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ISSUE 703 | April 21, 2022

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## PM announces \$219m support plan for forest sector in Tassie timber heartland

COVER STORY P3



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# Coalition timber package welcomed in Queensland but there's still gap in plantation investment policy

THE Queensland timber industry has welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniham of a \$219.5 million package to invest in R&D and new technologies to expand the sector.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said the announcement was clear recognition of the industry's growth potential and its role in providing renewable products to meet rising demand and support the circular bio-economy.

"The package announced last week acknowledges the critical importance of the timber industry to the economy and the need to boost our sovereign capability to provide much-needed timber materials for our housing and commercial building needs," Mr Stephens said.

**“GRAZING LAND IN QUEENSLAND HAS GOOD POTENTIAL FOR NEW PLANTATIONS**



**1/ Boosting research in tropical forestry and wood products development in northern Australia... softwood plantation tree seed orchard in Queensland.** Photo: Timber Queensland

**2 Mick Stephens... we just want good public policy consistent with the goals of growing the plantation resource.**



rainfall. No other revegetation projects are subject to this restriction.

"The water rule has an additional knock-on effect for the \$1 billion Land Restoration Fund in Queensland, which requires revegetation projects to be compatible with the ERF in order to receive

carbon payments, effectively blocking new plantations from participating in the Queensland scheme," Mr Stephens said.

"If this restriction is not lifted, we are likely to continue

"We welcome the funding to reinvigorate R&D capacity and look forward to an opportunity to boost research in tropical forestry and wood products development in northern Australia," Mr Stephens said

"In addition, we value the contribution of the forestry hubs to developing pathways for further growth which can be supported by the program to accelerate wood processing technologies.

"However, a major gap still exists for new plantation investment in a number of growing regions. This package is like supercharging the engine room for value added timber products, but leaving the handbrake on for new plantations."

This is the so-called 'water rule', which prohibits new plantations from accessing carbon markets in the Emissions Reduction Fund in areas above 600 mm annual

to see no new investment in plantations in Queensland, given high up-front costs and the long time-period for timber returns."

"However, with the bundling of annual carbon payments with timber returns and other benefits such as improved agricultural productivity from livestock shade and shelter, we will likely see stronger interest in new plantations."

Cont P 7



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# One billion trees will happen: PM announces his \$219 million support package for the forest sector

**‘A Liberal-Nationals coalition government would never support shutdowns of native forests’**

APRIL 10 was national plant-a-tree-day... and PM Scott Morrison has repeated his promise to plant one billion of them, part of a near \$220 million pre-election support package delivered to the forest sector in Launceston last week.

“Planting one billion trees by 2030 is still achievable despite experts saying otherwise,” the PM insisted.

He blamed the Black Summer bushfires for hindering progress and announced further support to achieve the goal.

“We didn’t set targets because we thought they were easy, we set them because we believed they were important,” he said.

“We have to keep working to that despite the setbacks that we have had.”

Scott Morrison announced his forest policy during a visit to Neville Smith Forest Products, a timber products company approaching its 100th year of sawmilling in Tasmania and located in the electorate of Bass, the government’s most marginal

**“WILL WORK WITH STATES TO CREATE PERMANENT TIMBER PRODUCTION SITES**



**Forestry support package announced in Launceston... Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam, Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Tasmanian Resources Minister Guy Barnett, AFPA CEO Ross Hampton, executive chairman of Neville Smith Forest Products James Neville-Smith, Tasmanian senator Wendy Askew and Member for Bass Bridget Archer.**

‘must win’ seat as it mounts its campaign towards the May 21 federal elections.

“A Liberal-Nationals coalition government would never support shutdowns of native forestry, securing its existing 73,000 job; instead it would work with the state government to create permanent timber production sites,” he vowed.

“The pressures on the building industry and the uncertain international trade situation has made it clear that local wood products and local skills are critical. Just ask any tradie who has been trying to get wood products.”

He said as the country tackled building material shortages and uncertainty around global supply chains, the jobs and skills in Australia’s forestry industry in regional areas were critical to a stronger future.

“Our forestry workers and industry are key to successful regional communities around the

country and our plan helps deliver a stronger economy for their future,” the PM said.

“On our watch we’ve set up programs to make plantation expansion easier, we’ve invested \$40 million to help the sector recover from the Black Summer bushfires, we’ve committed to planting one billion trees, and we’ve beefed up our moves to stop illegal timber imports from undercutting

Cont P 4

## This election VOTE TO SUPPORT FOREST INDUSTRIES



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ACT 2600 Australia

From P 3

Australian producers.

“Australia’s forests aren’t just the basis of a critical industry supporting 73,000 jobs. They also store around 22 billion tonnes of carbon. Our investments are good for jobs and good for the climate.

“Global demand for wood products is set to quadruple by 2050 so this investment in the jobs and future of the forestry industry is critical,” the PM said.

**“ TO STOP ILLEGAL TIMBER IMPORTS**



**The Prime Minister Scott Morrison and executive chairman of Neville Smith Forest Products James Neville-Smith talk up forestry’s future on a tour of NSFP operations in Launceston. The sawmill employs more than 120 Tasmanians in a diverse range of strategic, processing, sales and administration roles.**

“We can turbocharge this \$23 billion industry with the right skills development and the right cutting-edge research that our plan delivers.”

Joining the PM for a tour of Neville Smith Forest Products Assistant Minister

for Forestry Jonno Duniam said Australia wanted to increase its self-reliance when it came to wood supply.

“That means more job opportunities, more research and more manufacturing processing right here in Australia. Instead of importing products from overseas, we want to grow the trees here, process them here and add value to them right here in Australia.”

The forestry plan received more than \$90 million in the 2022-23 federal budget for establishing new plantations and measures to stop illegal timber imports.

The election commitment includes \$100 million to establish a national institute for forest products innovation. A central hub will be built in Launceston along with five centres in other regional areas.

It also includes nearly \$113 million in grants to fast-track the adoption of new wood processing technologies that will maximise log recovery, process smaller diameter logs and create new and innovative wood products buildings, turning wood waste into useful materials,

and replacing plastics with wood-based bioplastics.

Another \$6.6 million will extend funding for the 11 regional forestry hubs that help local industry and business connect with cutting-edge research.

The forestry plan received more than \$90 million in the 2022-23 federal budget for establishing new plantations and measures to stop illegal timber imports.

“Only the Liberals and Nationals have a plan to secure and grow Australia’s forestry industry as we build a stronger economy and a stronger future,” Mr Morrison said.

“Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party had been silent while the Victorian and Western Australian Labor governments move to shut down native forestry. No matter what they tell you at this election, their actions speak louder than words and they’ll sell out regional communities at the first opportunity.”

AFFPA will conduct a free national federal election forest industries forum next Wednesday, April 27, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm (AEST) at Boags Brewery Launceston. Speakers include Shadow Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins and Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam. Inquiries to email [enquiries@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ausfpa.com.au) or phone (02) 6285 3833.

**On the cover: Taking a tour of Neville Smith Forest Products in Launceston are Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff, Member for Bass Bridget Archer, and Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam, after the announcement of the near-\$220 million support package for the forest sector.**

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# Australian forest industries are at the crossroads: choosing the right path and policies for the future

**ROSS HAMPTON**

AUSTRALIA'S forest industries are at a crossroads this federal election.

The path taken won't just impact our industries into the decades ahead, but will have major flow-on effects to other sectors, like the housing construction sector, if we don't get the right policies put in place from the next federal government.

The fact is that Australia is on the path to a future without adequate timber and fibre supplies if things don't change very quickly and we get more production trees planted and growing in the next few years.

Securing our timber and fibre supply is the one major focus of the Australian Forest Products Association

**“ THIS ELECTION WILL NEED REAL ACTION FROM BOTH SIDES OF FEDERAL POLITICS ”**



*Ross Hampton... forest industries need to thrive into the future and service an increasingly carbon conscious world.*

during this 2022 federal election campaign.

As difficult as it has been for the country, the Covid pandemic has provided a useful warning of what the future will be like if we don't act quickly to secure our timber and fibre supply.

The housing construction boom over the last two years has strained our local timber supplies, while imported product failed to reach our shores because of crunched international supply chains and now worsened by the tragic war in Ukraine.

This will be the normal future if we don't have adequate, federal government-led action to secure our timber and fibre supply for the future. Our recent analysis with Master Builders Australia showed as a country we would be 250,000 house frames short of demand by 2035, if no action is taken.

This election we need real action from both sides of federal politics and this election AFPA has launched 'Our Plan for Growth', a suite of policy requests that forest industries need to thrive

into the future and service an increasingly carbon conscious world.

The policy requests are divided into four broad sections:

- Delivering one billion new trees.
- Providing certainty for native forestry.
- Turbo-charging job creating innovation.
- Unlocking the potential of paper and packaging.

Delivering on each of these policy groupings will be essential for our forest industries to flourish.

In 2018, the federal government committed to delivering one billion new trees by 2030. We need to see a real uptick in progress on that front and the government and opposition need to drive planting towards that goal by committing to effective carbon policy and farm forestry policy.

Our native sector is

*Cont P 6*



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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 5

essential, but under attack from state governments in Victoria and Western Australia. Whichever side of politics forms government after this federal election must ensure the native sector can continue to operate and invest with confidence.

On the innovation front, we need a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) to drive the R&D investment which

**“WITHOUT THE RESOURCE THE REST OF OUR SUPPLY CHAIN CAN'T FOLLOW**



**Australia is on the path to a future without adequate timber and fibre supplies so we must quickly get more production trees planted and growing in the next few years.**

is vital to make Australia a world leader in new timber and fibre products creation.

Finally, our pulp and paper sector needs to be at the heart of Australia's sovereign manufacturing

capability. It will be an ever-increasingly important sector as world demand grows for sustainable paper and packaging products.

However, without access to resource, the rest of

our supply chain cannot follow. This is the crossroads. We either address future timber shortages by ensuring one billion new trees are planted by 2030, or we don't, meaning Australia won't be able to build new houses, create sustainable packaging and realise our potential in the global imperative of fighting climate change.

I know which path I want Australia to take.

**• Ross Hampton is CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association.**

## Foresters welcome support for science, research and innovation

FORESTRY Australia has welcomed the \$219 million forestry funding commitment by PM Scott Morrison.

CEO Jacquie Martin said the announcement recognised the need for sustainable forestry in Australian society.

“Sustainable forestry is key to a prosperous and healthy future for all Australians and the

environment,” Ms Martin said.

“We thank the PM for recognising the importance of investing in science, research and innovation.

“Forests are one of our greatest natural assets; we have a long history of first-class forestry skills, experience and people needed to care for them.

“Forests are managed



**Jacquie Martin**

over very long time frames and long-term vision and planning is required. That's why bipartisan support is so important if we are to achieve the social, economic,

environmental and carbon-capture potential of the forest estate.”

Ms Martin said forest management decisions needed to exist outside of election cycles.

“We look forward to hearing how other parties plan to support long-term, scientifically-backed forest management policies,” she said.

### Investing in people ...

Grant award applications for 2022 are now open:

- Skill Development Support
- Scholarships
- Fellowships

Don't miss this opportunity – all details [www.gottsteintrust.org](http://www.gottsteintrust.org)  
Applications close on Friday, 3rd June 2022.

To discuss your application ideas call Helen Murray 0419 991 424 or email: [team@gottsteintrust.org](mailto:team@gottsteintrust.org)

### ... advancing the industry

**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)

**10-12: DesignBUILD Reimagined 2022 – Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne VIC.**

Explore the latest innovations, products and solutions in building and construction and an introduction to new markets. Show dates: May 10 – 10 am-6 pm; May 11 – 10 am-6 pm; May 12 – 10 am-4 pm. Contacts: Tel: 1300 DIVCOM (1300 348 266) or email:

[designbuild@divcom.net.au](mailto:designbuild@divcom.net.au)

**21: Queensland Timber Industry Awards – Rydges Southbank, Brisbane.** Contact Alicia Oelkers 0418 449 031. [www.tabma.com.au](http://www.tabma.com.au)

**JUNE**

**10: Third time lucky! GTTIA Awards – Mount Gambier, SA.** The GTTIA committee confirms the awards gala event will be held on June 10 at The Barn, Mount Gambier SA. Tickets on sale April 25 and for purchase online. Email: [info@gttia.com](mailto:info@gttia.com)

**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)

**JULY**

**10-15: 65th The Society of Wood Science and Technology annual meeting – Salt/Peppers Mantra complex, Kingscliffe, NSW.** SWST activities include publishing wood and fibre science and accrediting undergraduate wood science programs in North American, South America, Asia and Europe. This will be the first time SWST meets in our part of the world and more than 160 abstracts have been submitted from 25 countries. The meeting will bring together scientists from around the globe to

address topics including basic timber properties, mass timber construction, plantation resources, timber certification and timber processing. Registration is now open at [www.swst.org](http://www.swst.org).

**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)

From P 2

Grazing land within Queensland has been identified as having good potential for new plantations, given large areas of suitable land and the scope for carbon neutral beef for producers.

“The water rule has been progressively removed for a number of plantation regions across Australia, but remains in place in north Queensland, south and central Queensland, southeast NSW, central west NSW and the Northern Territory,” Mr Stephens said.

“This is particularly

disappointing given the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia in mid-2020 identified this as a major policy impediment for forestry industry growth in the north.”

At the last federal election in 2019, the Australian Labor Party also announced it would remove the water rule barrier to promote new plantation investment and provide a



**Grazing land in Queensland has been identified as having good potential for new plantations, given large areas of suitable land and the scope for carbon neutral beef for producers.**

level playing field with other land sequestration projects.

“We have been working in close collaboration with our national counterpart, the

Australian Forest Products Association, to fix this perverse policy,” Mr Stephens said.

“We look forward to hearing more from the major parties about this issue in the upcoming forestry industry debate to be held in Tasmania on the April 27.

“We just want good public policy consistent with the goals of growing the plantation resource. This barrier should be removed for all regional forestry hub regions within the first three months of the next Australian government.”



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# MBA: new incentive to use low-carbon timber

THE federal government's move to increase support for the use of low-carbon timber is good news for the building and construction sector and will support jobs and economic activity while reducing greenhouse emissions.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said the announcement of \$200 million to incentivise the greater use of low carbon engineered wood products in commercial and medium density housing was a big pragmatic policy 'win' for the building, construction and forest industries, consumers

**“TIMBER BRINGS DOWN COST OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION”**



**Denita Wawn... support for low-carbon timber is good news for the building and construction sector.**

and the environment.

“MBA has called for measures that will assist the industry to make use of more sustainable building materials without imposing excessive costs on the industry or consumers,” Mrs Wawn said.

“This new incentive will help bring down the cost of construction, develop local capacity in low-carbon timber product manufacture and

deliver healthier buildings for the community.

“We have also jointly, with the Australian Forest Products Association, called for measures to tackle a forecast major shortfall of timber housing frames in the next decade and this measure will have positive flow on effects in addressing this challenge.”

The joint report shows

Australia will be 250,000 house frames short by 2035 – the equivalent of the cities of Newcastle and Geelong combined.

“It is these kinds of innovative and practical solutions that produce ‘win-win’ solutions that mean builders and consumers can choose more sustainable building materials and healthier buildings without also choosing to take on prohibitive additional costs, Mrs Wawn said.

## Snap to it.

Responsible Wood is launching the 2022 Photo Contest on Friday 22 April, 2022.

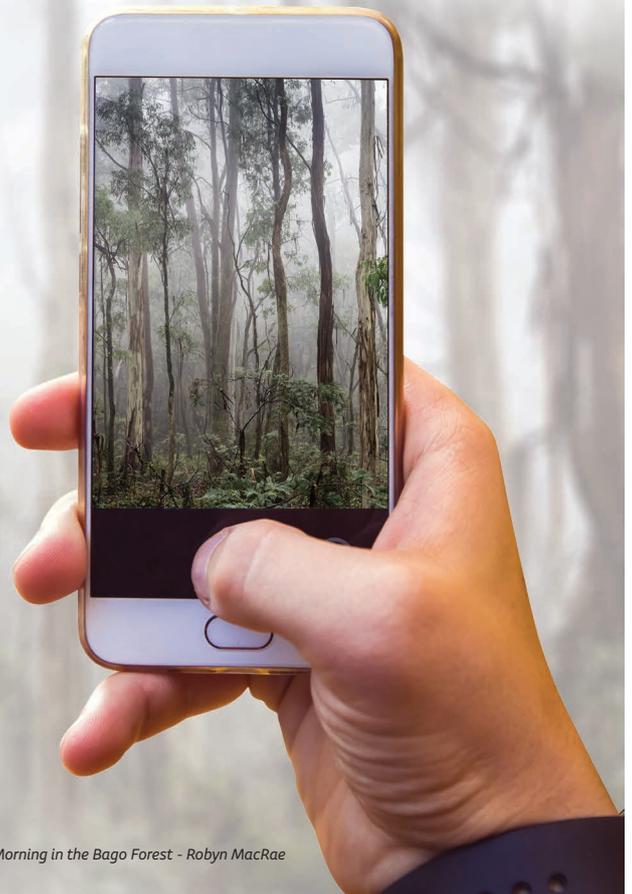
We are inviting professional and amateur photographers to submit their best photos showcasing your local forest.\* Responsible Wood is offering a cash prize of \$1000 for the winning photo. The top three photos will compete in the international 2022 PEFC Photographer of the Year Award!

Upload your photo(s) to Instagram using **#rwphotocontest22** – and that's it!

\* Photos must be taken from a Responsible Wood certified forest. For more information visit [responsiblewood.org.au](http://responsiblewood.org.au)



Photo: Early Morning in the Bago Forest - Robyn MacRae



# Smile and say trees! Responsible Wood launches national photo contest to 'capture' certified forests

**\$1000 prize and the chance for three entries to be recognised in PEFC international competition**

**JASON ROSS**

MANY of us are keen to get out and about in our wonderful, certified forests whenever the opportunity arises.

Did you know that 90% of Australia's commercial forests are Responsible Wood certified? These include state forests, plantation estates and those run by forestry agencies along with many privately-owned forests.

We are inviting professional and amateur photographers in Australia to submit their best Responsible Wood certified forest photos and a chance for the winning entry to claim a \$1000 cash prize.

Colourful trees, forest landscapes, children playing, people working or animals living in the forest – share your photo and help us escape to the wonderful world of forests as we imagine it!

So next time you are in the forest – be it for work or leisure – we encourage you to take your camera with you.

Along with the \$1000 prize for the winning photo, Responsible Wood will select the top three entries to enter the international contest and compete for the 2022 PEFC Photographer of the Year Award.

Applications will be assessed by an expert panel



1/ A prize of \$1000 awaits the winning entry in Responsible Wood photo contest.

2/ David Rowlinson.

3/ Jim Bowden.

4/ Simon Dorries.

thought-provoking and inspiring images of the forests we live, work and play in, to help further

promote the use of forest certification around the world.

With your photos, you will enable the entire PEFC alliance, which currently covers more than 50 countries worldwide, to visually communicate in a more engaging manner, as we all continue to strive for a world in which people manage forests sustainably.

Entries can be submitted electronically or by postal mail. All photos will remain with Responsible Wood for future use and promotion of forest management in Australia.

Photo entries (any number) can be uploaded to Instagram #rwpphotocontest22, emailed to PEFC Photo Contest at [info@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:info@responsiblewood.org.au) or post to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, QLD 4005. Tel: (07) 3359 1758.

Good luck!

• Jason Ross is marketing and communication officer with Responsible Wood.



including Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, David Rowlinson, Planet Ark Make It Wood campaign manager, and Jim Bowden, managing editor of weekly on-line trade journal Timber&Forestry enews.

Simon Dorries said the contest theme would enable participants to submit photos that fit the theme ... 'responsible forests, responsible certification'.

"This could embrace many topics, from forest landscapes to individual trees and plants, from harvesters to families hiking in the woods, from indigenous people to rural village life, from wooden buildings to photos of PEFC/ Responsible Wood-labelled products," Mr Dorries said.

All national competitions

will run at the same time, from Earth Day (April 22) to World Environment Day (June 5). The competition will close on June 5.

Entry to the contest is simple. Just go to [www.pefc.photo](http://www.pefc.photo) for terms and conditions, then head to Instagram and post your forest photo using the contest hashtag #rwpphotocontest22. And that's it, you're done!

Responsible Wood is the national governing body for PEFC in Australia, which has a goal to champion the sustainable management of the world's forests – a goal it seeks to reach through the promotion of forest certification.

This is where you come in. We need more stunning,

# Federal government's \$1.3m grant to FWPA will boost hybrid EWP development and market access

THE federal government is helping the forest and wood products industry develop new and targeted Australian hybrid engineered wood products through a \$1.3 million trade and market access grant.

The Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation grant has been awarded to the industry's rural research and development business Forest and Wood Products Australia as a further driver of innovation and to deliver diversification options for domestic and export use for forest industries

The grant will help the forest and wood products industry to add more value to lower quality forestry resources on shore, creating more jobs in regional communities and helping to diversify timber exports.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud said the investment was an exciting opportunity for the industry to increase export incomes.

"This is an important value-adding initiative that has the potential to diversify the

**“EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE EXPORT INCOMES**



1/ **Timber engineer Adam Faircloth tests non-destructive evaluation of elastic material properties and acoustic characterisation of wood-based panels at the DAF Salisbury research centre in Brisbane.**

2/ **David Littleproud... exciting opportunity for the industry to increase export incomes.**

entire timber industry and the products it manufactures," Mr Littleproud said.

"The project provides a unique opportunity through innovation to use our resources smarter and bring new life to lower-value forestry products such as early age plantation thinnings and lower quality logs unsuitable for the production of structural products," he said.

Assistant Minister for Forestry Jonno Duniam said the project would benefit the whole industry supply chain, from timber growers to wood processors and exporters.



"This grant will complement our recent announcement of around \$220 million to help this industry utilise Australia's precious wood resources better, and increase our sovereign manufacturing capability," Senator Duniam said.

Tony Pasin, MP Barker, said the ATMAC grant would help to grow more jobs and improve the resilience of the local industry.

"The forestry sector in areas

such as the Green Triangle in South Australia, and the broader Australian forest and wood products industry, will benefit from this domestic value-adding project which will make the financial returns of plantation forestry more attractive," Mr Pasin said

The project is in collaboration with the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub and is supported by the Australian Forest Products Association.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said the ATMAC grant awarded to FWPA would help processors, particularly of engineered wood products, to build a manufacturing platform.

"The demand for EWPs is increasing with new technological advancements and the move to a more carbon-conscious world," Mr Hampton said.

"We also need to be smarter in making more products from existing resource to aid supply constraints.

"This grant addresses a very important piece in the puzzle in managing future demand. There will be a time lag from planting more trees, to having extra wood supply to meet future needs, so doing more with existing resources is a practical part of the solution."

## Low-value peeler cores 'hybrid' method to help fill EWP gap

THE federal government's hybrid engineered wood products initiative has re-awakened interest in a virtual 'new industry' for forestry, sawmilling and manufacturers – the

processing of peeler cores and forest discards using low-cost machinery.

The system developed by NSW-based Loggo IP Pty Ltd is gaining merit as the gap in supply of sawn timber and

engineered wood, particularly LVL, widens almost every week.

"New technology emerging on round timber construction opens new opportunities for transfer of small-diameter

timbers and waste peeler cores from veneer production to high-volume, high value structural applications," says Pat Thornton, a chemist and pioneer of round timber

Cont P 14

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2400 x 1200 x 19mm	42	28	42	28
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# The amazing kapok trees – from mattresses to psychotherapy – providing a sense of well-being

The ‘mother tree of humanity’ has been growing in West Africa for at least 13,000 years

I REMEMBER somewhere back in the last century when I was a kid sleeping on a kapok mattress. Put your hand up if you remember doing the same.

Of course, kapok-filled mattresses are a product of the kapok tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) that when mature is an impressive sight – the tallest tree on the African continent soars high as a 20-storey building, with a huge dense spreading canopy. Not surprisingly local inhabitants usually referred to kapok trees as “pillars that support the sky”.

When young the kapok tree trunk is bright green with groups of branches forming distinct horizontal layers, and with conical spikes erupting from the surface. The tree grows quickly, dropping its lower limbs and developing a stout grey trunk, spreading crown and impressive sweeping plank buttress roots that sink into the earth like gnarly folded boards. A large kapok tree is its own island of biodiversity with its giant branches supporting aerial plants and providing a home to countless species of insects and birds.



1/ Kapok tree... a stout grey trunk, spreading crown and impressive buttress.

2/ When kapok fruit pods split, they look like thousands of cottonwool balls, the inspiration for another common name for the species – the silk-cotton tree.

Kapoks drop their leaves during long dry spells. Individual trees don't flower and set fruit every year, but when they do, they do it with relish and before the leaves reappear there is nothing to distract pollinators. Every night during flowering each kapok tree produces

to leathery tan and contain perhaps 1000 seeds each. The seeds are handy for oil, but the main event is the kapok fibre, a mass of fine, silky hairs in which the seeds are cocooned. As the pods split, they look like thousands of cottonwool balls – the inspiration for other common name for the species: the silk-cotton tree.

The kapok tree was originally from tropical America, but from pollen evidence the kapok tree has also been growing in West Africa for at least 13,000 years.

Kapok fruit fibres are hollow micro-tubes with thin cell walls and a surface layer of wax, an arrangement that makes them exceedingly light and strongly water repellent. Until well after World War 2, kapok fibre was specified for filling lifejackets and lifebelts. Kapok fibre can absorb 40 times its weight in oil – an ideal attribute wherever oil needs to be separated from water, such as in the case of accidental spills.

Kapoks have a strong association with well-being, both physical and mental. The Maya peoples used to refer to kapok trees as the “mother tree of humanity”.

## TALKING TREES



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10 litres of nectar making it worthwhile for bats to travel as far as 20 km between trees spreading pollen as they go.

The fruit that follows are pendulous boat-shaped pods – hundreds on each tree – which ripen from green



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# \$1.3m grant to turn ‘splinters into structures’

A FIRST-of-its-kind Green Triangle wood trial will explore how to use low value fibre in a new structural timber product thanks to a \$1.3 million contribution from the federal government.

The grant, in partnership with FWPA and the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub, was announced this week at Victoria’s Port of Portland by Dan Tehan, MP Wannan, and Tony Pasin, MP Barker.

The Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation Program grant (ATMAC) will explore opportunities to create new wood products utilising softwood and hardwood pulp log.

GTFIH executive general manager Liz McKinnon said the Splinters to Structures: Value Adding to Exported

Wood Fibre project was derived from an industry-wide wood flow study last year by IndustryEdge which identified new market opportunities and areas to optimise fibre use across the Green Triangle.

“Recent export log bans to China highlighted the lack of domestic processing opportunities for both softwood pulp log and hardwood chip, while at the same time there has been a shortage of structural timber to meet growing housing demand,” Ms McKinnon said.

“This project will determine whether it is feasible to manufacture an engineered wood product for use in building construction using this fibre.

“The focus is on creating new hybrid wood products, combining these two fibres



**Grant announcement... Tony Pasin, MP Barker, Liz McKinnon, GTFIH executive general manager, and Dan Tehan, MP Wannan.**

to make stronger timber and in turn meet growing domestic and international demand, which we know is going to quadruple by 2050.”

Ms McKinnon said the hub was committed to 100% fibre optimisation ... “essentially we need to do more with less, with this project providing an avenue

to further diversify our market base, generating new jobs and sustainability for our sector.”

She said the whole supply chain had come together to invest in the project with major plantation growers offering wood for testing and major manufacturing plants supporting

sawmilling trials to understand the fibre potential.

The GTFIH membership has committed \$110,000 cash, in addition to extensive in-kind support valued at more than \$468,000. The project would start immediately.



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From P 10

construction systems at his Wollongong factory.

Mr Thornton says the application of the new technology was very promising for the transfer of small-diameter timbers and waste peeler cores from veneer production to high-volume structural applications.

“We see the potential for these products to open a high-value structural market for low-value thinnings and peeler cores to address forest sustainability and housing issues,” he said.

Loggo Pty Ltd has completed successful tests on three different joist/beam samples at the University of Queensland. Each sample

**“ OPENING A NEW STRUCTURAL MARKET**



**Peter Blair and Pat Thornton... the application of the new technology was very promising for the transfer of small-diameter timbers**

used 2400 mm peeler cores, low-value by-products from the plywood industry. Both fatigue testing (100,000 cycles) and strength testing were carried out to assess the abilities to carry design loads.

Loggo consulting engineer Peter Blair, project director

at Sydney-based Structured Project Management (Australia), referenced Loggo’s patented Lamilog which uses materials to produce a laminated structural section for beam, beam/column and column applications. The product is assembled by slabbing the

rounds and then stitching them by drilling and lacing with steel dowels which are chemically bonded to the timber.

“By varying the stitching pattern and incorporating internal high modulus timber fish plates we have lengthened the elements to 2.5 times the base material. That is a 2.4 m peeler core can be incorporated to produce 6 m beams,” Mr Blair said.

Joint ventures in patented Loggo technology are being considered.

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# Toyota's Yaris Cross Pet a good brew on its own

SOMETHING was brewing in the air. No it wasn't trouble. The Toyota Yaris picked up the scent in the 'cross' wind.

Driving through the rural town of Mount Alford on the Pacific Rim, an hour's drive from Brisbane, we caught sight of a timber slab cottage attached to which was a café serving Dutch delicacies and creamy home brews.

The 130-year-old heritage-listed cottage houses the brewery where everything is handcrafted – from brewing in large copper tanks to labelling and packaging

"But it's the restoration work on the cottage that makes us most proud," beamed head brewer Mike, whose wife Wendy's Dutch heritage shines through in her home style cooking like the bratwurst hotdogs, bitterballen croquettes and stropwafel pastry washed down with spiced pumpkin ale.

"As we peeled back the layers of the cottage's history, the versatility and



1/ The not-so-thirsty Toyota Yaris Cross outside the hardwood slab brewery at Mount Alford.

2/ Toyota Yaris... standard equipment includes a healthy range of safety features including eight air bags.

clever hardwood timber slab techniques used by our pioneers became gradually clearer," said Mike.

Built in 1884, the café was previously Mt Alford's general store. This was also renovated using structural cypress from Injune and hardwood decking from Enright's sawmill at Beaudesert.

"Brewing is my second career," said Mike. "I was a builder for 32 years and some reckon there's sawdust in my veins and between my ears, which probably explains my insatiable thirst."

No so thirsty was the Yaris Cross 'silver pet' which Toyota says is 15% more efficient yet 10% more powerful than the previous generation sipping 5.1 litres every 100 km with a healthy

average CO2 output of 122.8 g/km.

The Yaris Cross is offered with a regular petrol and a petrol-electric hybrid powertrain in GX, GXL and Urban model grades. The petrol is front-wheel drive only while the hybrid is available in front and all-wheel-drive guises.

Pricing starts at \$26,990 before on-road costs for the base GX 2WD petrol with the Urban Hybrid AWD around \$37,990.

Standard equipment includes a healthy range of safety features, keyless entry and start, leather-accented steering wheel, single-zone climate control, digital instrument cluster, 4.2-in. information display, 7 in. multimedia touchscreen with DAB+ digital radio, Bluetooth,

Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, voice recognition and a six-speaker audio system.

Cups and keys are accommodated in the rear door storage space and there's a neat central fold-down armrest for holding larger cups, thanks to the 40/20/40 split-fold rear seats.

The Yaris Cross boot gets a country traveller's vote – a 390-litre load space.

The Yaris Cross is the perfect crossover between a compact city hatchback and a high-riding SUV, equipped with clever and functional features such as Toyota's 'safety sense', reversing camera.

The whole package was set off by premium 18-in. alloys and stunning silver paint.

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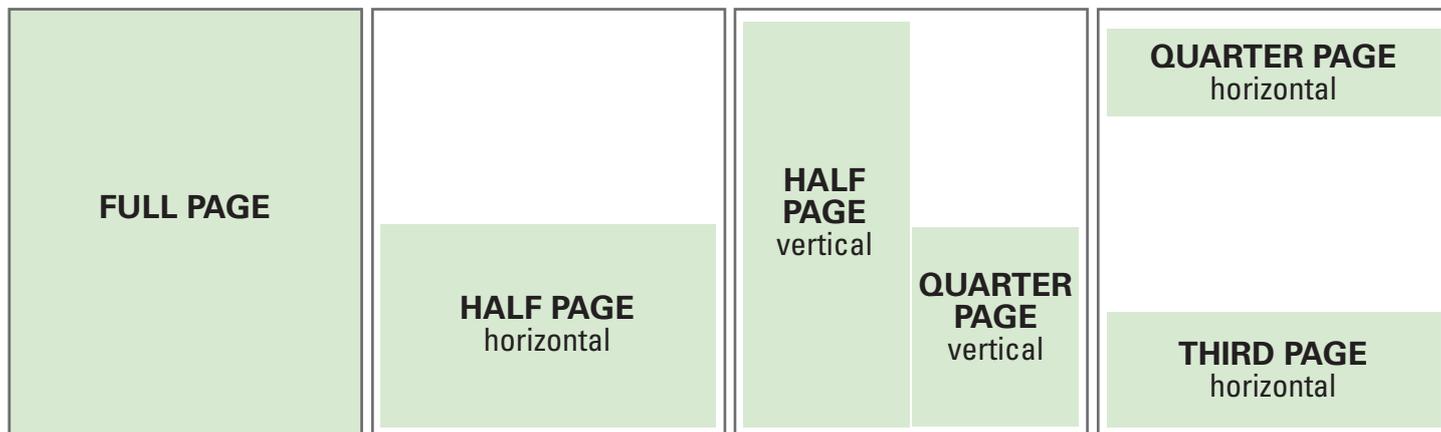
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**QUARTER PAGE: \$185**

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

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

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

**PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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744pxH x 720pxW

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**PAGE 3 strip below story / top email strip / top website banner strip**

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