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COVER STORY P10



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COP 26 host Boris Johnson commits to forests in government's net zero strategy

Timber usage championed as contributor to reducing carbon footprint in buildings

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison told the COP 26 conference in his national statement this week that technology is the key to a decarboned economy.

People's Advocate Sir David Attenborough told the forum of world leaders that the climate emergency came down to a single number:

the concentration of carbon in the atmosphere, which "greatly determines global temperature."

"We must halve carbon emissions this decade," he said. "We must recapture billions of tonnes of carbon from the air. We must fix our sights on keeping 1.5 deg. within reach."

Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon was hopeful the PM would talk more about the net side of net zero emissions



With the eyes of the world on COP 26 in the first two weeks of November, the global timber industry is collectively hosting the World of Wood Festival' in London, a six-week celebration of global timber and global forests online and virtually.

in Glasgow ... "and discuss the enormous opportunities we have here in Australia to expand our plantation estate to not only absorb more carbon out of the atmosphere but to create jobs here in Australia".

Speaking on the Sunrise TV program, he said: "We've got the land, we've got the resources, we've got the people, and we've got an opportunity to create lots of jobs here and reduce our growing import dependency

on timber from other countries."

It was left to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to place more emphasis on forests, launching the government's widely-

“GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO USING MORE TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION”

anticipated Net Zero Strategy and the UK's plan to become net-zero by 2050.

"The strategy should come as welcome news for those of us in the timber industry, with the government providing a stronger commitment to using more timber in construction," UK Timber Trade Federation CEO David Hopkins said.

He said the report showed the government recognised the potential of timber usage as a means of reducing embodied carbon in construction.

Following its inaugural meeting, the timber industry's newly-formed All Party Parliamentary Group is calling on the government to move more quickly to meet carbon reduction targets – arguing that scaling up the existing timber sector could achieve these goals immediately.

The APPG is urging policy makers to adopt the recommendations laid out in

Cont P 5



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WA industry turns to unsustainably-managed imports as state rolls out native forest closures

ONLY a month after a state ban on native forest harvesting was announced, West Australian furniture-makers are looking to imports to replace iconic native hardwoods, such as jarrah and karri.

In 2020, the Forest Products Commission, which manages the state's native forests, provided 85,000 tonnes of jarrah sawlog to the timber industry.

The WA Furniture Manufacturers Association estimates 50,000 tonnes would be sufficient for bespoke native timber industries to survive.

"This includes furniture, cabinetry, flooring and decking and heritage building maintenance," association secretary Frank Parker said.

In 2013, Indonesia produced half of the world's illegally logged timber despite a government moratorium on forest clearing taking effect in 2011. Since then, Indonesia has expanded its forest protection efforts but is yet to end deforestation or illegal logging.

Wood fibre exporter and president of the Forest Industries Federation WA Ian Telfer says the government's timber ban is a short-sighted political play by government that isn't good for the environment or the economy.

"I'll use Bunnings as the example – they will go and get Indonesian rainforest timber



Michael D'Andrea... furniture manufacturers will be forced to import hardwoods.

to replace jarrah because consumers who want timber will still go to the store and still buy products," Mr Telfer said.

"We want to build in the most sustainable way and better that it's from well-managed forests to support that timber demand, and produce flooring and decking and furniture, produced locally."

The South West forest is the only place in the world that jarrah and karri can be sourced and jarrah can't be grown on plantations because it requires the biodiversity of native forests to grow.

Mr Telfer has been lobbying the government for the past two years about how better to utilise timber and only weeks ago was discussing the injection of \$100 million into the technology and

**“BAN ON NATIVE
HARDWOODS
OPENS DOOR TO
ILLEGAL TIMBERS**

innovation required for the industry to transition towards more effective use of smaller diameter timber coming from regrowth forest.

He is fuming over the sudden decision to stop all harvesting, saying it's a myth to suggest that regrowth logging can't sit side-by-side with conservation and carbon capture within the forest, as well as managing fire fuel loads, as they have done over the years.

He says the new announcement will not stop tree felling for "thinning" purposes and land clearing for urban development, roads and mining.

"Fundamentally, if you're going to cut down a tree, I think everybody in the community supports 'well it'd be better to use that

Cont P 11

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HIA distribution partnership gives builders web access to important technical standards

STANDARDS Australia and the Housing Industry Association have entered into a new distribution agreement – HIA will now host and offer paid access to relevant Australian standards on its website.

Currently, HIA members and non-members can access four critical building and construction standards:

- AS 1684.2-2010, Residential timber-framed construction, Part 2: Non-cyclonic areas.
- AS 1684.3-2010, Residential timber-framed construction, Part 3: Cyclonic areas.
- AS 2870-2011, Residential slabs and footings.
- AS 4773.2-2015, Masonry in small buildings.



1/ Additional building and construction standards available next year.
 2/ Graham Wolfe... logical next step in our relationship.
 3/ Adrian O'Connell... key contributor to international standards.



Additional building and construction standards and value-added offerings will be available in early 2022.

"The agreement with Standards Australia will provide our members with ease of access to important technical standards and is an exciting benefit in addition to the help, information and advice we provide through our extensive membership program," HIA managing director Graham Wolfe said.

"We are excited about the agreement and look forward to working closely with Standards Australia in a partnership that has much to offer and support the industry," Mr Wolfe said.

"We aspire to work together on packaged standards and technical solutions to deliver greater value to Australia's building professionals."

This collaboration is an example of how Standards Australia is achieving its promise to increase the reach and relevance of Standards Australia's content in the Australian community, under its distribution and licensing policy framework.

"We have a long history

of collaboration on many strategic initiatives of importance to Australia, so this appeared as a logical next step in our relationship," Standards Australia CEO Adrian O'Connell said.

"One of our key goals is to champion Standard Australia's products and services with partners. We also strive to get standards in the hands of those who need them and use them every day."

Standards Australia works closely with the Australian Building Codes Board and stakeholders from the government, industry and community to develop standards related to building and construction, which are referenced in the National Construction Code, a good example of performance-based regulation.

The timber industry currently works through more than 230 timber standards, supplements, amendments, handbooks and handbook supplements. There are also more than 20 building standards that directly impact on the use of timber and timber products in the built environment.

Adrian O'Connell has been appointed to the Council of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the world's largest developer of international standards made up of members from the national standards bodies of 165 countries.

Mr O'Connell said the appointment reinforced Australia's role as a key contributor to the international standards system.



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From P 2

the Net Zero Now campaign launched earlier this year by the Confederation of Timber Industries, which acts as secretariat to the APPG.

The campaign argues that focusing on 2050 is a missed opportunity, when increasing the timber industries' output could allow the government to deliver on its economic, employment, housing and climate targets without delay.

David Hopkins said embodied carbon emissions accounted for up to 75% of a building's total emissions over its lifespan, but timber products had the lowest embodied carbon of any mainstream building material.

"Indeed, for every cubic metre of timber used in construction, 0.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide have been absorbed and will be stored for the lifetime of the product," he said.

A coalition of timber industries is collectively hosting the World Wood Festival in London which runs from October 25 to December 3 – a six-week

WOOD FESTIVAL SHOWCASES VITAL ROLE OF FOREST SUPPLY CHAINS



1/ British PM Boris Johnson launched his government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution ahead of COP 26 which commits to planting 30,000 ha of trees every year.

2 David Hopkins... government providing a stronger commitment to using more timber in construction.

celebration of global timber and global forests to coincide with the COP 26 climate talks.

Designed to inform climate change policy and raise awareness of the mitigation opportunities presented by the forest products sector, the festival is showcasing the vital role that forest supply chains have to incentivise sustainable forest management, increase carbon sequestration both in forests and products, and substitute for more carbon-intensive building materials.

Devised and coordinated by the UK Timber Trade



Federation and CEI-Bois, representing European woodworking industries, the team has created an alliance of more than 40 separate associations, organisations, businesses and campaigns representing global forest growth and development, engineered mass timber and wood-based products from Indonesia to Ghana, Australia, North America and China.

On the specific action that is needed, according to David Hopkins, "we're calling on the

leaders at COP 26 to really start to initiate, again, national multi-stakeholder processes throughout the world that can bring together government, civil society and the private sector that incentivise effective tropical forest governance and responsible forests trade by offering support, and particularly investment in the added value of tropical forest industries.

"We're also calling on international business and consumer markets to really commit to sourcing tropical forest products and material only from those legal sources that can ensure the sustainability of resources into the future," Mr Hopkins said.

Meanwhile, London architect de Rijke Marsh Morgan designed a reusable timber pavilion for COP 26 – the 'Timber Beacon'

"As world leaders discussed global responsibilities and collective responses to climate change during COP 26, our message for the future was powerfully three-dimensional: in wood there is hope," said dRMM founding director Prof Alex de Rijke.

'Timber Beacon' was selected by the British Government to exhibit at the forum.



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

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Ardern government cranks up the heat on Kiwis to ‘satisfy passion’ on Paris politics

Tree planting projects in ‘Pacific Asian’ countries over next nine years a pipe dream

DENNIS NEILSON

THIS week the Australian Prime Minister heralded that his country would become carbon neutral by 2050.

Not to be outdone, the New Zealand Prime Minister, who had previously also set this same lofty goal out to 2050, further tightened the NZ emissions reduction target by 2030 to an (announced) 50%, up from the previous (announced) 30%.

But as with all these announcements on targets and goals by all these global leaders, the devil is in the detail. They all at best use dodgy calculations to inflate their targets to look like they care ... which they don't.

In this case, the Ardern government in New Zealand compared net 2030 emissions with gross 2005 emissions – a serious apples-for-chocolate-cake comparison.

Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics, says this latest announcement employs “various accounting tricks,” and that a true comparison would reduce emissions by less than half (22-23%) of those claimed to be the new target.

Not that the previous National Government target by 2030 of 30% was much better, with media reports that if the 30% reduction was correctly calculated it would actually be a 2-3% increase.



This would be consistent with the almost 60% increase in emissions generated in New Zealand from 1990-2019 – among the worst climate change mitigation performances in the world.

But in an even more bizarre move, the NZ Prime Minister announced that only one-third of its emission reductions would be achieved onshore, with a full two-thirds to be achieved by New Zealand funding foreign countries (it

tree planting projects in “Pacific Asian” countries over the next nine years is a risible (laughable) pipe dream.

Several countries in the region are littered with well-meaning but failed tree plantation projects, as corrupt governments, serious land tenure disputes, and fungi-insects-animal pests-fires (much) more often than not ensure that only a small fraction of trees planted ever

survive.

What will be the net result?

The rural land use debate will only intensify; a future government will realise this folly and will have to rely even more on planting pine trees on New Zealand sheep farms.

Earlier in 2021, the NZ Climate Change Commission recommended planting an additional 370,000 ha of farms into exotic forests to help New Zealand meet its Paris commitment.

That CCC-recommended ‘pathway’ will inevitably now be changed well upwards, to at least north of 500,000 ha – and perhaps towards a 1 million ha.

1/ *Future governments will have to rely even more on planting pine trees on New Zealand sheep farms.*

2/ *Bill Hare... latest announcement employs various accounting tricks.*

mentions in “Pacific Asia”) – with the Climate Change Minister actually naming Papua New Guinea to offset emissions.

This could only be achieved by tree planting.

To fund this endeavor, it has apparently allocated \$900 million to \$1.5 billion per year.

As any experienced NZ or Australian consultant/forest manager (including the author) will attest, the chances of the NZ government achieving anything measurable with

“TARGETS, GOALS ... THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL”

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NOVEMBER

22-23: AFPA Meetings – ONLINE ATTENDANCE ONLY. www.ausfpa.com.au

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
13: AFPA gala dinner. –TBA. POSTPONED EVENT. www.ausfpa.com.au
NB. REVISED DATE
21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction –Crown

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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>

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

Overwhelming response to forest community grants program

RESPONSIBLE Wood has been overwhelmed by the response to the 2021 community grants program with 18 community groups connected to certified forests posting applications.

This is the program's second year when six community grants were provided to entrants from South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

The program encourages local communities

to develop, design and implement small community-based projects in their local area in conjunction with their local Responsible Wood-certified forestry company.

Project manager for the community grants Megan Graham reflected on the quality of applications this year.

"This is the second year and we were amazed by the number, quality, and

creativity of applications from across Australia," she said.

"Significantly, we have received applicants from communities connected to Responsible Wood-certified forests in Tasmania and Western Australia in addition to South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Queensland."

Funding available for each project is between \$5000 and \$15,000.

Applications will be assessed by an expert panel including Dr Hans Drielsma, chair of Responsible Wood, David Rowlinson, Make It Wood campaign manager for Planet Ark and Lou Coutts, harvesting manager, HVP Plantations.

The successful applicants will be announced in December with projects to be completed by the end of May 2022.



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New generation of durable eucalypts the logical step to a regional industry in NZ

THIS spring has been a notable one for the New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative in its ongoing efforts to develop a multi-regional hardwood industry based on planting durable eucalypts.

Timber & Forestry e news talked with Paul Millen, NZDFI's project manager, about the new trial sites being added to the organisation's network, thus extending its current geographic and climatic trial range.

Fresh from being awarded Forester of the Year by the New Zealand Institute of Forestry, Mr Millen was pleased to announce the planting of the first generation of Xylogene improved genetic material – partly funded by the NZDFI's Te Uru Rākau One Billion Trees grant.

"While our trial planting season has been made challenging by Covid restrictions, we have succeeded in planting some 250,000 Xylogene seedlings and clones this spring," Paul Millen said.

"There have been seven new trial sites planted with a range of different trial types, including E.

SEVEN NEW TRIAL SITES PLANTED



Official launch of the NZDFI's improved planting stock at the Lissaman property, Awatere Valley, Marlborough.

bosistoana progeny trials, E. globoidea seedling seed stands, and five genetic-gain demonstration trials. These are located from Northland to North Canterbury across a wide range of soil types and microclimates."

Mr Millen said the main selection criteria for the first generation of Xylogene plants were growth, form and durability.

"It's anticipated that these properties will be consistently higher in the Xylogene planting stock than the average of unimproved material available to date," he said. "However, until the new genetic-gain trials have grown for a few years this cannot be quantified."

He added that early research by School of Forestry (University of Canterbury) entomologists has identified certain families that are more tolerant of pest browsing than others. "The school now has two PhD students working on eucalypt health, with a view

leaving an overstorey of trees which will grow on to produce sawlogs.

"Some small-scale growers may well manage their trees on a genuine continuous cover basis, selecting trees at a range of different sizes to meet whatever processing requirements they have – for example, on-farm timber."

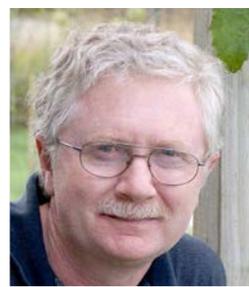
He noted that short-rotation hardwood coppice crops could become an important contributor to biomass markets.

"As New Zealand moves towards a circular bio-economy – and depending on how the biomass/bioenergy sectors develop – we envisage some durable eucalypt crops could be managed purely on a coppicing basis [regrowing from a cut stump] to produce large volumes of woody biomass to supply specific fibre or other markets.

"It will be interesting to see how growing regimes and harvesting systems develop to fit the crop, site and grower objectives ... especially given the high levels of automation and robotics now being developed in our forest harvesting sector."

Mr Millen said, in principle, the NZDFI supported the Climate Change

ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

to developing integrated pest management guidelines in the medium term," he said.

Mr Millen predicted that future harvesting of eucalypt stands would be conducted according to the growing regime, topography, and scale of operations.

"For example, in a short-rotation regime where trees are grown as peeler posts, harvesting is most likely to be a fully mechanised clearfell operation," he said.

"In a dual-purpose peeler post and sawlog regime, there would probably be a production thinning operation



Paul Millen (left), 2021 NZ New Zealand Institute of Forestry's Forester of the Year, with the Minister of Forestry Stuart Nash.

From P 8

Commission's proposals for New Zealand to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

"We pointed out that the commission had failed to recognise the potential for durable eucalypts – or indeed any alternative exotic species – to contribute to the country's net emissions reduction targets," he said. "So we proposed the commission should support NZDFI's vision for 60,000 ha of plantations for durable

“FAILURE TO RECOGNISE THE POTENTIAL FOR DURABLE EUCALYPTS

hardwoods planted across 12 regional catchments and centred on potential processing sites."

He is also encouraged by a meeting with the Ministry for Primary Industries on proposed amendments to the Emissions Trading Scheme.

"We offered to assist with producing species-specific look-up tables for durable eucalypts," he said. "That could involve collecting more data from our permanent sample plots, and taking advantage of the modelling expertise of our science team at the School of Forestry.

"We're optimistic that as the ETS becomes more refined, specific data for durable eucalypts will be required."

\$20bn pledge on deforestation

WORLD leaders meeting at the COP 26 climate summit issued a multi-billion-dollar pledge to end deforestation by 2030.

According to the British government, host of the summit, the pledge is backed by almost \$20 billion in public and private funding and is endorsed by more than 100 leaders representing

more than 85% of the world's forests, including the Amazon rainforest, Canada's northern boreal forest and the Congo Basin rainforest.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the agreement on deforestation was pivotal to the overarching ambition of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 deg.



HYNE.COM.AU

Growing careers at AKD: 2022 intake of apprentices, graduates, gap year employees

IT'S full steam ahead at AKD with the announcement of the 2022 intake of apprentices, graduates and gap year employees.

As the Australian community starts to emerge from the challenges of Covid, the integrated forestry and timber company will bring in more than 30 new employees through three talent programs across the country.

"The pandemic has affected everyone in different ways and AKD feels that now more than ever it is important to support our communities by creating opportunities close to home," general manager, human resources, Clark Rodger said.

"AKD's talent development



1/ **Genevieve Ryan... talent development manager at AKD.**

2/ **Clark Rodger... HR general manager.**

3/ **Stephanie McGuane... apprentice fitter working at her lathe.**

4/ **Leah Cuthbertson... finance graduate.**

programs are also likely to be attractive to the many Australians and their families who are keen to move to



manufacturing, HR and safety.

The company's successful National Apprenticeship Program is back for another year with more than 20 apprentice positions such as saw technician, wood machinist, electrical and fitting and turning at site locations across Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

AKD will be taking in another group of gap year employees, marking the fifth year of running the program.

"The program is a great opportunity for local students to work in a large business and prepare for university, gaining valuable skills and experiences," Genevieve Ryan said.

"If you're not sure about what to do following Year 12 studies, it's a great way to get a feel of the industry, or a great opportunity to provide exposure to a chosen field of study and earn money before heading off to university," she said.

Visit akd.com.au for more information or contact recruitment@akd.com.au.

regional areas where lifestyle and sense of community are strong and appealing," he said.

Talent development manager Genevieve Ryan spoke on the reinvigorated graduate program, voicing that "the program is perfect for recent graduates looking to build on their work experience"

Ms Ryan said the program provided individuals with the opportunity to work first-hand on projects across Australia and to accelerate their career by providing exposure to different operational and business innovation and technologies.

The program will give AKD the opportunity to recruit new employees from some of Australia's leading universities, while offering them invaluable on-the-job training and opportunities across several fields including engineering, commerce, science, forestry,

On the cover: Jason Mitchell, wood machinist apprentice, joins AKD's 2022 intake of more than 30 new apprentices, graduates and gap year employees.

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From P 3

timber rather than it going to waste'. And if you can produce products out of it all the better."

Western Australian Furniture Manufactures Association president Michael D'Andrea says his members will be forced to import hardwoods since pine is not an adequate substitute and "the logistics of importing replacement timbers will increase the carbon footprint of our industry".

"We ask the state government to consider the wider impact of this decision and whether all consequences have been carefully explored," he said.

“BEHAVING LIKE A RICH, SELFISH COUNTRY”



Ian Telfer... ban a short-sighted political play by the government.

"We do not feel this proposed action adequately addresses the environmental, social and economic impact, and the knock-on effect of what this policy will mean."

Featuring in an ABC program, Mr D'Andrea said jarrah timber prices had spiked 60% since the state government revealed it would stop harvesting native species such as jarrah, marri, and karri



Rob de Fégely... imports bring high risk of using unsustainably-managed timbers.

from 2024.

"If you want a nice beautiful jarrah residential table, a marri table, those prices are going to increase a lot," he said.

Mr D'Andrea has received pricing from Indonesian hardwood suppliers and, when his stockpile of jarrah runs low, he plans to start importing it by the container ... "so his business can survive"

Forestry consultant and

co-chair of the federal government's Forest Industry Advisory Council Rob de Fégely said Indonesian hardwood was at high risk of being unsustainably harvested; forest certification is much easier to attain in developing countries than in Australia.

"It can be legally harvested but that doesn't guarantee it's sustainable." Mr de Fégely said.

"We have over five and a half hectares [of forest] for every man, woman and child in Australia whereas the world average is only half a hectare," he said.

"We should not be putting countries under stress overseas for their resources while we don't utilise ours, which we know we can do in a sustainable manner.

"I think we're just behaving like a rich and selfish country."

Building approvals point to continuing strong demand for housing

DETACHED building approvals continue to suggest there is still strong demand for housing six months after the HomeBuilder stimulus ended in March.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics this week released its monthly building approvals data for detached and multi-

units data covering all states and territories.

"Detached building approvals in the three months to September 2021 remain up by 15.5% on the same quarter in 2020 and 32.2 % up on the same time in 2019," HIA economist Tom Devitt said.

"This will continue to support a healthy pipeline of on-the-ground home building work to the end of next year," Mr Devitt said.

"These sales will flow through to approvals data in the coming months and will continue to create employment opportunities into

the second half of 2022."

Leading indicators suggest the detached market remains robust despite lockdowns.

Sales in the three months to September are 7.4% per cent higher than at the same time in 2019 and 0.6% higher than the same time in 2018.



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Falcon flies on the slopes: winch-assist machine provides convincing evidence

IF you need a clear demonstration of how safety-conscious harvesting contractors have become in the past decade, the sale of the 150th Falcon Winch-Assist machine provides convincing evidence.

It took just seven years to reach that milestone and manufacturer, Nelson-based DC Equipment, says demand is currently at an all-time high.

The shift to mechanised tree falling on steep slopes has accelerated around the world after the technology and safety of the innovative practice was proven in New Zealand.

Kiwi companies such as DC Equipment are at the forefront of the tech drive, exporting safety-first forestry equipment to customers in New Zealand and across the globe as a solution to removing vulnerable workers from dangerous task such as tree falling and breaking out.

Dale Ewers, founder and owner of DC Equipment, who runs a successful logging company says, "We got into this business to protect people in our own harvesting crews and it worked so



DC Equipment general manager Frankie Davidson (left) and chief executive Dale Ewers... targeting safety-conscious contractors.

well we offered it to other contractors."

Designed and tested extensively in a wide range of slope and soil conditions the Falcon Winch-Assist has clocked up about half-a-million operational hours and zero harm incidents across its customer base.

One leading customer is forestry equipment leasing company, TDF Solutions, which has purchased 27 Falcon Winch-Assist machines in recent years, including number 150.

TDF business manager Frankie Davidson was himself

involved in the early years of winch-assist development with a company that built a double-drum, twin-rope bulldozer. But he has since become a firm believer in the single-rope system produced by DC Equipment.

TDF was among the early purchasers of the Falcon Winch-Assist and Mr Davidson says that although the key principles have not

“MACHINE SALES REACH 150TH MILESTONE

changed over the years, he has seen it become more refined and more user-friendly.

"The way the control system works is incredibly simple to use for the operator and there's years and years of development and hundreds of thousands of hours with machinery use and technology

to develop how the system works to look after the machine and look after the operator," Mr Davidson said.

"The interesting thing is that contractors are not only buying these machines for working above certain slope angles, but a lot of people are using them for environmental reasons and in adverse weather conditions. Many operators who have been using them for a while find it very difficult to go onto any slope without a tether. Even on 20-deg. they feel very

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2021 GALA EVENT POSTPONED TO EARLY 2022

With the health and safety of our attendees in mind, the GTTIA committee have made the decision to postpone the awards gala evening.

The event will be rescheduled to early 2022 and we are looking forward to celebrating the award winners and showcasing the industry's innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices within the region.

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GREEN TRIANGLE
TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS

Tigercat multi-screen simulator series a training system that saves start-up costs

CANADA-based forest systems leader Tigercat has partnered with CM Labs Simulations to develop a series of simulators that will replicate the functionality and behaviour of Tigercat log forwarders and wheel harvesters.

The wheel harvester simulator is the first to be completed.

There are many benefits in using a simulator, not only for training but also for employers to screen potential employees.

Companies are able to gauge how an operator will perform and use that information when assigning tasks.

Tigercat simulators have three screens, a motions platform, as well as all the associated Tigercat machine control software and hardware.

The simulator's software communicates directly with the Tigercat machine control software so the controls are identical to the actual machine. Any adjustments that can be made on the machine can also be made on the simulator which helps teach operators not



Tigercat simulators replicate the functionality and behaviour of the company's log forwarders and wheel harvesters.

only motor skills but the effects of the many machine adjustments available to operators.

Tigercat simulators are equipped with an actual operator's seat, including all control pods, the machine's computer control system, as well as the harvesting head control system on the harvester simulator. The transition for new operators from virtual to actual is almost seamless.

Tigercat vice-president, cut-to-length systems, Jon Cooper explains: "The introduction

of the Tigercat simulator provides dealers with a valuable training tool that can save machine owners significant start-up costs. Using the simulator to teach operational skills in realistic environments allows the new operator to enter into a real machine with much higher productivity levels from the start. This can produce extra production income and avoid expensive machine damage.

Based in Old Montreal's innovation hub, and with extensive physics, engineering and project management expertise,

CM Labs has completed more than 1000 simulation installations in 30 countries. Customers include Honda, Volvo, Liebherr and NASA.

*** **

TIGERCAT has released the 822E, the most compact track feller buncher and harvester platform in the Tigercat track carrier line-up.

The powerful machine is versatile for challenging thinning and final felling applications. Strong lift capacity, tight-tuck ER boom geometry and compact tail-swing make the 822E the perfect choice for selective felling where minimal site impact is important.

A redesigned engine enclosure provides improved roof access for clearing debris. A boom slider also reduces debris build-up in hard-to-reach areas. The clamshell style enclosure and drop-down side platform allow easy access to all sides of the engine, valves and daily service points.

The updated E-series cab includes a new parallel action air ride seat with integrated heating and cooling. The reclining seat is fully adjustable with seat angle and seat extension adjustment. The wider seat cushion and lumbar support provide operator comfort all day long.



Tigercat 822E... compact track feller cruncher and harvester platform.

“OPERATIONAL SKILLS TAUGHT IN A REALISTIC ENVIRONMENT



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vulnerable and uncomfortable. To retain staff it is almost becoming necessary to have machines like this.”

The Falcon Winch-Assist has been designed from the outset with single-drum, single-rope technology. It uses the largest rope size of any winch-assist machine – at 28 mm diameter the swaged rope provides 71 tonnes of breaking strength ensuring that even shock loading will not compromise

“REDUCING COMPLEXITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SNAGS

the strength or structural integrity of the rope.

But even with such a huge breaking strength, the Falcon Winch-Assist operates to a 21-tonne working load limit as a safety measure. Because the operator who is sitting in the felling machine only has to manage one rope when working on the slope it reduces complexity and the

potential for snags.

Similarly, the design of the winch system means less mechanical and electrical complexity, which reduces the opportunity for faults and breakdowns.

Falcon Winch-Assist, built onto an excavator base, is a multi-purpose machine able to work as a loader, shoveller

or digger through the option of fitting a quick hitch when the machine is not required for tethering.

Frankie Davidson concludes: “There used to be a lot of discussion around winch-assist being the future of steep slope logging – it’s no longer the future, it’s the now.”

Dale Ewers adds: “With winch-assisting

now accepted as the way to harvest most trees on the hillside, DC Equipment is currently developing the next phase of mechanisation on the felling carriage – a skyline carriage equipped with a harvesting head for felling trees on slopes too steep for even the Falcon Winch-Assist to reach.”



DC Equipment’s Nick and Solomon (left and centre) hand over the 150th Falcon Winch-Assist machine to Nigel Bryant of Nelson-based Nigel Bryant Logging.

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Covid disruptions no barrier as North Asia woodchip imports continue at record level

Australian and USA exporters negotiating larger contracts with China in 2022

DENNIS NEILSON

COVID-19 disruptions may have seriously affected the production of several timber products, and those for energy, in North Asian countries, but imports of hardwood, and especially softwood woodchip imports, into this region are at record levels.

Year-to-year data for the first three-quarters of 2021, recently released, shows



On top of the pile... Japan still the largest woodchip importer with 1.1 million bdmmt so far this year, up 18% on 2020.

softwood chip imports to Japan and China totalled 1.85 million bdmmt – but that was up a whopping 61% on 2020.

Chinese hardwood chip imports, which overtook the Japanese demand only a few years ago, totalled 11.4 million bdmmt, up 16% on 2020. This is now way more than total hardwood chip imports into Japan, which totalled 7.05 million bdmmt, up 14% in 2020.

Australia was the second largest supplier of hardwood chips to China, with 1.9

“ JAPAN STILL THE LARGEST IMPORTER OF WOODCHIPS

total hardwood imports into four countries (China, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea) from January to September 2021

totalled 19.1 million bone dry metric tonnes – up 15% on the same period in 2020

The smaller volume of

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million bdmt, up 10% on 2020.

However, Australia remains a distant second to the 'elephant in the Pacific-Asian woodchip trade room' Vietnam, with imports from that country totalling 6.9 million bdmt and up 17% on 2020.

Australia is also the second largest supplier to Japan at 1.1 million bdmt to the end September – up a full 45% on 2020

However, this trailed the biggest supplier, Vietnam which supplied 3.1 million bdmt, up 32%.

In 2021, both Vietnam and Australia gained market share from the third largest supplier to both countries, Chile, whose supplies were down by 23% to China and by 27% to Japan. A big new pulp mill is due to be commissioned in Chile in late 2021, so export volumes will likely be reduced permanently.

Australia was the largest supplier to Taiwan, but which imported only 140,000 bdmt, and Vietnam was the only supplier to Korea at only 308,000 bdmt.

The Pacific-Asia softwood



Major increase in softwood wood chip imports into China is expected in 2022 as new pulp mills are commissioned – firstly for softwoods and later for hardwoods.

chip trade, which has been a long laggard compared with hardwoods, has sprung into life in 2021, especially to China.

Still the largest importer is Japan with 1.1 million bdmt so far this year, up 18% on 2020.

Australia is the second largest supplier at 372,000 bdmt, up 13% on 2020, but still well behind the USA at almost 600,000 bdmt, up 32%.

Fiji and New Zealand follow as suppliers with smaller volumes.

Chinese demand has really escalated, with 700,000 bdmt imported so far, up 293% on 2020. Australia supplied 290,000 bdmt, up 125%, with USA, which supplied nothing in 2020, providing

250,000 bdmt so far in 2020.

Fiji (mostly) and New Zealand also supplied volume.

We can expect a major increase in softwood chip imports into China in 2022 as new pulp mills being built by a new entrant company Nine Dragons are commissioned next year – firstly new softwood pulp mills, and later new hardwood mills.

“ MAJOR ENERGY CRISIS IN CHINA

We understand Australian and American chip exporters are already negotiating details of contracts to supply much larger quantities of woodchips

to Chinese buyers, starting in 2022.

Indeed demand for softwood chips in China and Japan from 2022 may well surpass the existing supply channels' ability to provide this demand, and some Chinese companies are now looking as far afield as Europe to supply softwood woodchips from next year.

A major energy crisis in China, developing from Q3 2021, may yet curtail demand for woodchips in the fourth quarter – not because net electrical energy generating pulp mills can't operate, but because their downstream paper machines cannot obtain the power they need to operate.

However, whatever happens, at this time 2022 looks promising for Pacific Rim export demand for both hardwood and softwood woodchips into North Asian countries.

•*The Asia Pacific Woodchip & Biomass Trade Review is available from DANA Publishing, PO Box 392, Rotorua 3201, New Zealand. Tel: +64 7 349 2764 or email admin@dana.co.nz*

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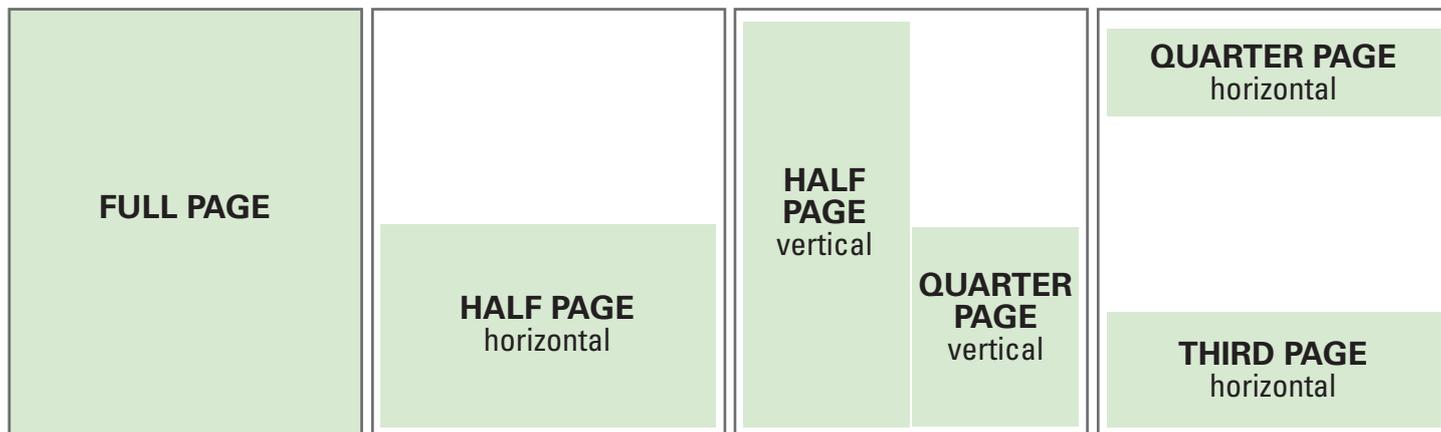
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