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ISSUE 683 | November 11, 2021

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COVER STORY P12



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# A timber shortage that's very unpalatable

## Supply chains hit hard as crates are stockpiled in warehouses

AUSTRALIA'S two major owners of reusable pallets say retailers, producers and manufacturers are hoarding and refusing to return the crucial shipping items, contributing to a stock shortage in the lead up to Christmas.

Supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths have both raised concerns about a shortage of pallets, the wooden trays used for shipping goods which form the backbone of supply chains as Covid-19 causes major snarls in global shipping networks.

Coles CEO Steven Cain dubbed the situation "pallet-gate". He said there was not enough wood to build new pallets while existing ones were stuck in warehouses during Victoria's pandemic lock down.

But CHEP Australia and Loscam, the two major operators of the country's shared 'pallet pool', say the shortage is caused by customers amassing a backlog of trays, as they stockpile goods in warehouses to guard



'Pallet-gate' as Australia takes timber pallets for granted.

against future supply chain disruptions.

The Victorian Forest Products Association says the current shortage of pallets highlights the need to support sustainable native regrowth forests and native timber harvesting in the state.

"The national pallet shortage demonstrates how much we all rely on them to move our food and most other goods around the country," VFPA CEO Deb Kerr said.

"It seems we have taken pallets for granted," she said. "Australia has some 140

million pallets in circulation. But if they are such a big part of national and local supply chains, where are they?"

According to the Australian Pallet Survey (Deakin University, 2017), the "supply of hardwood timber is expected to be impacted by a general shortage of hardwood supply from 2025, as harvesting of native forests transitions to plantations".

**“PROBLEMS AHEAD AS NATIVE FOREST LOCK-DOWNS IMPACT ON SUPPLY”**

"It seems this shortage has arrived four years early," Ms Kerr said.

Almost 88% of all pallets in Australia are made from native hardwood, and Victoria produces some 1.1 million pallets each year, as well as supplying native hardwood timber to repair pallets every 20-30 trips.

"The Victorian government's decision to phase out native forestry, with a major step-down in 2024, will undoubtedly impact the movements of major supermarket retailers," Ms Kerr said.

"As more and more supply issues come to light, from house frames to pallets, we urge the state government to change its position on native forestry.

"Forestry is sustainable and, when managed well like it's done here in Victoria, will continue to produce vital native timber furniture and other appearance grade products, along with wood fibre and paper and pulp products – and pallets – that we all depend on.



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# New project to unlock softwood income stream for beef producers in the Top End

EVALUATING an opportunity that has the potential to meet growing demand for softwood timber products plus create an additional income stream for northern Australia's beef producers is the focus of a new Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) research collaboration.

The three-year 'Silvopastoral trials for commercial pine systems in North Queensland' project, led by Timber Queensland, brings together forestry and livestock production experts and environmental and carbon consultants to assess potentially transformational farming systems.

Key research partners include the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, CQUniversity, HQPlantations and CO2 Australia.

Given the high-level of innovation involved, the project has attracted a range of funding supporters including the CRCNA, Timber Queensland, HQPlantations and Forest and Wood Products Australia through its voluntary matching program.

Timber Queensland's CEO Mick Stephens said the project would assess the economic merits of combined grazing and commercial tree farming



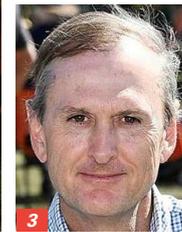
- 1/ **Silvopastoral trials... bringing together forestry and livestock production experts and environmental and carbon consultants to assess potentially transformational farming systems.**
- 2/ **Anne Stünzner... pathway for realising forest industry potential in northern Australia.**
- 3/ **Mick Stephens... silvopastoral systems can deliver higher net financial returns per hectare.**

systems compared to traditional forestry and grazing only practices.

"There is a high likelihood these silvopastoralism systems can deliver higher net financial returns per hectare for suitable land types, while at the same time contributing to income diversification and lower overall carbon emissions, or even carbon neutral outcomes for the farming enterprise," Mr Stephens said.

The project will measure and model the returns from field trials with cattle grazed in widely spaced commercial pine forests and compare the returns from carbon sequestration and combined timber and beef production returns with traditional grazing only activities on

**PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED A RANGE OF FUNDING SUPPORTERS**



made in the CRCNA's Northern Forest and Forest Products Industry Situational Analysis, which aimed to deliver a pathway for realising forest industry potential in northern Australia

"The principals and benefits of silvopastoral systems are understood from overseas experience and to unlock the full productive potential for timber and beef we need to assess tree-

cleared farmland.

CRCNA CEO Anne Stünzner said the project built on recommendations

Cont P 4

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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# Acute shortage of skilled trades with building sector facing record high in housing volumes

ALL regions across Australia are reporting an acute shortage of skilled trades in the face of a record volume of detached home building and renovations in the pipeline.

“The HIA trades availability index deteriorated further in the September quarter indicating that the industry is experiencing the most significant skills shortage since the inception of the report in 2003,” HIA economist Angela Lillicrap said.

HIA's trade report released this week provides a quarterly review of the availability of skilled trades and any demand pressures on trades operating in the residential building industry. The index declined from -0.53 to -0.69 in the



**The building industry is experiencing the most significant skills shortage since 2003.**

September quarter, with any number below zero indicating a skills shortage.

“Regional Queensland, Regional South Australia and Perth recorded improvements in the availability of skilled trades compared to the previous quarter,” Ms Lillicrap said.

“These small improvements reflect quarterly volatility, not a material improvement in the supply of trades,” she said.

All trades recorded a deterioration in availability during the September quarter. Bricklaying continues to have the most acute shortage with an index reading of -1.30.

“Finishing trades such as painting, plumbing and plastering recorded some of the stronger quarterly declines in availability. This reflects the large volume of projects initiated by HomeBuilder starting to reach completion.

“It is an excellent time to pursue an apprenticeship in residential building trades as the boom in home building is expected to continue throughout 2022 and into 2023,” Ms Lillicrap added.

Meanwhile, new data confirms the impact lockdowns have had on small businesses in the building and construction sector and

shows the need for measures to support increased digital uptake and capacity building to accelerate recovery from Covid lockdowns.

The data, released by MYOB in its Small Business Health Index, shows lockdowns had immediate impacts for the building and construction sector. As of October 22, total invoice creation was down 31%, gross pay was down by 23% and employment was down by 16% compared to baseline.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said these insights were particularly important for the industry as it moved forward out of lockdowns.

“This data highlights the impact that low levels of digitisation, particularly for SMEs have on businesses,” Mrs Wawn said.

“Invoicing is down across the board, with in-person invoicing rendered impossible during lockdowns,” she said. “Businesses with low levels of digitisation have been exposed as less resilient.”

Mrs Wawn said Covid had been an accelerator of existing trends such as digitisation and has provided tangible evidence of how low levels of digital uptake hurts small business in the sector.

*Cont P 7*



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*From P 3*

pasture systems relevant to Northern Australia,” Ms Stünzner said.

In addition to technical field work and trials, the project team will work to keep the forestry and

livestock industries up-to-date with key research findings to inform investors and landowners on the benefits of these novel systems.

**• New Forests taking fresh look at pairing forestry with agriculture, Page 10.**

# Guidelines to minimise and manage impacts of wildfires and maximise resource recovery

AS summer approaches and the potential for bushfire events, FWPA is supporting industry by providing information and resources to help minimise and manage the impacts of wildfires and maximise resource recovery.

The development of 'Guidelines for Salvage Harvest, Storage and Processing of Plantation-Grown Logs Affected by Fire' highlights the importance of integrated fire planning and offers a comprehensive summary of the collective knowledge and experience of many Australian forest industry members combined with international experience and research.

Author of the guidelines Braden Jenkin says one of the key messages to come out of the document was that it takes somewhere between 18 months to two years before the trees degrade too much to be useful as logs, depending on climate and damage levels

"The easiest and cheapest way is to store log resources on the stump,"



*Green shoots of hope... burnt bush and trees spring back to life.*

Mr Jenkin said.

While the guidelines provide an analysis of available data, FWPA has identified areas of future research, resulting in the development of a proposal for a National Fire Program.

The program is designed to increase the Australian timber industry's preparedness and capacity to minimise the adverse impacts of future fire events in forestry plantations and maximise the amount of logs that can be salvaged following fire damage.

The program will ultimately develop a decision

support system (DSS) to identify optimal post-fire salvage responses that are customised to different regions, fire intensities, stand ages and site conditions. This will provide benefits to the timber industry through better utilisation of fire-impacted forests.

The sophisticated FireHawk fire detection camera is set

**“FIREHAWK: TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT**

to enhance fire management practices, improve the protection of assets, and safeguard the broader community.

The FireHawk camera can undertake 360-deg. scans of its surroundings and streams up-to-the minute surveillance. Once smoke is detected, the system sends alerts to fire managers via their mobile phones, which is available as an app to enable a rapid response.

Early results have shown the camera can detect fires up to 30 km away, providing the industry with confidence in the technology's potential to significantly enhance fire management during the coming season.

Meanwhile, the University of the Sunshine Coast's development of a new app, NOBURN (National Bushfire Resilience Network) is designed to help predict the likelihood of bushfire events and minimise their effects.

After development and testing, the app will be available to all Australian residents by July 2022.



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

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# Judging panel of five announced for 'virtual' 22nd annual Australian Timber Design Awards

## Covid-19 and travel constraints no barrier to quality and number of entries

JUDGES have been announced for the 22nd Australian Timber Design Awards to be held as a virtual event, with a date for the awards ceremony to be confirmed shortly.

"With Covid restrictions and travel constraints still upon us we appreciate the strong and wide support by entrants this year," said Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, which is organising the event.

"The quality of the entries this year is exceptional and we would like to thank all of those involved for taking the time to put forward their submissions for the design awards."

The judging panel comprises:

- Bill Dowzer is a strategic leader with specialist expertise in the briefing and the design of the new workplace and education environments. He is a principal at BVN which recently led the establishment of its New York City design studio. Mr Dowzer has also led the design development of Space and Co, a co-working brand for Australian REIT GPT, AltSpace, an on-demand offering for LiquidSpace, and worked with Convene to develop innovative products for the evolving world of 'building as a service'.

Mr Dowzer has extensive expertise in master planning, early project strategic direction and brief creation.



**First prize winner of the 21st Australian Timber Design Awards ... Marrickville Library entered by architects BVN and Taylor Thomson Whiting. The library and community centre are located on the site of the former Marrickville Hospital site in Sydney which closed in 1990. The library is crafted inside and out with timber used for its columns, façade, screening, internal walls, window and door frames, tiered seating, joinery, ceilings and furniture.**



**Bill Dowzer**



**Meryle Hare**



**Luke Johnson**



**David Rowlinson**



**Sunny Wilder**

Notably, he has been involved in designing and directing numerous award-winning projects ranging from public, educational, and cultural buildings to commercial work environments.

- Meryl Hare is principal and design director of interior design practice Hare + Klein, formed in Sydney in 1989. Hare + Klein is a five-time winner of the prestigious Australian Interior Design Awards, Australian Timber Design Award, the inaugural Future Home Green Interiors Award, and H&G's Top 50 Rooms.

Hare + Klein was shortlisted for the international 2017 WIN awards, received the IDEA Gold Medal in 2020, and has been selected for the prestigious Andrew Martin International Design Review in 11 volumes.

Ms Hare is a Fellow of the Design Institute of Australia; she has received a citation for services to the design industry and was inducted to the Design Institute of Australia Hall of Fame in 2011 and House & Garden Hall of Fame in 2018.

- Luke Johnson is a principal at Architectus who has worked throughout Australia, Japan and Europe on arts and cultural, education, residential, transport, health and workplace sector projects.

Along with highly-awarded completed mass timber projects, such as the Macquarie University Incubator and Ainsworth

Building, Mr Johnson is currently leading several projects for Architectus in design and construction phases. These include the UNSW Health Translation Hub, the Central Station Precinct Reference Design, the Cranbrook School Centenary Renewal and the state's significant Sydney Modern Project, collaborating with acclaimed Japanese architects SANAA on the design, documentation and construction phase services.

- David Rowlinson manages Planet Ark's, Make It Wood Campaign, which aims to increase the

use of responsibly sourced wood as a building material.

Mr Rowlinson studied architecture and building engineering in the UK and has an MBA from Macquarie Graduate School of Management and a Masters of Marketing from the UNSW.

Before joining Planet Ark, he was the CEO of a significant Sydney-based building products manufacturer and is currently a judge on the NSW DPI Green Globe Awards.

- Sunny Wilder is a partner of Wilder Coyle Furniture and Design, a multidisciplinary studio and workshop that designs and crafts bespoke furniture and joinery from recycled and sustainably sourced hardwood.

The focus of the studio is on allowing the natural beauty of timber to prevail.

**“STRONG AND WIDE SUPPORT APPRECIATED”**

**NOVEMBER**

**22-23: AFPA Meetings – ONLINE ATTENDANCE ONLY.** [www.ausfpa.com.au](http://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](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)

**JUNE 2022**

**NB. REVISED DATE**  
**13: AFPA gala dinner. –TBA. POSTPONED EVENT.** [www.ausfpa.com.au](http://www.ausfpa.com.au)  
**NB. REVISED DATE**  
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**EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.**

**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](http://www.fba-events.com) or contact [karolina@forest-analytics.com](mailto:karolina@forest-analytics.com)

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

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“As the Prime Minister highlighted prior to the federal Budget, ‘one of the biggest challenges and opportunities turns on how we respond to the digital transformation’. We are working government on how they can support our industry to do so,” she said.

MYOB modelling shows there are nearly 80,000 SMEs in the construction industry alone with no or very low levels of digitisation

of their business processes. Businesses located in regional areas have less access to business and employee support services.

“We know that the greatest current challenge for SMEs in construction is managing cash flows given the stresses caused by supply disruptions, COVID delays and a mini-housing boom which has meant SMEs have had to take on more work than usual,” Mrs Warn said.



**1/ Angela Lillicrap... all trades recorded a deterioration in availability during the September.**  
**2/ Danita Warn... greatest challenge managing cash flows given the stresses of Covid.**

“MYOB data shows that one of the greatest benefits of digitisation for SMEs is

better cashflow management. Digitisation will help small building businesses to better manage their projects so they can more accurately factor in the costs of building products and specialist tradespeople into their quotes,” she said.

“With the construction industry home to more SMEs than any other industry, meaningful digital adoption will have perhaps the greatest impact in business recovery and improving business resilience.”

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# BC architects first to use advanced robotics to automatically assemble mass timber buildings

## Opening of urban housing factory marks important milestone for Intelligent City

INTELLIGENT City, a Canadian industry leader in mixed-use urban housing, green building strategies, digital design, manufacturing and robotics in timber construction has opened its first urban housing factory.

After developing and commissioning robotic technology to provide turn-key homes, Intelligent City has begun building urban housing projects in the company's factory in North Delta, a middle-class commuter town in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

The company's design methodology through mass timber building systems, combines several technologies to deliver buildings as customisable one-stop solutions. An adaptable building platform made from large mass timber assemblies forms the foundation. Co-founders Cindy Wilson and Oliver Lang, who have worked in architecture for 25 years, led the company with their vision since it was founded in 2008.

"The opening of the urban housing factory marks a very important milestone for Intelligent City," Oliver Lang said.

"We are leading the housing industry through a product and platform-based approach to address affordability, liveability and climate change issues," he said.

"We are now the first in the world to use advanced robotics to automatically assemble mass timber building systems that have



**1/ An adaptable building platform made from large mass timber assemblies form the foundation at Intelligent City.**

**2 Natalie Telewiak... composite wood products can cut the carbon intensity of buildings by 96% compared with traditional concrete and steel.**

been tested to meet the latest building code and net zero standards."

Intelligent City recently won the Breakthrough Energy Solutions Canada competition, and received financial support from a variety of funding programs in Canada. The provincial government supported the company with a \$460,000 grant from the CleanBC Building Innovation Fund.

"When it comes to tackling the issues of climate change and housing, we know we need to be at the leading edge of innovation," said the BC Minister for Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Ravi Kahlon.

**“ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY, LIVEABILITY AND CLIMATE ISSUES**



"This type of tech and ingenuity are the type of solutions that advances our building sector in a sustainable way," he said.

"Using mass timber is key to creating a more resilient forest sector ... it's the construction material of the future and it allows us to rethink what's possible."

Intelligent City is focused on the construction of mid-to-high-rise urban housing as well as commercial buildings through the convergence of mass timber, design engineering, automated manufacturing, and proprietary software.

The company is currently working on projects totalling 2880 homes in Canada and 1400 homes in the US many

of which are supported by BC Wood, which is also at the heart of Google's first mass timber office building.

The global technology giant is making use of British Columbia timber and expertise as it works to complete its first ever mass-timber office in Sunnyvale, California.

Vancouver-based Michael Green Architecture served as the lead designer on the five-storey, 16,908 sq m facility, slated for completion next year.

The project relies primarily on composite wood products, sourced from British Columbia, which principal architect Natalie Telewiak says will cut the carbon intensity of the building by 96% compared to traditional concrete and steel.

"These materials are actually grown by the sun," Ms Telewiak said.

"So you think about the carbon that goes into those trees and forests, grows those materials, and then when we sustainably extract those from the forest and then replant them, that new tree then also absorbs carbon," she said.

"So when done sustainably, it's part of a net-zero solution for construction."

In British Columbia, such towers are permitted up to 12 storeys in height, while the 2021 International Building Code has been amended to allow for structures of up to 18 storeys based on rigorous fire testing by the US government.

# Concerns that sustainable wood production is being ‘closed off needlessly’ in native forests

## Certified wood substantially accelerates the transition to low-carbon economies

SUSTAINABLE wood production is being unnecessarily closed off in native forests, says Responsible Wood, the governing body in Australia for PEFC.

“This concern arises as certified, sustainable forest management is being wrongfully confused by key decision makers and influencers as being incompatible with the mitigation of climate change, the maintenance of biodiversity and native forest health,” marketing and communications officer Jason Ross said.

“The implication that sustainable forest management is possible in plantation forests, but not in native forests, is not borne out by scientific evidence,” Mr Ross said.

“It is also inconsistent with the approaches used in other regions, such as in Europe, where the sustainable management of native forests has been practiced for many centuries.”

Mr Ross said timber harvesting and the associated forest regeneration activities, when practiced in accordance with forest certification systems, did not reduce carbon stocks or biodiversity across the certified forest estate. Neither did it lead to deforestation.

“To be clear, deforestation and the associated environmental harm is readily understood to be



**1/ Examining a young blackbutt plantation in the Wedding Bells state forest in the NSW north coast hinterland. Wedding Bells has operated not only as a successful source of timber production, but as a major recreational asset for the local community and popular attraction for tourists visiting the region.**

**2 Jason Ross... sustainable management of native forests has been practiced for many centuries in Europe.**

the clearing of forests for conversion to other uses such as urban development, agriculture and mining,” he said.

“Certified, sustainable forest management is the exact opposite and prohibits deforestation.

“Put simply, applying scientifically based sustainable forest management provides

healthy forests and, in many cases, improves forest health through the application of best-practice management.

“Importantly, the managers of certified forests are required to maintain

**“ STATEMENT RELEASED ON NATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

or enhance the forest’s contribution to carbon cycles and to identify significant biodiversity values and then implement these practices to support the maintenance or enhancement of these values.”

Responsible Wood has released a new statement on the management of Australia’s native forests, launched at its AGM on October 19.

The release of the statement comes at a time when the COP26 meeting in Glasgow represented a significant milestone in defining common actions to tackle the climate crisis. Nature-based solutions – the sustainable management and use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges – have a critical role to play in limiting global warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels.

Responsible Wood works to protect, responsibly manage, and further enhance forests, which are probably the most well-known nature-based solution for climate change.

“Our objective is to increase the capacity of managed forests to address societal challenges, such as climate change, effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously promoting the use of sustainably sourced wood products, which can help us to substantially accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies,” Jason Ross said.

# New Forests wants farmers to take fresh look at pairing forestry with agriculture

## David Brand: chalking up the failed managed investment schemes as lessons learned

GLOBAL assets manager New Forests wants farmers to chalk up the failed managed investment schemes as lessons learned and take a fresh look at pairing forestry with agriculture.

Talking after the company's purchase of Lawson Grains, Australia's leading corporate grain farmer, David Brand said in an address to the Impact X Summit Sydney last week, "agriculture is a good fit in our forestry-dominated portfolio."

New Forests has \$7.7 billion in assets under management across 1.1 million ha.

"We've been cropping maybe 10,000-15,000 ha in Western Australia that was formerly under trees in ex-Great Southern plantations and so, when Lawson Grains came up for sale, that gave us an opportunity to expand our cropping," Mr Brand said.

"Where you've got cropping and forestry and conservation and biodiversity areas you can be thinking about that in terms of whole-of-landscape outcomes and carbon production systems optimisation between forestry and agriculture."

**“MORE LAND IN PARTNERSHIPS WITH FARMERS**



**1/ An ambitious project to plant 250,000 native trees in a bid to generate carbon credits while reversing the effects of salinity is under way at Kalannie in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, about 260 km north-east of Perth.**

**Broadacre farmer Bob Nixon (pictured) is behind the project, which is expected to take another three years to complete but provide lasting benefits. It began three years ago when the family bought 1400 ha of low-value farmland adjoining the family property.**

(Countryman – Evan Collins Photography)

**2/ David Brand... expanding the forestry estate by joint venturing with rural landowners.**

New Forest wanted access to more land, Mr Brand added, through partnerships with farmers.

"As we look to expand the forestry estate, there's hopefully going to be an opportunity ... where we can potentially be joint venturing with rural landowners or leasing land that's maybe less suitable for agriculture so we start to create a landscape that integrates forestry with farming," he said.

The form of the arrangements was negotiable, Mr Brand said, and could involve a straight



land lease or a share in either the carbon credits or the timber that plantations produced.

"The idea is to explore the structure that is of most interest to the farming community so that it's a win-win approach," he said.

"From our perspective, this is more capital efficient, and it's also more aligned, I think, with rural community interests.

"I know, previously, there has been concern that an organisation like us would come and buy large amounts of land.

"We would rather a model that's based on partnerships. And maybe from time to time we buy some properties, but generally we're focused on trying to

build a regime that's working with the local communities that are there today."

Mr Brand said the scale of the on-farm plantings would need to be at least 20-40 ha to make management viable.

New Forests would engage contractors to maintain the plantations over the term of the arrangements, which would be about 15 years for eucalypt plantations or 30 years for pines. At farm level, Mr Brand said, forestry needn't crowd out farming either.

"When you sit down with a farmer, they'll say, 'Look mate, this 100 ha over here, I don't make any money from it, if you could work that for forestry, I'd be happy to have a go,'" he said.

"We're trying find ways we can optimise land allocation and not try and take the prime country that's there for growing wheat or canola or barley."

Mr Brand said forestry presented an opportunity for agricultural regions to diversify.

New Forests was looking for land with average rainfall of more than 600 mm, good soils, and proximity to sawmills or ports.

"There's probably six or seven key 'forestry hubs'

From P 10

and that's where we've got consolidated timber processing, and scale and capacity of existing plantations, so we'll focus forestry into those areas," Mr Brand said.

He referred to the Green Triangle region around Mount



Mixing trees and crops can help both farmers and the climate.

**“WE WANT TO EXPAND BECAUSE THE COUNTRY HAS A HUGE TIMBER DEFICIT**

Gambier and Hamilton, south-west Western Australia, northern Tasmania, and the Murray Valley region

in NSW and Victoria.

“The whole forestry estate in Australia is less than 2 million ha, so it's tiny

compared to agriculture but we do want to expand because the country has a huge timber deficit,” Mr Brand said.

“We're importing sawn timber from places like Scandinavia, and that can be quite volatile in terms of its pricing. Particularly now when we've got a strong housing market, I think there's a desire to have more of our timber produced domestically.”

**(With extracts from Queensland Country Life).**

## Setting standard for embodied carbon in timber

TIMBER Development UK is bringing clarity to how to account for embodied carbon in timber construction with a newly-released technical paper.

‘Assessing the carbon-related impacts and benefits of timber in construction products and buildings’ explains how to account for carbon in timber buildings and Environmental Product Declarations by rigorously applying the latest European standards and the RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon Assessment in the built environment.

This will prove useful

for architects, engineers, clients, and contractors when assessing the embodied carbon associated with buildings and other structures, as well as product manufacturers and suppliers in demonstrating the carbon impact of their products.

Charlie Law, sustainability director at Timber Development UK, says the construction and built environment sector is responsible for nearly 40% of global CO2 emissions; a significant proportion of this is through embodied carbon accumulated within the construction and manufacturing process.



**Charlie Law... rising wave of awareness on embodied carbon.**

“Regulatory and professional focus has for the past four decades largely focused on operational carbon, such as heating in buildings, while embodied carbon emissions have been overlooked – but this is beginning to change,” Mr Law said.

“Across the built environment professions there is a rising wave of awareness

that if we are to build to net-zero carbon we need to tackle how we account for embodied carbon,” he said.

“This paper seeks to help clarify how the standards require us to account for embodied carbon within timber buildings and structures so we can better understand, measure, and address these emissions in order to reduce their environmental impact.”

He said the paper sought to help build understanding and drive forward low-carbon construction, and set the standard for measuring embodied carbon in timber construction.



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# Melbourne's tallest timber building a big feature at off-site construction conference

MELBOURNE'S tallest timber building will be included in the sessions program at the 'hybrid' Timber Offsite Construction Conference at the Crown Promenade on June 21 and 22 next year.

International real estate leader Hines will begin construction next year of the 15-level project in Collingwood, 2 km from the CBD.

The building, targeting completion in Q3 2023, will feature 18,200 sq m of net leasable space across the 15 floors, with average floor plates ranging from 900 to 1500 sq m.

Designed by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects, the Wellington Tower will incorporate updated designs to meet the demands and needs of the market post-Covid and is designed to achieve 5-Star NABERS and 5.5 Green Star ratings as a minimum

Hines recognises the needs of contemporary, technology-rich workers are shifting the way we think about workplace design. The company has connected with designers to explore these



**1/ The T3 design concept of wood columns, beam and floor joists relies on exposed engineered wood components.**

**2/ Jo Lees... new 15-level tower will be sustainable, renewable and structurally predictable.**

shifts and respond to growing cultural demand for local authenticity, sustainability, and urban and social connectivity.

The outcome is Hines global T3 strategy for prefabricated mass wood construction – Timber Transit & Technology – a unique and

highly successful program for buildings around the world.

Hines Sydney region construction manager Jo Lees will explain the T3 concept in a presentation at the timber offsite conference in June, just prior to the Collingwood project site commencement.

Ms Lees said the T3 design concept of wood columns, beam, and floor joists relied on exposed engineered wood components that convey organic warmth and

beauty within the workplace environment, while being sustainable, renewable, and structurally predictable.

"The T3 concept also provides modern, clean, energy-efficient systems and technologies aimed at reducing the lifecycle carbon footprint of the project within its community.

Mr Lees added: "While timber will be used to construct the building there will also be plenty of wood visible inside to create a 'biophilic' atmosphere aimed at reducing stress

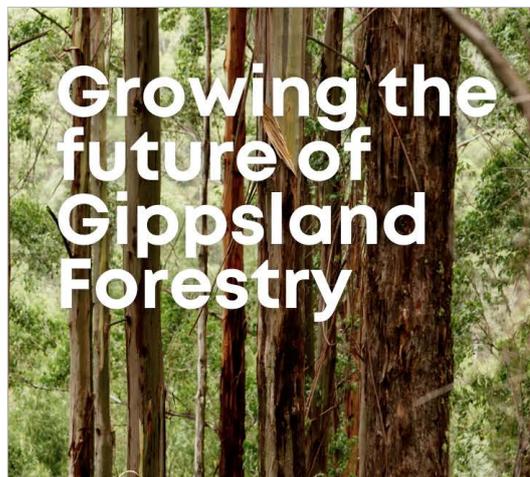
and improving productivity through interaction with natural materials"

More detail on the conference theme 'Timber & Technology – The Zero Carbon Future' – at [www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)



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**On the cover: Wellington Tower, Melbourne, star attraction at the Timber Offsite Construction Conference next year. (Artist impression)**



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# New FWPA board director Yvonne Pengilly brings wide experience in construction sector

AN award-winning builder with an extensive career across the Australian construction sector, Yvonne Pengilly was elected a director at the Forest and Wood Products Australia board at an online AGM on October 28.

Ms Pengilly holds a Bachelor of Technology (Engineering) and has worked within the construction industry for the past 35-plus years, including roles as board member, assistant commissioner, managing director, regional manager, project manager,



Yvonne Pengilly



Craig Taylor



Stephen Dadd



Katie Fowden

design manager and contracts administrator across project areas of trade contracting, client-side project management, principal contractor, developer and government.

During her career, she has worked in all facets of the industry from family-operated businesses to Tier

1 builders and significant developers delivering high-end resort developments and apartments.

Ms Pengilly is a registered open builder in Queensland and has held board positions with two state regulatory authorities, along with being chair of the Building Regulators Forum supporting

the Building Ministers forum to respond to the Building Confidence Report recommendations.

She was awarded Master Builders Queensland State Woman in Construction in 2013 and used this platform to found Women

Cont P 17

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# Green leaf factories ... trees the real climate change warriors storing energy from the sun

## Nature's biological miracle: forests are at the very core of human evolution

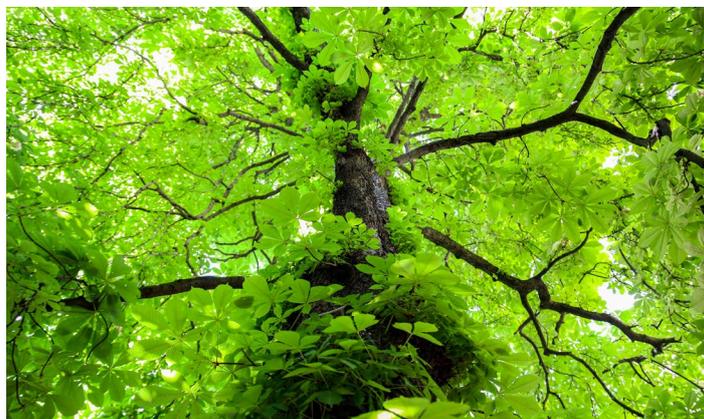
IN the green canopies is where the truly magic story of nature is to be found.

With a keen national focus on climate change issues in the lead up to the Glasgow climate change summit and the federal government's ongoing equivocation on whether or not to develop a net zero carbon position, it is useful to once again reinforce the ability of trees to be a key climate change warrior.

Trees have been described as the biological miracle at the very core of human evolution; not only do they provide the essential ingredients that have given rise to the creation of life, they hold the key to the continuity of humanity.

At the most basic level, it is the leaves in those green canopies where the truly magic story of nature is to be found.

In a process of photosynthesis, leaves are able to turn carbon dioxide from the sky into giant trees. Within these green leaf factories the stuff we humans and other animals breathe out is combined with energy from the sun and water drawn up from the ground and turned into carbon-based sugars and cellulose to make that renewable commodity wood.



**In a process of photosynthesis, leaves are able to turn carbon dioxide from the sky into giant trees and other plants.**

A description of photosynthesis that I like was written in 2008 by Tim Flannery. He said: "A lot of people somehow imagine trees grow from the ground. They don't, they grow from the air ... they are congealed carbon dioxide and all of that carbon is stored in them, otherwise it would be out there in the atmosphere heating our planet"

Not only do trees 'suck' carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and wood they produce store it away for decades or longer, they also have the capacity to be at the centre of a sustainable future for humanity. Trees hold the prospect of supplying renewable energy and sustainable, environmentally friendly products yet to be

8% of all global atmospheric carbon dioxide. If no additional carbon dioxide moved into the atmosphere, in just 12 years plants would have absorbed and used all of the atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Of course, we know that trees do not just grow on forever. A forest of mature trees 'locks up' large amounts of carbon, but little new growth takes place in such a forest. To store ever-increasing amounts of carbon requires trees to be harvested, wood products to be manufactured and tree regeneration or replanting to occur.

When wood cannot be reused, it can be deployed to produce energy through combustion. The energy produced from such combustion is effectively stored energy from the sun. As the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the combustion process is no more than the amount previously stored, burning wood is carbon neutral.

•*Tim Flannery is an Australian scientist, environmentalist and global warming activist. He was Australian of the Year in 2007 and held the chair in Environmental Sustainability at Macquarie University in Sydney.*

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# Clarification on Vic. steep slopes harvesting

VICTORIA'S forest industry has welcomed the clarification in the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 regarding harvesting on steep slopes.

The code mandatory action for operations on steep slopes has not changed in the amendment and remains: "Timber harvesting operations must not occur on slopes where they cannot be conducted safely, or they threaten the stability of the soil or have high potential for adverse off-site effects. The potential for mass soil movement must be assessed by the managing authority and necessary preventative actions undertaken."

The clarification corrects an error introduced in the Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in

Victoria's State forests 2014.

VicForests said in a statement: "As we have consistently stated, the clarification is precisely the understanding that has existed for many years. We take our responsibility of sustainably harvesting coupes within our state forests for today and future generations extremely seriously and reject allegations that we have engaged in widespread and systemic breaches of slope prescriptions.

"We welcome the clarifications brought about by this review. As always, VicForests complies with the code."

"Victoria's water catchments will now have fewer protections against forest harvesting," says David Lindenmayer, a professor of forest ecology at ANU.



**Michael O'Connor... managing the forest in a sustainable manner**

"It's the Victorian government kowtowing to the CFMEU and VicForests to cover up illegal behaviour," Lindenmayer proclaimed.

Michael O'Connor, national secretary, Construction Forestry Maritime Mining Energy Union, said, "if the government was kowtowing to the union, then they wouldn't be shutting the native forest sector in 2030, which we think is a disgraceful decision."

He said the change to the regulations were taking on board all the responsibilities of managing the forest

in a sustainable manner and protecting the values that need to be protected – economic, social and environmental."

A spokeswoman for the Victorian Environment Minister said the changes to the law were needed because of errors in its drafting.

"Obligations under the new code do not change in practice. The code provides clarity, making it more enforceable, and ensuring better environmental outcomes," she said.

Victoria's chief conservation regulator Kate Gavens said the changes brought clarity to the law.

"Clarity in the law for us means it's easier to monitor compliance and it's easier to enforce compliance," she said.

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in Construction FNO, which successfully promotes engagement with engineers, architects and builders in Far North Queensland through educational events.

“Having Yvonne on board will provide many benefits to the company and to the industry as a whole,” FWPA chair Craig Taylor said.

“Her knowledge and

expertise will be invaluable.”

Stephen Dadd, Katie Fowden and Craig Taylor were all reappointed to the board by the members.

The 2021 AGM provided FWPA the opportunity to share successes of the year with stakeholders as well as communicating plans and goals for the future of the industry.

The meeting included an

address from federal Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Jonno Duniam, who gave an update on the National Forest Industries Plan and ongoing developments with the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation.

Craig Taylor was also re-elected as chair of the FWPA Board, in a brief board meeting following the AGM.

Under the FWPA

constitution, the chair is elected by fellow directors at the first board meeting following the AGM, which took place on Thursday, October 28.

FWPA's second all virtual AGM was attended by more than 50 members and industry representatives, and a further 18 provided proxies, from across the forest and wood products supply chain.

## Webinar introduced changes to chain-of-custody standard

A WEBINAR on Tuesday introduced and explained the main changes in the AS 4707:2021 standard, providing the basis for the requirements that certificate holders can use in carrying Responsible Wood and/or PEFC claims in Australia.

The workshop was hosted by Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries and Peter Zed,

chair of the AS 4707 standards reference committee.

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

The AS 4707 standard

reference committee and working group has revised the AS 4707 standard to align with changes in the chain-of-custody rules for PEFC ST 2002:2020 and trademark-requirements and PEFC ST 2001:2020 trademark rules.

The workshop was hosted using zoom conferencing, and included questions and answers.



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# i30: small carbon footprint in big foot country

“THANK Heaven for little girls, they grow up in the most delightful way.” So says Maurice Chevalier in his French song.

And so it was that I took two darling daughters for a spin to the top of Springbrook plateau in the Gold Coast hinterland 1000 m above sea-level along a winding road, about a 30-minute drive from the M1.

You cross two 1930s prisoner-built wooden bridges, one a scary single lane-only section, before you arrive at the world heritage national park, in a region known as the ‘Land of Tall Timbers’ by the early timber-getters,

“You were a bit heavy-footed on some of those hairpins back there,” daughter No. 1 whispered.

“But not as heavy-footed as the yowie they say inhabits these parts,” I responded.

Yowie researcher Dean Harrison reckons he’s recorded footage of two 3.6 m specimens and has a plaster cast of a foot that would scare the shoelaces off Raoul Merton. The region has had more yowie sightings than anywhere else in Australia.

“It’s a giant – makes Chewbacca from Star Wars



The popular i30 N Line variant... Hyundai’s small-car option for buyers who don’t want a hatchback.

look like a pygmy marmoset. It barks, growls and coughs loudly and smells of urine,” I offered.

“Yuck,” cried daughter No. 2.

So, to our transport to the top of this world heritage site – Hyundai’s biggest seller, the i30, a performance-enhanced turbo N-line variant, the Korean’s small-car flagship option for buyers who don’t want a hatchback.

The 2021 sedan benefits from an Australian-specific chassis tune, developed over thousands of kilometres

“A STRIKING COUPE-LIKE FOUR-DOOR

of driving on a variety of surfaces, from urban to highways, freeways, mountain passes and country roads.

Combined fuel consumption is 7.3L/100km

With a performance-enhanced turbo N Line variants, the 2021 i30 sedan applies Hyundai’s new ‘sensuous sportiness’ design identity to create a striking coupe-like four-door.

There are two trim levels, two transmission and one engine in the i30 N-Line sedan. The entry level is available with a six-speed manual for \$30,290 or a seven-speed dual-clutch for \$32,290. The DCT-only Premium adds some spec taking the price to \$37,290 (all

prices before on-road costs).

The new i30 Sedan has an extensive standard suite of Hyundai’s SmartSense advanced safety technologies, including forward collision-avoidance assist, driver attention warning, lane keeping and following assist.

The N Line premium variant features 10-way powered, heated and ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, sunroof and an eight-speaker Bose sound system.

i30 sedan N Line models feature multi-link independent rear suspension and benefit from an Australian chassis tuning program for comfort and good handling, evident on the twisting road to Springbrook.

The i30 sedan brings a practical 474-litre cargo area, 20% larger than its i30 hatch sibling.

At the end of the Springbrook trail – a dead end – we found the sweet-smelling Rose Garden café run by a Korean who served fresh hot scones and toasted cheese and tomato fingers.

Footnote: Hyundai Motor has committed to reduce its carbon footprint 75% by 2040 and says I will achieve carbon neutrality in its products and global operations by 2045.

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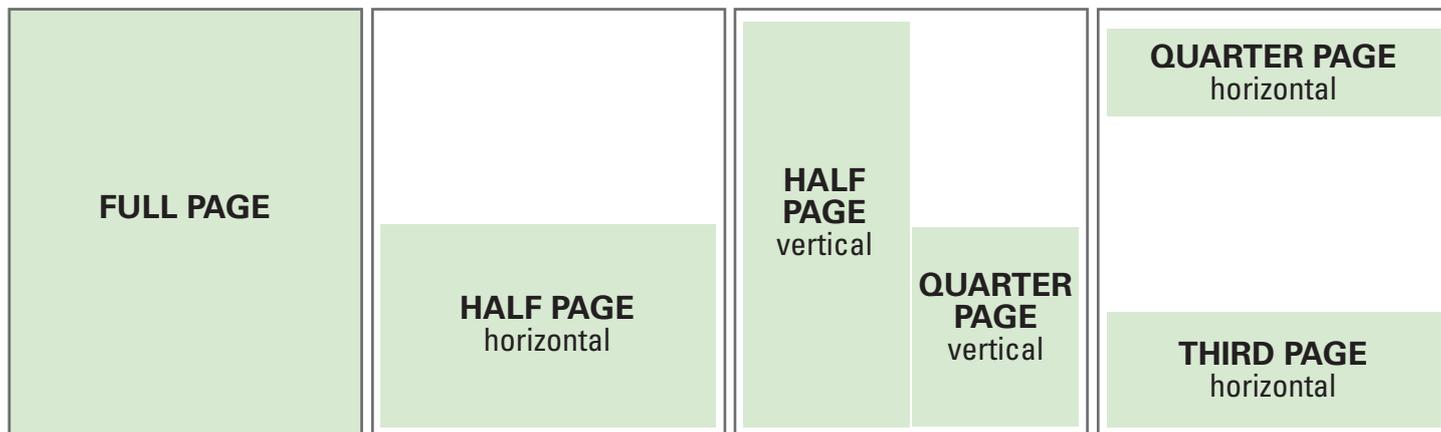
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