emissions this clearly

is not happening. There is little doubt that renewable energy systems, whether they be green hydrogen or bioenergy, will require a great emphasis on better management of plants and, particularly, of trees and forests.

We should be taking advantage of our good fortune. Australia is in a fortunate position in relation to the prospect

of a new bioenergy-focused future with large expanses of land suitable for tree establishment, plus having large tracts of existing natural forest. Collectively, this provides the potential to move the country beyond the dependency on fossil fuel focused energy systems.

However, much work remains to be done to increase the tree plantation estate, expand the sustainable management of forests to collectively support building and construction industries, reduce the current dependency on imported timber products, and to generate biomass to provide

“A FOREST THAT PAYS IS A FOREST THAT STAYS”

Cont P 8

OCTOBER

TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award. Official judging early October. More than 90 submissions, a remarkable result through the ever-changing Covid restrictions and lockdowns. People's Choice Award will remain open until October 17. Contact Timber Development Association at info@tdansw.asn.au or 0420

232 253.

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

JUNE 2022

NB. REVISED DATE

21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction –Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format. 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

EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.

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>

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@timberandforestryenews.com



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From P 6

the feedstock for bioenergy systems and green hydrogen production.

Without such an emphasis on trees and forests it is difficult to see how Australia can make a commitment even approaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Certainly, an over dependency on the vagaries of solar and wind renewable energy will not provide the certainty of dependable baseload power required to support both industrial and residential needs.



Generating biomass will provide the feedstock for bioenergy systems and green hydrogen production.

“MUCH WORK NEEDED TO INCREASE THE PLANTATION ESTATE

Australia must elevate the importance given to forestry science, sustainable forest management and biomass based renewable energy systems and at the same time improve sustainable

management of natural forest systems to provide building and construction product needs and net zero, renewable energy targets.
 • *John Halkett is a forester and a co-publisher of*

Timber&Forestry enews. His seventh book, Planet of the Trees: The Human Race and its Climate Gamble, published by Halstead Press, will be available in November.

Cost of land rises twice as fast as building materials

THE cost of residential land has risen more than twice as fast as the cost of building materials over the past year,” says HIA chief economist Tim Reardon.

The HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report provides updated information on sales



activity in 51 housing markets across Australia, including the six state capital cities.

“The shortage of building materials has caused delays to home building across the country and added 4% to the cost of homebuilding in 2020-21, according to the ABS. At the same time, the cost of residential land prices rose by 8.5%, adding further to the cost of new home building,”

Mr Reardon said.

“Land supply has been in tight supply for the past two decades and the surge in demand in 2020 has seen land prices in Sydney rise 27.1% in the past year alone. The strength of demand for land is set to continue throughout 2022 and into 2023.”

As land is a key component of housing, this increase in price has been a key driver

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Webinar focuses on a standards transition for certification holders along timber value chain

A TRANSITION policy for Australian standard AS 4707:2021 has been published for Responsible Wood certificate holders and certification bodies.

This follows the September release of the Australian Standard for Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree Based Products (AS 4707:2021).

The new standard supersedes AS 4707:2014 and is the Australian adoption of the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard PEFC ST 2002:2020.

The standard has a 10-month transition period through to August 14, 2022. Until then, audits can continue against the 2014 standard. However, the next audit after this date will need to be against the



Australian certification standards transition... Peter Zed and Simon Dorries prepare for November webinar.

resources library at www.responsiblewood.org.au

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries and AS 4707 standard reference committee chair Peter Zed will host a webinar on November 9 to discuss key requirements and transition from the 2014 standards.

Mr Dorries said with more than 300 chain-of-custody certified companies in Australia, the AS 4707 standard had a tremendous impact on internal management processes of businesses along the timber value chain.

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

requirements in the 2021 standard.

Certificates issued to AS 4707:2014 will be recognised in the Responsible Wood and PEFC systems until August 14, 2023. To remain recognised, updated certificates listing AS4707:2021 in their scope

must be in place from August 15, 2023.

For more information about the transition, refer to the Responsible Wood Transition Policy for Australian Standard AS 4707:2021 – Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree Based Products now available for download in the

“REQUIREMENTS FOR A CREDIBLE SYSTEM

From P 8

of the rising cost of homes and the decline in housing affordability.

Mr Rearson said there was little state and Australian governments could do to improve global supply chains and improve the availability of building products, but they were un direct control of the volume of land available for home building.

“SHORTAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

“Ensuring there is an adequate supply of land to meet housing demand is a key responsibility of state and territory governments and one of the necessary steps to addressing the affordability challenge,” Mr Rearson said.

“There is no better time than now to increase the supply of available land and make a generational step toward improving housing affordability.”

According to Tim Lawless, CoreLogic’s research director, the number of vacant land sales has been easing over recent quarters due to a combination of less stimulus



Tim Lawless... sharp rise in vacant land prices puts further upward pressure on the cost of new housing.

along with scarcity of supply.

The HomeBuilder grant saw demand for vacant land brought forward, with land sales surging through the second half of 2020. However, the more recent trend has been a slowdown in land sales but a surge in detached housing construction as the nation moves into the early

stages of what is likely to be an extended period of residential detached housing construction.

“The sharp rise in vacant land prices over the year, together with rising construction costs, will place further upwards pressure on the cost of new housing,” Mr Lawless said.

“The lift in land prices and residential construction costs along with the value of established housing rising rapidly, is set to add further pressure to housing affordability challenges that are becoming increasingly apparent across the country.”

International wood manifesto sets future road map for timber use in construction

Launch at the Royal Institute of British Architecture ahead of COP26 summit

AN international wood manifesto setting the future road map for timber use in construction and other products will be launched in the UK this week ahead of the COP26 talks in Glasgow.

The initiative was announced by Ross Hampton, AFPA CEO, who is also chair of the UN advisory committee of Sustainable Forest-based Industries and a member of the global wood industry's COP26 international partners that include Australia, Canada, the US and New Zealand.

The manifesto titled 'Growing Our Low-Carbon Future: Time for Timber' is a collaboration of work led by the global wood industry's COP26 partners advisory body as well as the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries and

the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, as well as other international partners.

"Wood is the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable a substantial decarbonisation of the built environment based on existing business models and proven



wood is a climate-friendly alternative compared to other building materials because not only is its production less carbon-intensive but it also locks up carbon for a long time," added Herbert Joebstl, EOS president. "Building with wood is one part of a sustainable forest sector growth strategy that can help the building sector reduce its carbon footprint."

"The UN's own science has found that timber sourced from sustainably managed forests makes the greatest impact, mitigating carbon," added Ross Hampton, Australian Forest Products Association CEO.

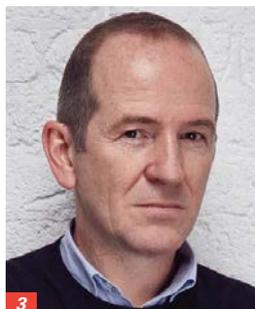
"The use of wood, timber and other fibre products is revolutionising the planet, from sustainable construction of mid- and high-rise buildings to single-use plastic replacements made from paper and cardboard," Mr Hampton said.

"The world is realising that

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2



3

1/ ***Growing Our Low-Carbon Future: Time for Timber.***

2/ ***Ross Hampton... forest industries major part of the solution to combating climate change this century.***

3/ ***Andrew Waugh... launching wood manifesto at the Royal Institute of British Architecture.***

cities," said Sampsa Auvinen, chair of CEI-Bois.

"A significant number of Life Cycle Assessment studies have concluded that

technology; providing vast carbon sinks in our rural areas and carbon stores in our



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Truss, framing industry is doubling down to supply Australians the timber they need

It's a challenge right now, but we're strong enough to weather the (perfect) storm

BUILDING and construction is currently experiencing a perfect storm.

The Covid-19 pandemic has unexpectedly generated a substantial increase in residential building activity. This unprecedented demand for materials, together with Covid-related supply challenges, is creating limited availability of key resources and resulting in longer lead times in many sectors, including the timber framing industry. And, at the same time, Australians are choosing to use more timber than ever before – and there are two main reasons for this:

- Government stimulus packages and low interest rates have seen new house approvals reach their highest ever numbers, and at the same time we're witnessing record demand for house renos.
- More people working and studying from home has driven an increase in the home alterations and improvements market, and also encouraged a move to rebuild in regional and coastal areas.



We're on the way!

The industry knows that timber is in high demand and is geared to providing a strong and stable supply. However, the current building boom has defied most predictions and we're now having to double down on our efforts to give Australians the timber they need.

Local sawmills are working harder than ever to optimise production and the vast majority of Australian-produced timber still stays

“GEARED TO PROVIDING A STRONG AND STABLE SUPPLY”



here in Australia, with just 3% of domestic softwood sales earmarked for export (mainly low-grade product unsuitable for structural use).

At the same time, importers of framing timber are proactively seeking out additional sustainable sources and working with government to streamline the import process to further speed up and improve supply.

We don't want to let anyone down, that's why we're doing all we can to increase efficiency, streamline production and reduce timber waste.

We're also investing considerable time and effort

to advise and promote government policy that supports more tree planting, to further reduce the potential risk of not being more self-sufficient in timber products.

The future is looking positive.

We understand the frustrations of not having the tools to do the job. It not only affects productivity and profits – but also staff morale, customer confidence and company reputation. To all those affected by the

increased demand for timber, we want you to know that we recognise your concerns and are here to offer our full support.

In addition, we continue to encourage significant new investment in timber growing, sourcing and production technology, helping to create a sure and stable supply for the future. And that means we'll be growing more trees, removing more carbon from the atmosphere and creating a cleaner, better world for everyone.

It's a challenge right now but we're strong enough to weather the storm.

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Hyne community grants a lasting benefit

THE Hyne Community Trust has announced four new community partnerships through the 2021 round of grants.

Applications were assessed as part of the annual competitive process with the Tumbarumba Golf Club, Tumbarumba Turf Club, Carcoola Children's Centre and the Tumbarumba SES all successful.

Hyne community trust chair Kerrie Downes said the four successful applicants were very strong and could demonstrate lasting benefits to Tumbarumba and community,

A \$20,000 grant this year in addition to \$40,000 last year, will assist the club to further progress a staged approach to a range of renovations and upgrades. Specifically, the grants will supply solar panels to power the site, improve energy efficiency and reduce



Katie Fowden, manager strategic relations, Hyne (right), Sharon Staib and Tracey Wiggins at the Carcoola Children's Centre.

costs for years to come.

Meanwhile, the Tumbarumba Turf Club and volunteers, including Hyne team members Judy Kelso and John McIntyre, have been busy demolishing an old, 40-year-old kitchen to

make way for a new one with almost \$18,000 support from the Hyne Community Trust.

“NEW TRUST GRANTS OPEN IN JUNE 2022

“This grant is enabling us to bring the amenities at the club up to first class standard for the community of Tumbarumba to use,” secretary Gordon Kelso said.

“All of the hard, demolition work has been done by volunteers which means we can use the grant funding to get the best possible new kitchen with minimum labour costs,” he said.

Additional grants include more than \$22,000 to the Carcoola Children's centre and almost \$37,000 to the Tumbarumba SES.

The next round of Hyne Community Trust grants will open in June 2022.

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glulam on site,” Mr Muller said.

“WOODEN STRUCTURES STRONGER THAN STEEL

“I believe the Americans achieved this by creating very large finger joints using epoxy adhesive, a technology used in Europe on very large glulam structures.” he said.

“The other issue was the ability to join the blade to the



As a rule of thumb, a cubic metre of wood contains around a tonne of CO2 (depending on the species of tree), which is similar to 350 litres of gasoline.

turbine. Epoxy embedded steel dowels could have been the solution.

“My recollection is the West System high-strength epoxy was invented and

developed for this technology by NASA.”

All of the above aside, Adi Paterson, the former CEO of Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisations, says he has doubts about the plausibility of delivering on net zero by the 2050 goal ... “without nuclear it's impossible.”

• **Zero carbon: Australia must elevate importance of forestry science, Page 6.**

On the cover: Timber turbine wind towers have a drastically lower carbon footprint because the trees they are made from absorb CO2 as they grow.

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VFPA announces new chair, council members

A NEW chair and governing council members were announced at the Victorian Forest Products Association's first AGM, held online on October 21.

Outgoing chair Tony Price welcomed Rob Hescoock, chief operating officer, HVP Plantations, as new chair and Hamish Little, general manager operation, AKD, and Martin Crevatin, national operations manager, PF Olsen (Aus) Pty Ltd, the new members on the governing council.

They join deputy chair Phil Mason, operations manager, New Forests, re-elected treasurer Darren Shelden, ABP, and continuing members Vince Hurley, ASH, Sarah Harvie, Opal, Mike Lawson, SFMES, and Paul Heubner, ANWE/Pentarch, on the governing council.



Tony Price



Rob Hescoock



Hamish Little



Martin Crevatin

Tony Price stood down as chair pending retirement in early 2022.

"Mr Price has been instrumental in overseeing the establishment of VFPA, and leaves the organisation well placed to represent forestry in Victoria going forward," Rob Hescoock said.

Mr Price paid tribute to outgoing council member Simon Gatt, who the council appointed as a casual vacancy in April.

VFPA CEO Deb Kerr

presented the annual report and strategic plan for the coming years.

"With a highly engaged membership base and governing council, we are well-positioned to grow the VFPA and promote our vision of united and influential forestry in Victoria," Ms Kerr said.

"Our very ambitious strategic plan has been well received, and we have experienced significant growth and momentum over the past months."

Special speaker at the AGM David Rowlinson, manager, Make It Wood Campaign at Planet Ark Environmental Foundation, gave an overview of the campaign's successful

objectives to promote sustainable resource use, encourage a low carbon lifestyle and connect people with nature.

VFPA represents all elements of the value chain from the sustainable harvesting of plantations and multiple use natural forest resource including forest establishment and management, harvesting and haulage, processing of timber resources and manufacture of pulp, paper and bio-products.

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Scrapping perverse rainfall regulation means more trees are planted and more carbon stored

THE federal government this week announced it would reverse the highly contested rainfall regulation, known as 'water rule', under the Carbon Farming Initiative.

The Victorian Forest Products Association has welcomed the decision as a 'win' for forestry and the environment.

"Importantly, the decision will improve Victoria's sovereign timber capability and clears the way for planting up to 100 million trees Australia-wide in the next decade, VFPA CEO Deb Kerr said.

Industry's participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund is a great incentive for developing new plantations that contribute to climate policy targets. However, a barrier to participation was the ineligibility of projects in areas receiving more than 600 mm of annual rainfall. It meant that growers could only earn carbon credits if they



1/ **Victorian growers can start planning to expand the plantation estate in the Green Triangle and Gippsland.**
 2/ **Deb Kerr.**
 3/ **Mary-Anne Thomas.**

plantings, it defied any logic and science," Ms Kerr said.

"The federal government has committed to planting 1 billion trees by 2030. For that to happen, the right kind of trees need to be planted at scale in the right areas, and

“CLEARS WAY FOR PLANTING UP TO 100 MILLION TREES

not somewhere where there is so little rainfall that they basically can't grow."

Ms Kerr said the announcement meant Victorian growers could start planning to expand the plantation estate in the Green Triangle and Gippsland. It was also important to understand

that around half the area was simply replanting the estate lost to other uses or fire over the last decade.

"We commend Victoria's Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas who stood alongside our plantation industry and drove this issue on a federal level," Ms Kerr said.

"The decision is an important milestone for forestry. We can finally get under way with planting much-needed trees. Every dollar invested in plantations and every tree put in the ground and harvested is part of the climate solution."

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forest industries will be major part of the solution to combating climate change this century," he said.

"The UN's own science has found that timber sourced from sustainably managed forests makes the greatest impact, mitigating carbon."

Mr Hampton said a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing



1/ **Herbert Joebstl... wood is a climate-friendly alternative compared to other building materials.**
 2/ **Sampsa Auvinen... wood is the only sustainable structural material that can enable a substantial decarbonisation of the built environment.**

forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, would generate the largest sustained

mitigation benefit.

As such, the wood manifesto would be an important part of the direction going forward to harness the

power of our sustainable wood and timber resources.

The Wood Manifesto launch by leading international engineered wood architect Andrew Waugh will take place today (Thursday) at the Royal Institute for British Architecture in Shelford, Nottinghamshire, and as part of the broader Built Environment Summit involving Architects Declare.

Toyota CEO 'rallies' in his own race car

THE current president and CEO of Toyota, a grandson of the company's founder, has steered the multi-national automotive manufacturer to global sales exceeding 10 million vehicles a year.

But Akio Toyoda, 65, has another love for his cars – he's been racing them for years and is himself Toyota's chief test driver. And he felt strongly that Toyota should continue to be represented at the World Rally Championships, to be held again this year in a few weeks at the Monza circuit in northern Italy.

This passion for racing saw Mr Toyoda authorise the building of a sports car purely of Toyota's own design – the GS Yaris Rallye, a three-door hatch driven by the world's most powerful mass-produced three-cylinder engine.

"Rallye was originally developed for a special class of racing in the World Rally Championship competition, so there is no doubt about its motor sport heart," the car-maker claims.

"But with the Rallye version, Toyota has taken it to the next level with a particular focus on sharpening the handling for customers who



1/ Toyota GR Yaris Rallye ... bred for the race track.

2/ Akio Toyoda... car racing his passion.

revel in track days or club competition."

The 1.6-litre turbo-charged power plant generates a maximum power of 200 kW at 6500 rpm and peak torque of 370 Nm from 3000-4600 rpm, giving the Rallye a power-to-weight ratio of 15.6 kW per tonne.

That puts it in the same league as the Honda Civic Type R and Renault Megane RS, similarly-priced performance hatchbacks in the front-wheel drive class.

Rallye has been fitted with rear double wishbone suspension for precise cornering on road and track and GR-four all-wheel drive with adjustable torque



distribution – all in a light body built to include a carbon-fibre polymer roof and aluminium bonnet, doors and rear hatch.

Toyota cites a zero to 100 km/h sprint time of 5.2 seconds and a top speed of 230 km/h. Claimed combined-cycle fuel consumption – if you don't gun it at every opportunity – is 7.6 litres/100 km.

The basics: six-speed manual gearbox with rev matching option; engine stop-start system; electronically-controlled permanent AWD

system with three modes; two-piece ventilated front brake discs with opposed four-piston calipers; ventilated rear discs with opposed two-piston calipers; and electric power steering.

It's well equipped, with dual-zone climate, keyless entry and start, a 7 in. touchscreen multi-media system, eight-speaker JBL stereo, a head-up display, six airbags and a raft of active safety equipment including active cruise control, road sign assist, intersection assistance and blind-spot monitoring.

Inside, synthetic leather front seats feature large bolsters, red stitching and perforated 'ultra-suede' inserts with a sat-nav Suna 6 traffic channel.

Every car is painted in the same Rallye-specific frosted white crystal pearl.

The listed price is a recommended \$54,500, excluding on-road costs.

Toyota has sold more than 2200 GR Yaris and GR Yaris Rallyes in Australia, and hopes to have most of them delivered this year. Anyone who orders either variant now can expect to be waiting until well into 2022 to take delivery.

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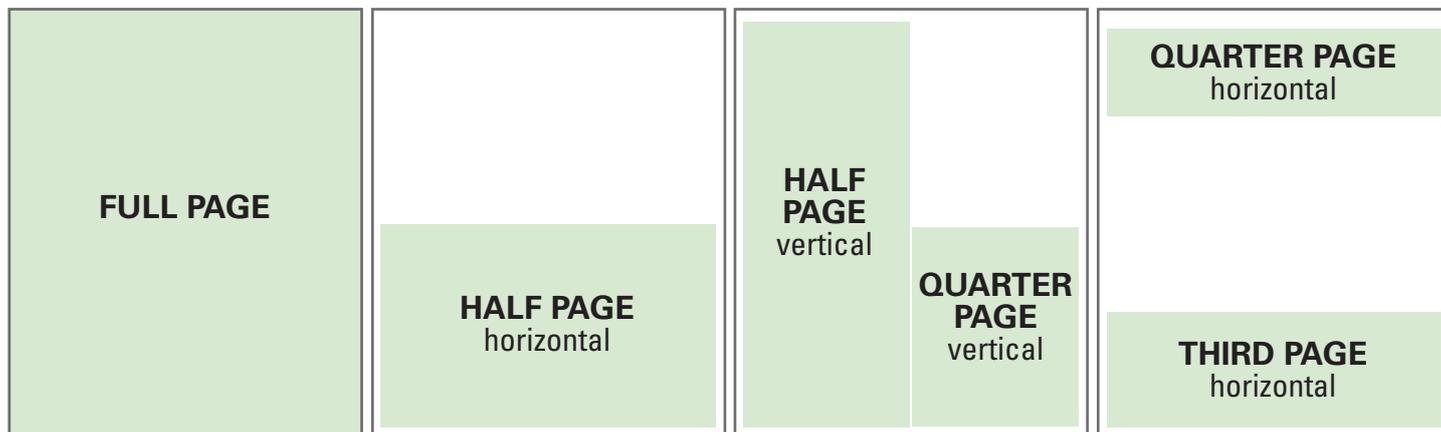
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