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## Tasmania launchpad for \$86m plantation pledge

COVER STORY P 3



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# All we want to do is get on with growing trees, say NZ forest owners after Aussie commitment

NEW Zealand forest owners are telling the government that Australia's support of plantation forestry is in sharp contrast to the increasingly restrictive measures their side of the Tasman.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was in Tasmania on Monday to announce a \$86 million package for forestry – the biggest government forest support package for more than 30 years that will leverage “at least \$300 million in total investment into plantations”.

He termed forestry a “critical national treasure” and future supply is needed for future generations, with global demand for timber products “expected to quadruple by 2050”.

The president of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association Phil Taylor said the

industry was not seeking the type of financial support being delivered in Australia.

“Basically, all we want to do is get on with growing trees and responding to strong world and local demand,” Mr Taylor said.

“Our problem is a sequence of messages from the government on new rules to restrict forest expansion. Just last night (Monday) we saw on the Sunday program that the government was planning to put a stop to the right to convert a whole farm to forestry.”

Mr Taylor says if there is a problem with what is called carbon farming, then that should be treated separately and not by threatening to change the rules relating to production forestry.

“A modest expansion of the exotic plantation estate is vital to provide enough carbon sequestration capacity for the government to budget for a carbon zero economy by 2050,” he said.

“The right signals have to be sent to farmers and other landowners to ensure this



**Phil Taylor...modest expansion of the exotic plantation estate is vital to provide enough carbon sequestration capacity.**

biofuels,” he said. Our industry is going to struggle to just meet the demand from New Zealand dairy processors to deliver enough wood material for heating powder driers as the processors move out of burning coal.

“On top of that there is the emergence of a global bio-economy, where wood is going to be used much

happens and these are not the signals we are getting at the moment.

“Then there is the economic aspect. Forestry and horticulture are predicted to lead the way to export recovery over the next few years.”

Phil Taylor echoes the expectations of the Australian government for a huge increase in wood demand for new products

“It’s already happening with

more widely to replace greenhouse gas emitting substances, such as concrete, steel and plastics.

“We should be leading in producing these products, not adopting policies which would result in having to import them.”

“Scott Morrison seems to be getting this. I do hope our government does too.”

Meanwhile, The Forest

**“NEW GOVT RULES WILL RESTRICT FOREST EXPANSION”**



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# A question for the PM: how will you do it?

## States have to agree on sharing \$86m pre-election plantation pledge

KEVIN HARDING

THE pre-election announcement this week in Tasmania that the federal government will provide \$86 million to support the establishment of new plantations nationally, although welcome, has generated some scepticism among senior members of the industry.

They recall that past announcements of plantation schemes and access to funding have not translated into trees being planted.

In welcoming the announcement, the CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association Ross Hampton noted: "AFPA has been calling for urgent action by all levels of government on timber supply constraints, which will only worsen as global demand for current and future renewable wood fibre increases if we do not act now to grow our timber plantation resource."

He says Australia is in the grip of a critical housing timber shortage due to record building activity and timber imports drying up as global demand increases. Without action to drive plantings, the federal government's goal to establish one billion new timber trees by 2030 will not be realised and a looming shortage of 250,000 house frames by 2035 will be imminent."

So there is a clear argument from our forestry and building



**PM Scott Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg in north Tasmania announce a national cash-grant scheme for foresters and farmers to establish plantations.**

sectors for more plantation establishment to meet this predicted future demand for timber and housing.

But the \$86 million industry support to plant 150 million trees on 400,000 ha, announced in Tasmania by Scott Morrison this week, has caused some confusion among industry stakeholders.

Many of them, justifiably, are asking how the government's commitment to 1 billion trees (400,000 ha of plantations) by 2030 in the 2018 National Forest Industries Plan will be carried out.

It seems that this week's announcement was focused on 150 million trees in Tasmania, to be planted by 2027, while the \$86 million of funding is for all states and territories. The government is planning to contribute 40% to pooled funding, with state governments to contribute 60%. Private industry can access the fund to establish new plantations and is required to match public expenditure in a 50-50 split. The fund is open to state-run timber corporations, private plantation companies and

100,000 ha of this would come from farm forestry plantings.

Unfortunately, nothing solid has been presented about the taxation and superannuation inequities for small private forest growers.

The Australian Forest Growers (AFG 1969-2019), now merged into Forestry Australia, has been bringing this to the attention of government inquiries since the 1990s, more recently in 2020 (a submission to the Australian Government's House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources inquiry into timber supply chain constraints in the Australian

Cont P 8

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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“CONFUSION AMONG INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS”

# New Green Star Rating framework recognises Responsible Wood across all credit categories

RESPONSIBLE Wood, Australia's largest forest certification scheme, has been recognised as part of the Green Building Council of Australia's new Responsible Products Framework.

The new framework provides guidance for all building materials used in Green Star projects and applies to all new Green Star Rating Tools published by the GBCA.

The Responsible Wood certification scheme was assessed as 'best practice' and 'good practice' across four credit categories – responsible structure, responsible envelope, responsible finishes and responsible systems.

A copy of the assessment

is available for download.

In December, Responsible Wood published the Australia-New Zealand Standard (AS / NZS 4708: 2021 – Sustainable Forest Management – requirements) following a rigorous three-year process involving community, industry, scientific, academic, environmental, indigenous, employee and government representatives.



**Inspecting certified forests on the Sunshine Coast... Michelle McAndrew, HQ Plantations, Ross Garsden, BSI standards group, and Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood.**

assessed highly favourably and was among the world's leading standards.

The Australia-New Zealand Standard (AS / NZS 4708), along with the Australian Standard for Chain of Custody for Forest Products (AS 4707) are key components of the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

Responsible Wood chain of custody ensures processors, manufacturers,

Under the framework, the certification scheme is scored along with all other Green Star 'recognised initiatives.'

The framework's 'recognised initiatives' are used by products and manufacturers and contribute towards Green Star certification.

CEO Simon Dorries noted that Responsible Wood's sustainable forest management standard was rated highly across all credit categories.

"The 'responsible products framework' provides a new definition for responsible products," Mr Dorries said.

"It recognises schemes like Responsible Wood which have a positive environmental impact, are transparent, respect human rights, and take action to reduce carbon content."

Mr Dorries said the new 2021 standard for sustainable forest management had been

merchants and retailers source forest products from a sustainable origin and maintain the link through the supply chain.

**“ PROVIDING A NEW DEFINITION FOR RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTS ”**

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# Less timber, more taxes: housing unattractive for investors ... unaffordable for homeowners

## Let's increase our plantation estate so builders can use home-grown timber: VFPA

VICTORIA'S Minister for Housing Richard Wynne has announced a new Social and Affordable Housing Contribution (SAHC) for new developments with three dwellings or more.

Developers will pay 1.75% of the as-if-complete project value, and the income generated from these 'contributions' will go towards the Social Housing Growth Fund.

CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association Deb Kerr says Victorians are already dealing with a housing affordability crisis.

"You can be sure that developers and investors will pass on this tax to homebuyers in the form of higher land and house prices," Ms Kerr said.

"They carry the burden of stamp duty and other high costs of buying. Adding this scheme of having to subsidise the Big Housing Build is irresponsible."

Ms Kerr said affordable housing for all Victorians



**Subsidies and grants should be considered for businesses facing the greatest cost impacts arising from the introduction of the new National Construction Code in 2022.**

was crucial for a fair, wealthy society.

"But it cannot be the responsibility of homebuyers to shoulder this financial burden on top of exploding house prices," she said.

"Once again, the Andrews government is making homeowners pay for its election promises. If this government is serious about growing the state, we need a plan to increase housing affordability and sovereign capabilities that allow us

to value-add right here in Victoria."

Ms Kerr added: "Let's increase our plantation estate so builders can use home-grown timber. This will support local jobs and lower not only our carbon emissions but the cost of building homes."

In its submission to the 2022 March Budget, the Master Builders Association says government must support better building regulation outcomes.

Subsidies and grants should be considered for businesses facing the greatest cost impacts arising from the introduction of the new National Construction Code in 2022.

Regulation to improve the energy efficiency of a home should be introduced in a way that quantifies and mitigates risks and acknowledges the lead times required in the industry to facilitate change.

"Resources and mechanisms should be found to enable the building and construction businesses to access all of the standards they need at zero cost," says the MBA.

"For those in the residential building industry, some mandatory regulations have proven to restrict the way in which work can be performed. This means that more efficient and more cost-effective ways of completing projects may have to be dropped in favour of significantly more expensive techniques."



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Responsible Wood would like to announce the release of the new AS/NZS 4708 Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

Responsible  
Wood 

RW/1-10-1

From P 2

Owners Association is telling Federated Farmers that it needs to educate itself about how the Overseas Investment Act works before making any more false claims about non-existent overseas investment in carbon farming.

An unknown area of carbon farming has been planted by New Zealand landowners, with a number of farmers most likely planning on such 'plant-and-leave' forests on the more remote, steep and unproductive parts of their farms.

Federated Farmers has called on the government to change the rules of the special forestry test for overseas forest investment, claiming that overseas investors are carbon farming and taking farmland out of production.



Can the tree man and the cow man be friends?

Phil Taylor says this can't be true because any overseas investor using the special forestry test to obtain Overseas Investment Office consent is banned from carbon farming.

"The rules are quite clear," he said. "If you are an overseas investor, you can

only plant with the intention of harvesting."

He said there were plenty of powers in the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry, which is under the RMA, and the Overseas Investment Act, for monitoring and ensuring compliance, directly and

through the compulsory registration and monitoring of the forests by regional authorities.

The rules include boundary and river setbacks for planting and land preparation. The owners have to invest at the outset in means to produce timber and the regulations enforce that all the way through the planting, growing and harvest cycle.

Mr Taylor says Federated Farmers is claiming there is no mechanism to ensure this happens.

"But it has failed to name a single example of non-compliance," he said. "Nor has it been able to identify one single overseas investor who has been given approval to buy New Zealand owned farmland to plant carbon only forests."

## Canadian forest giants circle US sawmills for big buy-up

THE heirs to a handful of the biggest sawmills in the US stand to cash in handsomely in the near future as investment banks predict Canada's largest forest products companies will expand south of the border targeting privately-owned timberlands and sawmills.

Canada's largest

companies, including British Columbia-based West Fraser, Canfor and Interfor are flush with cash and on the hunt, say industry analysts.

After a series of deals over the past year, they say the obvious deals involving publicly-traded companies have played out and buyers are turning their attention



to privately-owned lumber businesses in southern

and north-western US, some of which are in their seventh generation of family ownership.

Analysts predict the next wave of takeovers will focus on smaller lumber businesses that would qualify as relatively low-risk, tuck-in acquisitions.

(The Globe and Mail)



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## FEBRUARY

**28: Forestry Australia science session webinar – ONLINE.** Predictive Modelling of Forest Dynamics & Big Data. Presenters Associate Professors Gary Sheridan and Craig Nitschke, University of Melbourne. RFP CPD points 1.5. Registrations close 9 am, February 28. Contact Andrea Diem, branch, events and communication officer on (03) 7065 42541 or emails [events@forestry.org.au](mailto:events@forestry.org.au)

## MARCH

**7: Australian Farm Institute Conference – Strangers Room, NSW Parliament, Sydney.** Where to next for ag advocacy? The event will be held both in person and online. Inquiries to 0427 458 034 or email [info@farminstitute.org.au](mailto:info@farminstitute.org.au)

**21: United Nations International Day of Forests.** Countries are encouraged to organise activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

**23: National Eucalypt Day.**

Help us find Australia's favourite gum tree. There are over 900 eucalypt species across the continent – Eucalyptuses, Corymbias and Angophoras – from the towering Mountain Ash of south eastern Australia, to the haunting ghost gum of the outback, to the West Australian Mottlecah – The Rose of the West. You have until March 20 to vote. Details for entry at [www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/eucalyptoftheyear/](http://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/eucalyptoftheyear/)

**29-30: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, NSW.** For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

## APRIL

**20-21: Centre for Future Timber Structures 2022 Australian Timber Design Workshops in Launceston,**

**Tasmania and Brisbane, QLD.** Created for building design professionals interested in timber construction to develop skills, confidence and networks in a unique, hands-on environment. Registration and cost: Early bird discount (ends February 28): \$900. Standard: \$1100 (single day \$650, student price: \$250). For further information Professor Keith Crews email: [k.crews@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.crews@uq.edu.au) Event re-scheduled from early February.

## MAY

**10-12: Environmental Forestry – Rotorua, New Zealand.** Forest Industry Engineering Association. Improving environmental performance across the forest industry. For further information see: [www.environmentalforestry.events](http://www.environmentalforestry.events)

**18-19: DesignBUILD – Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, VIC.** Event will bring together Australia's architecture, building, construction and

design communities. For further information see: [designbuildexpo.com.au](http://designbuildexpo.com.au)

## JUNE

**21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC.** New global 'hybrid' format. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions. For further information and registration visit the website [www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com](http://www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**11-16: Gottstein Trust Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, September 11, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, September 16, 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 program can be downloaded at [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)



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From P 3

plantation sector) and 2021 (submission to the DAWR Farm Management Deposits Scheme Evaluation).

Until these issues are addressed it is unlikely that farmers will integrate tree plantings into their rural enterprises on the scale needed to add 100,000 ha of timber to the supply chain.

The 11 forestry hubs established around the country are working on ideas to encourage new plantings to add to industrial supply chains. But it is still early days to see how much of their efforts to provide business cases and incentive arrangements to growers will translate into new greenfield plantation investment or farm forestry



**Private forest growers gather at a field day to discuss plantation issues.**

plantings for timber.

As a former president of AFG (2014-2019) and current advocate for small private plantation growers, it is disheartening to see another announcement without the underlying issues

of disincentives for small scale private investors being seriously addressed.

The funding announcement is welcomed but will require significant flesh to be put on these bones for both larger-scale and small-scale private

forest investors to start a new wave of plantation expansion in Australia.

{Scott Morrison was in Tasmania in 2019, ahead of the previous federal election, to announce a \$12.5 million commitment to create nine regional forestry hubs across Australia. Retaining the Tasmanian electorates of Bass and Braddon that the government won from Labor three years ago will be critical to its forming government in the upcoming federal election, expected in May}.

**On the cover: Eucalyptus nitens stands in northeast Tasmania. Tasmania's eucalypt forests are based on sustainable forest management principles and maximise the recovery, utilisation and value of harvested wood products.**  
Photo: Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

## National Eucalypt Day salute to sustainable forest industry

THE forest fraternity in Australia is hoping National Eucalypt Day, the biggest annual celebration of eucalypts on March 23, also recognises the worth of Australia's sustainable forest industry.

The special day promotes Australian eucalypts and "what they mean to our lives and hearts".

The event came about after Norwegian-born Bjarne Klaus Dahl linked his well-being and financial prosperity to

eucalypts, so much so that he left his entire estate to the Forests Commission of Victoria. The national trust was established in 2007.

There are more than 900 eucalypt species across the continent – eucalypts, corymbias and angophoras – from the towering Mountain Ash of south eastern Australia, to the haunting ghost gum of the Outback, to the West Australian mottlecah, the 'Rose of the West'.



**Victoria's mountain ash (Eucalyptus regnans) Until very recently, the swamp gum was the tallest flowering plant in the world. That record has been snatched by a tropical species in New Guinea.**

Organisers say they will be exciting to see some fervent social media action culminating in the eucalypt that takes out this year's 'Eucalypt of the Year'.

Eucalypt forests are valued for their diverse ecosystems and unique biodiversity and for their ability to regenerate and regrow and sequester carbon, for their provision of sustainable wood products and for their aesthetic value and recreational opportunities



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## Successful pilots influence the future of industry practices



### Training program

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- Targeted to decision makers
- Contextualised for forest industry
- Applicability to all business sizes
- Transferrable to daily operations.

Scheduled for national rollout mid 2022, the training program will:

- Promote continual professional development
- Increase business competency, operational compliance and risk management.
- Provide support for businesses to successfully complete certification.

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Certified businesses create confidence that they are consistently working to:

- A set of industry led national standards
- Improving work practices and performance
- Reducing overall management costs.
- Lowering compliance costs.

A leading practice Resource Centre is supporting businesses in achieving certification. Feedback from the pilot will influence the final certification standards and process for national rollout.

# Glulam bridge choice in high corrosion zone

**TED STUBBERSFIELD**

THE Dillman Bridge in Meaghers Grant, Nova Scotia, has been decommissioned for over two years, after a truck accident on the bridge deemed the bridge unusable. For nearly 100 years, the bridge crossed the Musquodoboit River, connecting many small communities. Without it, an estimated 1400 households in the region are forced to take lengthy detours.

Irrespective of the accident, the concrete and steel structure was unable to survive the harsh weather. The bridge is located in one of the highest exposed and embedded corrosion zones in Canada.

The province put out a tender for bridge replacement – supply, design and

installation – which was won by Timber Restoration Services along with Wood Research and Development.

The timber structure is 35 m long by 7.6 m wide and is designed for a load rating of CL-625 (62.5 tonne). It has a TL-4 crash proof rail system and an Alaskan yellow cedar handrail. The substructure consists of driven timber piles with a glulam timber back wall specifically designed for timber bridges.

The superstructure comprises glulam laminated deck panels sitting on eight glulam girders which have two fixed end-moment



*The superstructure comprises glulam laminated deck panels sitting on eight glulam girders*

connections that were assembled on-site. The use of High Strength Fibre and advanced techniques make this light-weight option not only a cheaper alternative to that of its competitors, but it also provides additional longevity. The beams are 1.56 m deep.

Prior to the timber arriving on site, it was manufactured and assembled

in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Jefferson, Oregon, prior to treatment. This allowed treatment uptake to take place in all bolt fastener holes, as well as pre-drilled lag holes.

All fasteners where possible are horizontal or vertical from underneath to help moisture penetration into the bright wood. The structure was then disassembled and sent away for pressure treatment with an oil-based product. This method not only expands longevity of the structure but it also allows for an accelerated schedule during installation on site.

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# FWCA asks: what's \$2m between friends?

## Culmination of anti-forestry groups stirred up after Black Saturday fires

WHEN a state government minister admits to discouraging its own agency from pursuing a \$2 million debt owed by anti-forestry activists, the unholy alliance between government and activism is laid bare.

It's a collusion which appears to have informed many baffling government decisions on forestry, not least of all the disastrous announcement in 2019 to end Victoria's native forest industry. And when the dots are connected, at the centre of it all is the Great Forest National Park campaign.

The GFNP campaign was orchestrated by activist organisation MyEnvironment and at least one academic from the Australian National University's Fenner School prior to the 2014 state election.

It was the culmination of a growing anti-forestry movement stirred up after the 2009 Black Saturday fires. Timber harvesting was falsely blamed as a key cause for the disaster (ignoring the massive fuel build up and the weather conditions of the time) and the anti-forestry lobby was incensed timber harvesting should continue afterwards.

Leading the charge was MyEnvironment which in 2012 took VicForests to the Supreme Court to halt timber harvesting in forest near Toolangi. It failed and was court-ordered to pay \$1.2 million in costs. The costs have not been paid and have attracted interest which puts the total figure at around \$2 million.

Shortly after MyEnvironment's failure in



***VicForests is defending against an ongoing barrage of vexatious litigation imposed by activists exploiting a loophole in the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004.***

the courts, the fringe group turned its focus to the GFNP campaign and was successful in achieving enough traction to turn it into a key political platform.

The Greens were all over it like seagulls on a chip, but they would never get enough power to enact such a proposal. Meanwhile, Labor was pulling out all the stops but still needed some kind of eco-policy to challenge the Greens for key inner-city Melbourne seats.

The ANU-backed GFNP must have looked ripe and taking it out from under the Greens would have been too good to resist. So it allegedly promised an academic that it would declare the GFNP if it should win the 2014 election.

It's a promise the government did not keep, thanks to intervention from the CFMEU, and, as a result,

the powerful enviro lobby went to DEFCON toys-out-of-the-pram. It wanted its GFNP and would hold its breath (and the Labor government to account) until it got one.

Even the Andrews government's announcement in 2019 that it would shut down the native timber industry by 2030 was not enough to pacify the raging 'enviro baby' which has since doubled down on its anti-forestry campaign.

Its tantrum has manifested itself in a withering and sustained assault on state forest agency VicForests which is playing out in the courts, in media outlets

**“THE GREENS WERE ALL OVER IT LIKE SEAGULLS ON A CHIP**

sympathetic to the anti-forestry movement and apparently now in the office of the Minister for Agriculture.

If it brings down VicForests, there is no native timber harvesting and the way to the symbolically significant GFNP is open. Success would prove just how powerful the anti-forestry lobby is.

Perhaps their plan is to embarrass the government by falsely accusing its forest agency of “illegal logging” as part of a blistering smear campaign.

At the very least the lobby is costing the taxpayer tens of millions of dollars in legal fees as VicForests defends an ongoing barrage of vexatious litigation imposed by activists exploiting a loophole in the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004.

They don't seem to care they are ordered to pay costs when their cases get tossed out of court (which they invariably do) and why would they? The government has basically told one of its agencies to go easy on recovering those penalties from the activists who are trying to cripple it in the courts.

That \$2 million owed to VicForests would go a very long way to compensating the dozens of people who are suffering financially because of the impacts of Victoria's activism culture.

They are the collateral damage in all of this along with the timber communities which face an uncertain future thanks to the ongoing

Cont P 12

# Outlook explores innovation, sustainability

PRODUCERS, experts, industry representatives, and government officials from Australia and overseas will be participating in ABARES's Outlook 2022 Conference from March 1 to 4.

Executive director of ABARES Jared Greenville said the event – the 52nd hosted by ABARES and the second hosted virtually – would explore growing agriculture and forestry industries through innovation and sustainability, the national and global agricultural outlook as well as labour market issues, key commodities, water markets and sustainability.

“The aim of this year’s



Jared Greenville



David Littleproud



Mathias Cormann

conference is to open a conversation on the opportunities for a sector that is emerging from the pandemic on the front foot,” Dr Greenville said.

“It is a sector that is also looking to take on and meet consumer and market’s growing expectations around sustainability.

“We’re expecting there will be a three-fold increase in the number of consumers in high-income countries between now and 2050. That

**“FORESTERS, FARMERS HAVE BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF THEM**

is around three billion more high income consumers.”

The Outlook Conference will be opened by the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud.

Confirmed speakers include Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mathias Cormann; Minister for Resources and Water, Keith Pitt; Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan; special representative for Australian Agriculture, Su McCluskey; Fortescue Future Industries CEO Julie Shuttleworth, and many others.

From P 12

court injunctions which are crippling timber supply.

These are assaults on a timber industry which everywhere else in the world is recognised as an environmental necessity.

The people who work in it should be celebrated as the true environmentalists who carefully manage the forests under strict guidelines to reduce our reliance on plastic and concrete, or timber sourced from less environmentally sensitive countries.

Instead, we have become resigned to a Labor government which seems to have forgotten its charter of

**“ANY SUCCESS WOULD PROVE JUST HOW POWERFUL THE ANTI-FORESTRY LOB IS**



**Steve Dobbyn BSc, chairman, Forest and Wood Communities Australia, is a third-generation forester who grew up in NSW forests and took a career in public and private sector forest management. He is on the board of Timber NSW and is a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, NSW North-East Pilot Forestry Hub, and ForestFit Contractor Training and Certification Scheme Industry Reference Group**

protecting the working class and, as shown by its region-destroying policies, is more focused on pacifying the inner-city enviro-elite stirred up by finely orchestrated activist misinformation.

Which brings us to the 2022 state election and the expected political challenges of Covid and the Red Shirts scandal faced by the

government. In all-important inner-city electorates, we are seeing Labor moving the pieces to again do battle with the Greens on environment issues.

Forestry is the easy target, so it’s not hard to imagine that the Great Forest National Park will again be a key campaign platform.

And helping that along is the anti-forestry lobby which is making sure the issue is kept front of mind.

One of MyEnvironment’s directors at the time of the failed court action in 2012 which resulted in the \$2 million debt was Sarah Rees, who now sits on the Forest Stewardship Council. Later last year, as thoughts turned to the 2022 state election, she and Professor David Lindenmayer, who was a keynote speaker at the GFNP launch in 2014, launched and marketed a book together. Its title is The Great Forest.

• *Forest and Wood Communities Australia says it does not represent industry, rather it represents the people within it. FWCA’s primary mission is to give forest workers, timber communities and those who embrace natural timber a voice in government, regulatory authorities and the media on issues which affect them.*

# A POWERFUL LEGACY A BOLD VISION



# Hoop pine distinctive species first ‘collected’ in Queensland in 1820s by Allan Cunningham

HOOP pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) is a distinctive, specular Queensland tree. It's a large tree characterised by a crown which is less symmetrical than is usual in the genus.

It generally attains heights of 30 m and 75 m and diameters half to one-and-a-half metres, but dimensions of 50 m in height and 1.5-2 m in diameter sometimes occur.

Other less commonly used names for hoop pine include colonial pine, Queensland pine, Dorrigo pine, Moreton Bay pine and Richmond River pine. The scientific name, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, honours the botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham who collected the first specimens of the tree in the 1820s.

The trunk of the mature tree is free of branches, straight, with very little taper and often up to two-thirds of the tree height. The main stem of the tree is persistent to the upper part of the crown.

**“HOOP PROVIDES MOST OF STATE'S PLYWOOD AND VENEER SUPPLY”**

- 1/ *Araucaria cunninghamii*'s principal occurrence is in south-eastern Queensland from between Rockhampton and Bundaberg and southwards to the border, with areas of hoop pine as far south as the Macleay River in mid-northern NSW.
- 2/ Hoop pine processing... excellent qualities for mouldings, flooring, furniture and all other forms of joinery.



The annual rainfall is mainly in the range of 1000-1500 mm.

In Australia, hoop pine is mainly a species of the coastal ranges on topography varying from undulating to mountainous. It grows on a wide range of soils from drift sands to those of basaltic origin provided that the annual rainfall exceeds 750 mm and the drainage is satisfactory. Hoop pine mainly occurs as scattered trees over an understorey of rainforest species. Only rarely does it form pure forest stands.

It is not easy to separate the timber of hoop pine from that of bunya and kauri. The bulk of the plywood and veneer produced in Queensland is made from hoop pine. Sawn timber has excellent qualities for indoor work such as mouldings, flooring, lining, furniture, shelving, cupboards and all other forms of joinery. Specialised uses include cask heads, broom handles, boxes, printers' blocks battery separators and boat building. Formerly, it was largely used extensively for case making.

Hoop pine has been planted in industrial plantations in many countries with climatic conditions more or less comparable to those in its native habitat.

The principal occurrence of this species is in south-eastern Queensland, from between Rockhampton and Bundaberg southwards to the border of NSW. In NSW there are small areas of hoop pine as far south as the Macleay River. There are also isolated occurrences near Townville, Bowen, and Mackay in tropical Queensland. Hoop pine also

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occurs in New Guinea.

The climate of south-eastern Queensland, where the species is most common, is subtropical with warm, humid summers and mild winters.



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# Governments must stick to procurement rules that preference Australian manufacturers first

## Fears that due diligence is not up to scratch on thousands of imported products

POST the COVID-19 pandemic Australia needs a strong focus on government procurement.

The commonwealth government is the biggest customer in the country and what it buys has massive implications for the success or failure of Australian manufacturing.

In the past there has been a tendency for procurement staff to buy from big name companies – IBM in computing rather than local suppliers. There was an old saying that a public servant never got the sack for buying from Big Blue.

While things have changed since then, especially in defence purchases where there is overt preference for local purchases, procurement rules have been much amended ... but they're still not right.

There is simply not a requirement, seen in defence, for major overseas purchases to be accompanied by programs to include Australian SMEs in the global supply chains of foreign companies.

The functions within government that help SMEs to sell overseas as part of a Team Australia approach outside defence are weak and have been subject to constant review and budget cuts.

And nor is there the grant support for local SMEs to



*Jon Goulder, a fourth generation furniture maker, works as a senior designer with Snohetta Architects sourcing some of the most beautiful and versatile timbers in the world from Australian suppliers.*

perform R&D and develop capabilities and products that meet a particular government need.

In 2014, the Senate inquiry into the commonwealth procedures for procurement investigated the then ratio of Australian goods and services versus imported goods and services utilised by the commonwealth through procurement procedures.

The review focused on policies and procedures for procurement in commonwealth departments and agencies, and commonwealth-funded capital projects and the economic, social and environmental benefits of utilising Australian goods and services.

Industry highlighted the fact that Australian business should have full and fair access to supply goods and services required by the government. However, Australian manufacturers often

And it hasn't followed its own laws in this time of Covid-19 crisis.

For example, the Department of Agriculture introduced the Illegal Logging Regulation which requires that products containing timber, including paper and logs, must undergo 'due diligence' prior to importation.

This would mean that the tens of millions of dollars' worth of products

arriving on our shores must adhere to this law as part of the procurement rules.

At the time the new legislation was introduced we asked the department how they intended to upskill Australian procurement specialists about the changes.

The response was "it's up to Treasury and Finance to manage the next stage".

This begs the question: why couldn't the Australian government have taken up the offer from local manufacturers to retool and manufacture products here rather than import from China?'

And has the due diligence required by law been undertaken for these imports?

Transparent procurement policies and practices that recognise the high environmental and social

### COMMENT



**PATRIZIA TORELLI**  
CEO, Australian Furnishing Association

continue to be overlooked.

At the time, the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) focused on achieving value for money as the core requirement of procuring officers.

While the CPRs have since been updated in 2017, there remains a yawning gap in the implementation of the new CPRs. The federal government itself doesn't always follow its own laws.

**“ AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES CONTINUE TO BE OVERLOOKED ”**

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# Developers to pay for government social housing plan

MULTI-residential developments and subdivisions throughout metropolitan Melbourne and major Victorian regional centres are set to be slugged with a 1.75% tax to help pay for social and affordable housing.

But the industry has welcomed proposed reforms to streamline and improve the state's planning system.

In a move welcomed by social welfare groups but slammed by the state's

property sector, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has announced that from July 1, 2024, all new multi-residential developments and subdivisions in Melbourne and major regional areas will need to pay a 1.75% contribution to a new Social Housing Growth Fund.

The new charge will apply to all newly-built developments with three or more dwellings; and all new subdivisions with three or more lots. The



amount charged will be based on the 'as-if-complete' value of the project.

In its first 10 years, the new charge will raise around \$800 million a year.

The contributions are expected to fund delivery of

up to 1700 new social and affordable homes each year.

The government has also announced that social housing properties will be exempt from paying council rates.

This change – which will apply to social housing but not to affordable housing – will see social housing join other public assets such as hospitals and schools in being exempt from council rates.

The exemption will be phased in over four years beginning from 1 July 2023.

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standards expected from, and delivered by, domestic suppliers, as well as the significant economic and social benefits that result from supporting local industry would be a significant boost

for the manufacturing sector.

The emphasis should be placed on value for money over the entire life of the product, as opposed to only the initial upfront costs.

Local manufacturers are able to provide higher quality products, as well as

maintenance and through-life support which their

**“ WE MUST ENCOURAGE A CAMPAIGN OF AWARENESS**

international counterparts are not able to offer.

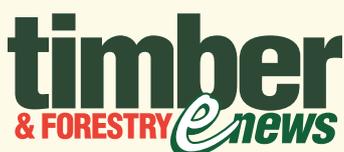
We must encourage an awareness-raising campaign with government procurement officers and departments to highlight the full capabilities of Australian manufacturers.

Australian first.

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# Warrior a fearsome competitor on any ground

WORLD rally champion and motor engine configurator David Richards, 69, is something of a warrior himself.

He grew up on the banks of the appropriately-named River Wheeler (Afon Chwiler) in northeast Wales where as a boy he took an instant interest in tinkering with engines.

At age 17, he was the youngest person in the UK to hold a private pilot's licence. In 2007 he survived a forced landing in his helicopter.

He spent eight years as a professional rally co-driver becoming British and Scandinavian champion and concluded his competition career by winning the World Rally Championship with co-driver Ari Vatanen in 1981.

Richards then devoted his time to business interests, which led to the formation of his own motor racing team and the creation of Prodrive, a British motorsport and advanced engineering group that designs, constructs and races cars for companies such as Aston Martin and Volkswagen.

Prodrive is the parent of Premcar, which has a long history of modifying high-performance V8s for greater power, including supercharging V8 Falcons.



**After a long program of tuning and testing on home ground, Nissan Australia and Premcar reveal their Navara N-Trek Warrior.**

Based in Melbourne, Premcar converts Navara N-Treks into N-Trek Warriors at a 6300 sq m facility in Epping where it fits bigger all-terrain tyres on new alloy wheels, and upgrades suspension, protection, and extra accessories.

Which brings us to the Nissan Navara Pro-4X Warrior.

Following the trend, Premcar is not just hotting up sports cars. Instead, it has turned its attention to the incredibly popular 4X4 ute.

When Nissan realised its top-shelf Navara ST-X wasn't top-shelf enough for

Australia's fast-evolving ute market, it sought domestic help. After a long program of tuning and testing, Nissan Australia and Premcar revealed its Navara N-Trek Warrior.

Unlike the rest of the Navara collection, the Warrior doesn't land complete and ready for action. Instead, it arrives in Australia (after being built in



**Inside the Warrior... auto-dimming rear-view mirror; dual-zone climate control with rear vents; 8 in. touchscreen; sat-nav; six-speaker audio; 360-deg. camera system; and 7 in. driver display with digital speedo.**

Thailand) as a 'normal' Navara N-Trek. But in nine stages, Premcar transforms N-Treks into Warriors that are exclusive to the Aussie market.

Just a look at the front of the Warrior tells you it's as aggressive as a tethered Brahma bull, thanks largely to the steel front bumper, LED laser light bar and the bright red Navara-engraved 3 mm thick bash plate under belly.

The Warrior runs on Nissan's 2.3-litre twin-turbo diesel engine with a choice of either six-speed manual transmission. List prices are \$67,490 or \$69,990 for the seven-speed automatic.

The four-cylinder engine has a pair of inline sequential turbo-chargers providing lag-free throttle response to produce 140 kW at 3750 rpm and 450 Nm of peak torque between 1500-2500 rpm.

For the money you get what Nissan claims to be the world's toughest Navara, with beefy 275/70 R17 Cooper Discoverer all-terrain AT3 tyres and alloys with a full-size alloy spare, wider track and updated suspension.

Other key elements include a winch-capable bull bar, Warrior-wheel arch flares, body decals and head-rest embroidery.

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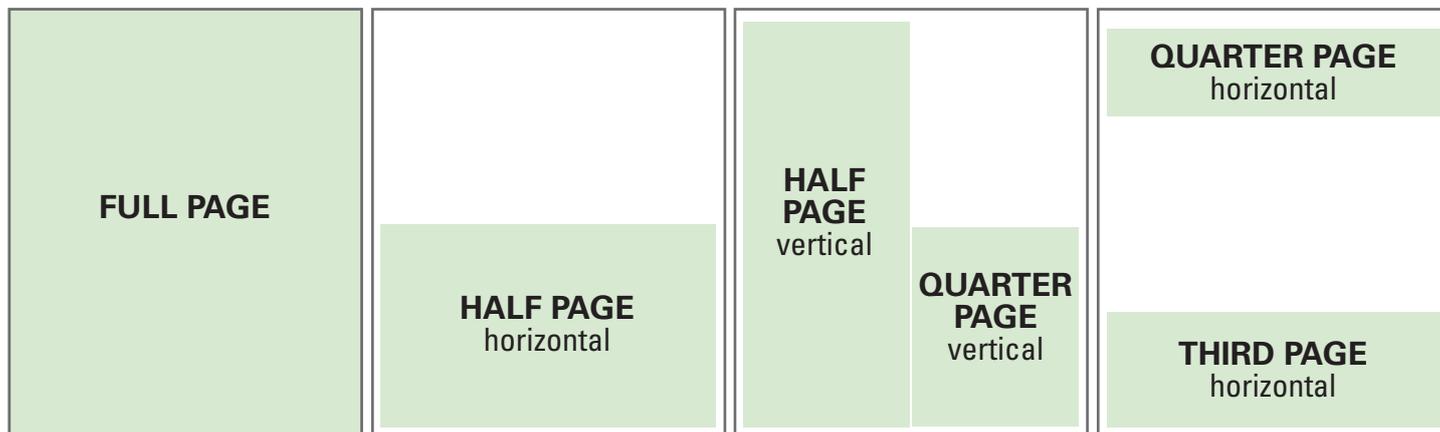
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**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

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**PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking**

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**PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking**

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