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TABMA winners take centre stage as awards are presented in Brisbane

COVER STORY P 5



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Importing coal to replace jarrah in WA casts further doubt over decision to end native timber harvesting

REPORTS that coal maybe imported to produce high-grade silicon in Western Australia has cast further doubt over the decision to end native timber harvesting in the state and that it would assist mitigating climate change.

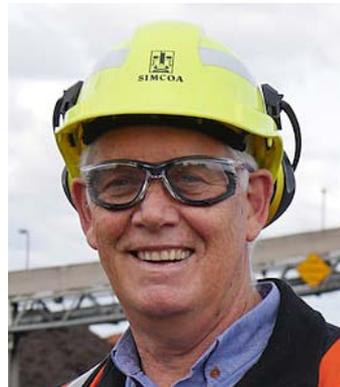
Forestry Australia vice-president Dr Lachlan McCaw said importing coal to substitute for sustainably and locally-sourced charcoal in the silicon manufacture process was clearly a poor outcome for the environment, the south-west community and the Western Australian economy.

“This is a direct consequence of the failure by the McGowan government to undertake a comprehensive review of the environmental, economic and social

“CHARCOAL FROM JARRAH RESIDUES USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SILICON



Dr Lachlan McCaw... lead time to establish a viable supply of charcoal from private land would be a decade or more.



David Miles... very concerned that the company had to consider alternatives to jarrah that were not as favourable.

impacts of its decision to cease commercial timber harvesting in native forests,” Dr McCaw said.

“This decision was announced in September 2021 without any prior consultation with affected communities and industries.

“Charcoal derived from jarrah residue logs and sawmill waste is currently used in the manufacture of high-grade silicon, a key input for solar panels, computer chips and variety of other products critical to a future economy based on renewable energy.

Australia’s only silicon manufacturer Simcoa is based in south-west Western Australia and uses around 140,000 tonnes of timber residues in its silicon manufacturing process.

“With a looming shortfall of jarrah following the decision by the state government to end commercial timber harvesting after 2023, Simcoa is facing up to the prospect of having to import coal from Columbia to substitute for jarrah charcoal in its manufacturing process. This

is clearly not a preferable outcome for the Western Australian community or the environment and undermines endeavours to curb climate change through reducing emissions and reliance on non-renewable resources.”

Charcoal produced from jarrah is a renewable resource and has almost twice the carbon content of coal.

Simcoa’s director of operations David Miles said without a suitable alternative, the company might have to triple the amount of coal it imported to keep running at full tilt.

“Normally we require around 140,000 tonnes of hardwood timber in the manufacturing process,” Dr Miles said. “This year we’ve received about half that.”

He added: “The company was very concerned that it was having to consider alternatives to jarrah that were not as favourable.”

Dr McCaw says looking to the future, potential

Cont P 13



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\$10m subsidy for water-logged NSW hardwoods to give mills access to supply outside their region

But Queensland producers doing it just as tough with flood rains, no forest access and empty yards

JIM BOWDEN

TIMBER producers impacted by hardwood shortages from flood-affected parts of NSW have won a \$10 million support subsidy from the state government to secure supplies from outside the region.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the industry, which generated hundreds of local jobs, would continue to play a crucial role in rebuilding impacted communities right along NSW's mid coast and north coast.

"The \$10 million hardwood timber haulage subsidy program will cover the cost for businesses to transport materials from outside their existing supply areas and get them into processing facilities," Mr Toole said.

"This funding boost keeps locals in jobs while supplying high-quality timber for the construction industry as we continue to rebuild our flood-affected communities," he said.

Timber NSW has been strongly advocating for months for a support package and CEO Maree McCaskill said a haulage subsidy was the first stage in that process.

"Initially, the detailed information collected and sent weekly to the



Donna Layton, general manager, Notaras Sawmill at Grafton, recognises the state government's \$10 million subsidy support at the site this week, along with Andrew Hurford, chair, Timber NSW (left). Attending the announcement are Chris Gulaptis, MP Clarence, and Dugald Saunders, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry.



Maree McCaskill... we were strategic but relentless in ensuring both state and federal governments understood the dire situation faced by the forest industry.

NSW government were the economic losses and employment impacts of the flood-affected businesses which covered the entire north coast," Ms McCaskill said.

"We were strategic but relentless in ensuring both state and federal governments understood the dire situation the forest industry was in on the north coast and that the impacts were going to be felt

for months to come."

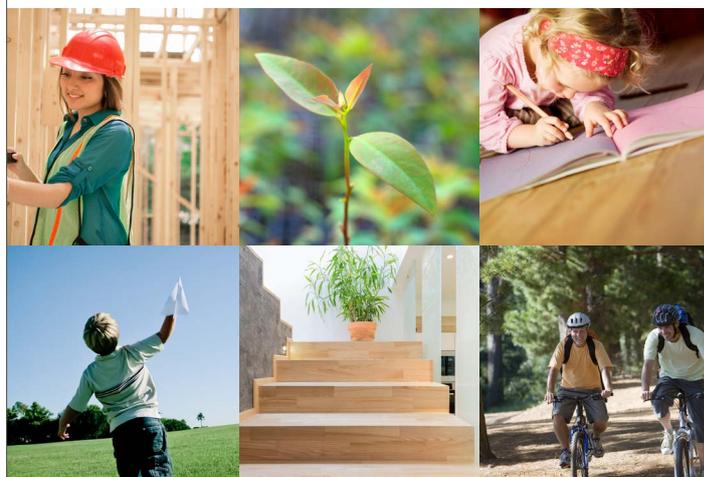
Ms McCaskill said the level of damage to roading and bridges both state and private was enormous and the NSW government quickly moved on grants to accelerate repairs to enable safe movement of trucks.

"However the reconstruction and repair work will take many months and possibly up to a year to restore," she said.

Timber NSW strongly advocated for additional emergency funding for the

Cont P 4

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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REPAIR WORK WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS, POSSIBLY UP TO A YEAR TO RESTORE

From P 3

Forestry Corporation to repair their crown roading infrastructure as they were already trying to recover from the devastating fires of 2019-20.

Timber NSW understands there will be further announcements in the coming weeks for assistance packages for the forest industries that have been and are still flood affected.

The Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW Dugald Saunders said the persistent wet weather had cut off access to state forests.

“Our hardwood processors are facing a critical shortage of timber and need urgent help to haul in good quality wood

“FOREST ACCESS TOO DANGEROUS FOR MACHINERY



Graeme Robertson... when logs were plenty – but storm clouds told another story

from outside the region,” Mr Saunders said.

“This subsidy will mean that eligible processing plants can claim \$30 per tonne for the transport of construction grade timber sourced from alternate harvest sites,” he said.

“Those businesses can claim up to \$500,000, which will help them continue to operate, keep their workers and ensure builders can push

on and rebuild the homes that were destroyed and damaged by floods.”

Mr Saunders said the assistance would allow support for a long-term recovery of flood-impacted regions and would bridge the gap of diminished hardwood resources.

Meanwhile, Queensland sawmillers in central Queensland and the Gympie-Wide Bay region have ‘run dry’ with yards empty of logs and private and Crown forests impossible to enter as relentless flood rains do their worst.

Battle-weary central Queensland sawmills face more soaking rains and a flood watch has been issued for catchments between Rockhampton and Caboolture while overnight falls up to 25 to 50 mm were recorded, particularly between Mackay

and Bundaberg

Emerald, Moranbah and Gayndah received up to 10 mm last Friday while timber operations in Blackbutt in the South Burnett and up to Tiaro on the Fraser Coast are in the same boat.

Robertson Bros Sawmills at Gympie is totally out of timber and yards are likely to remain empty for many weeks.

Graeme Robertson said the mill and many others were in an extremely difficult position – no supplies and the forest resource is too dangerous to enter.

“We closed the green mill this week and some staff have taken up leave,” he said.

“We hope we can get them back on site for a couple of days a week. Meanwhile, a lot of people don’t know just how bad it is as we come into winter and the ground takes longer to dry out.

“The supply-and-demand situation is worsening, a shocking parallel with building timbers running out. And even if the rain eases it will still be too dangerous for any machinery to access our resource.”

Mr Robertson added: “I feel for the producers in north NSW and the government subsidy will help. But they’ll be very lucky if they find much wood. We’re all in the same basket.”



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Housing boom: a year to go

BUILDERS and tradespeople across Australia are set to remain at full capacity for at least one more year, latest forecasts on detached home construction show. This will place more pressure on labour and material prices and supply.

HIA says there were 75.7% more detached homes under construction at

the end of 2021 than pre-Covid. There are also more homes approved and waiting commencement than in any previous cycle.

This strong ongoing demand has occurred at the same time as significant constraints on materials, land and labour, leading to rapid increases in the cost of construction.

Gala South Bank night celebrates TABMA Queensland Timber Industry Awards 2022 after a challenging year

JIM BOWDEN

FEDERAL politicians and the fate of their seats in parliament seemed far from the minds of more than 230 timber industry revellers who took their seats on election night at the ritzy Hotel Rydges on Brisbane's South Bank for the TABMA Australia dinner and Queensland awards presentations.

There were, of course, a number of guests who used breaks between the soup and nuts to thumb their mobiles for updates on the poll with one keen observer at our table announcing late in the evening: "They're gone ... and Josh too!"

This was the biggest unmasked gathering of timber types since the Covid-19 outbreak more than two years ago.

But the virus didn't miss TABMA CEO David Little who



High jinks at Rydges ... the Redland Bay Roof Truss team enjoys the awards night.

was quarantined in Sydney and missed the event. In a phone call on the night he sent his best wishes to the association, its members and guests.

Sharing award presentation duties were TABMA Australia chair Peter Hutchinson of MiTek Australia and vice-chair Michael Gaske of Boonah Lattice.

TABMA membership general manager Alicia Oelkers was excited about the return of the awards evening ... "it was great to see so many familiar and new

faces in the room."

Alicia said the industry had worked really hard during challenging times and it was special to celebrate the successes.

She offered a big thank you to guest judge Bruce Harle, well-known forest and timber identity, who volunteered his time travelling around the state judging the awards.

“IT WAS GREAT TO WELCOME SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES

Sponsors of the awards were: **Platinum:** ITI Australia, Dindas Australia, Tilling Timber. **Silver:** ECI Spruce, NCI. **Bronze:** Vida Wood, Ozline Timbers, ATIF, Big River, Network Steel, Simmonds Lumber, ADM Global, Parkside Timber

And the winners were:

Best Timber Merchant: Gowan Lea Timbers.

Best Building Materials Centre: Sunshine Mitre 10.

Best Timber Wholesale Operation: Dindas Australia.

Best Timber Frame and Truss Operation: TrussCorp.

Best Timber Manufacturing Operation: Timbeck Architectural.

Best Sawmilling Operation: Hyne Timber.

Most Innovative Operation: Multinail.

Best Timber Wholesale Sales Representative: Daniel Parkin.

Best Timber Processing Operation: Parkside Timber.

Cont P 6

White-eared Honeyeater (Photo Birdlife Australia)

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Responsible Wood would like to congratulate the 2021 PF Olsen Australia and Birdlife Australia NSW Softwood Plantation Pilot Surveys.

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From P 5



Alicia Oelkers... the industry has worked really hard during challenging times and it was special to celebrate the successes.



Big night for the Big River Group.



Time to party... Christine Jones and Kathy Leddy of Versace Timbers.



Gowan Lea Timbers out on the town for a great night of celebration.



In the frame at TABMA dinner... John Jeffrey, Lee Royal, Tracey Jeffrey and Ian Royal from Noosa Truss.

On the cover: TABMA Australia Queensland award winners and presenters... back row, from left, Ernie Patterson, Sunshine Mitre 10, Melonie Conduit, Parkside Timber, Stuart McBean, Multinail, Daniel Parkin, Pentarch Forestry. Second row, Peter Hutchison, TABMA Australia chair, Carolyn Crabb and Kiara Claffey, Dindas Australia, Aaron Hillman, TrussCorp, David McInnes, Hyne Timber, and Michael Gaske, TABMA Australia vice-chair. Front row, Matte Green and Anthony Thomas, Gowan Lea Timbers.



Enjoying pre-dinner drinks are Paul Heubner, CEO, Pentarch Forestry and wife Debbie.

Investing in people ...

Grant award applications for 2022 are now open:

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advancing the industry

JUNE

3: WFTN Qld strategic planning workshop – Hugh Hamilton Room, Construction Training Centre, Salisbury, QLD and via Zoom. 8-11 am. Setting priorities and agenda for progressing meaningful change for women in the forest and timber industries. Contact sarah@timberqueensland.com.au

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

14: AFPA-Timber Queensland dinner – Rydges Southbank, Brisbane, QLD. Starts 6 pm. First national forest industries event in the new federal

parliamentary term. Tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/afpa-quarterly-meetings-june-2022-including-the-afpa-and-timber-queensland-forest-industries-dinner>

16: Timber Queensland R&D field day – Brisbane, QLD. 8 am-2 pm. Showcase of current R&D from Queensland's three major research centres and their partners. Visit www.timberqueensland.com.au/events

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

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 America, South America, Asia and Europe. Registration open at 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

OCTOBER

20-22: Forestry Australia Symposium – Albury, NSW. Leading, adapting and reimagining: the future of forestry. Available in person or online www.forestryconference.com.au/

26-28: DANA-Ginkgo Global Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Marriott Singapore Tang Plaza Hotel, Singapore. Focus on woodchips and biomass. (Venue to be advised). Website live and early bird registrations now open. Visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore> Contact conference organiser Mariela Ferrari marielaferri@gmail.com

FPA Tasmania field day will assess soil erodibility in forest areas

THE Forest Practices Authority Tasmania is running a southern one-day course and field day on June 22 on soil erodibility and conservation.



The course will look at up to six soil profiles of different erodibility. At one site the field day participants will inspect a highly erodible

soil and discuss whether management of road cuttings has been appropriate. If time allows, FPA will apply soil erodibility criteria to the

Class 4 guidelines (Forest Practices Code Appendix 5) and discuss the protection required for streams.

This field day is primarily for people involved with preparing forest practices plans.

A similar field day will be held in the north on September 13.

Contact Peter McIntosh, manager of FPA's earth sciences and cultural heritage

program on (03) 6165 4090 or email info@fpa.tas.gov.au

Visit www.fpa.tas.gov.au

TFFPA manages the Tasmanian forest practices system on both public and private land, based on the Forest Practices Act 1985. These include establishing forests, growing and harvesting timber, clearing trees, clearing and converting threatened native vegetation and work within forest areas such as roads and in quarries.



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Forest industries ready to assist new government in delivering greater timber and climate solutions

THE Australian Forest Products Association has congratulated the incoming Albanese government and signalled its determination to assist Labor meet timber production targets and more ambitious climate goals.

CEO Ross Hampton congratulated new Prime Minister on his historic election victory.

“We have had an open and constructive dialogue with Labor especially through Shadow Agriculture Minister Julie Collins, who has been intensely interested in measures which will put more timber into the hands of builders and home owners,” Mr Hampton said.

Julie Collins has won her sixth term in the Australian parliament and will continue to serve the Franklin electorate in Tasmania for another three years.

Ms Collins, expected to take the agriculture and forestry portfolio in the new government, was elected first female representative



Julie Collins made her first address to an Australian Forest Products Association members dinner in Canberra in June last year, confirming forest industries would feature in Labor's National Reconstruction Fund for Growth. She was welcomed by AFPA CEO Ross Hampton and chair Greg McCormack.

for Franklin in 2007. She was a member of Cabinet in the former Labor government, holding responsibility for senior portfolios. Most recently she was Shadow Minister for Ageing and Seniors and Shadow Minister for Women.

Ross Hampton said industry was delighted that during the campaign, Labor committed to the goal of a

billion more production trees and grants to trigger new plantings, significant funding for sawmill upgrades to get more timber from every log and the Launceston-based National Institute for Forest

“ JULIE COLLINS EXPECTED TO TAKE FORESTRY PORTFOLIO

Products Innovation which will deliver breakthroughs in timber and fibre use to help us move out of plastics into more climate friendly products.

Labor had also signalled an urgent mission to constructively work with the land sector, which deeply involved forestry, to ensure Australia could turn up at the next climate talks in Egypt in November with more ambitious net zero targets.

“We will also work with Labor to ensure it upholds its commitment to no more forest lockups and continuing to support our sustainable, modest native forest sector,” Mr Hampton said.

“There is a great deal to do to ensure all these ideas deliver for all Australians and forest industries stand ready to assist,” he said.

Forest industries also thanked outgoing Assistant Minister for Forestry Senator Jonno Duniham, who has worked tirelessly for the forest industry.

Forestry Australia audit: membership happy and growing

FORESTRY Australia has released results of its latest member audit, which show a happy and growing membership base.

The organisation has experienced an unprecedented 19% increase in membership since 2020, with member satisfaction also significantly increasing; 86.75% of members described themselves as being satisfied or highly satisfied with their – up 27.3% over the past four years.

The proportion of members reporting that membership was good or exceptional value for money also increased by over 28% since March 2019.

CEO Jacquie Martin said the audit results reflected the brand development, enhanced member offerings and other positive changes that have occurred within Forestry Australia in recent years. It also reflects the growing importance of well-managed forests to Australian society.



Jacquie Martin... continuing to advocate for forest science.

“Forestry Australia is incredibly proud to represent more than 1070 forest scientists, professionals and growers who manage, study and care for our forests,” Ms Martin said.

“To see our membership

experience rapid growth in both numbers and satisfaction is extremely pleasing, and reflects a broader recognition of the need for an association like Forestry Australia,” she said.

“We understand that forestry-related professions are continuing to change and evolve in line with advances in science, as well as in response to external pressures such as climate change and catastrophic weather events.”

Photo contest entries surge past 300 so snap to it for a \$1000 prize

NOMINATIONS are coming in thick and fast as the deadline looms for the 2022 Responsible Wood national photo contest.

Entrants have until World Environment Day June 5 to enter the competition.

Responsible Wood marketing and communication officer Jason Ross has been overwhelmed by the response as professional and amateur photographers across Australia submit their favourite photos from Responsible Wood certified forests.

So far more than 300 photos have been entered for the competition. Photographs from entrants include colourful trees, forest landscapes, people working or animals living in among the trees.

"As it stands, more than 90% of Australia's commercial forests are covered by Responsible Wood certification," Jason said. "These include state forests, plantation estates and those run by forestry agencies along with many privately-owned forests."

So next time you're in a forest – be it for work or leisure – take your camera along and snap to it!

Along with a \$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 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.

Entries close June 5 (end of business day). Go to www.responsiblewood.org.au/photocontest for terms and conditions, then head to Instagram and post your forest photo using the contest hashtag #rwphotocontest22. And that's it, you're done!

Photo entries (any number) can be uploaded to Instagram #rwphotocontest22, emailed to Responsible Wood Photo Contest at info@responsiblewood.org.au or post to Responsible Wood, PO Box 786, New Farm, Qld 4005. Tel: (07) 3359 1758.

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Basalt research study to enhance wood production

TERRESTRIAL ecosystem ecologist Dr Mingkai Jiang has won an Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics science and innovation award for a project that tests the feasibility of using powdered basalt to boost wood production in plantations.

Previous research indicates that adding basalt to agricultural land can increase soil fertility and enhance wood production. However, there has not yet been sufficient evidence to make similar claims for plantation forests.

Dr Jiang is an adjunct lecturer at Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, and if his project is successful, powdered basalt could be applied to

Australian plantations to maximise productivity and even, potentially, to mitigate climate change.

“The benefit of this approach is that it can be co-deployed with existing land use,” Dr Jiang said.

“It can potentially increase carbon sequestration, as well as provide extra carbon to offset emissions. Forest-based carbon credits are very exciting in how they co-benefit the industry and the global efforts to mitigate climate change.”

The award is sponsored by FWPA each year. Forest research manager Jodie Mason introduced Dr Jiang at the 2022 ABARES Outlook Conference Awards Showcase.

“FWPA is eager to see the results of this project,”



Dr Mingkai Jiang presents at the ABARES Outlook Conference.

Ms Mason said.

“We believe it has the potential to make a positive impact on our industry thanks to its objective of optimising forest management and the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by plantation forests.”

Dr Jiang uses ecological

theory, process-based mathematical models and manipulative experiments to study the impacts of global change on terrestrial ecosystems and the associated consequences for ecosystem services. More specifically, he is currently involved in research projects that investigate how atmospheric CO₂, drought, and bushfire affects plant and ecosystem carbon and nutrient cycling, and how that in turn affects nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change.

Dr Jiang has received the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award from Australian Research Council and the Science and Innovation Award from Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

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World congress: new global network launched to empower young forest professionals across sector

THE Global Network for Forestry Young Professionals (ForYP) was launched at the World Forestry Congress in Seoul earlier this month.

ForYP aims to increase the visibility of young professionals, providing an inclusive space to share their ideas, learn, and showcase their contributions to the sector.

The network aims to collaborate with the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and other forestry networks and associations to increase the visibility, engagement and career development of young professionals.

Members of ForYP will benefit from services such as an online networking platform, social and networking events, career development and training.

At the World Forestry



1

1/ Young foresters will benefit from ForYP with an online networking platform, social and networking events, career development and training.



2

2/ Elaine Springgay... vibrant young forestry professionals give hope for the sector's future.

Congress, ForYP facilitated the Project Learning Tree Canada/WFC Green Mentorship Program, which connected 51 mentorship pairs around the world. It also provided pre-congress training for youth and young professionals, hosted a networking event and organised a special event on young professionals and

career development.

ForYP includes professionals up to 40 years of age and/or with less than 15 years of experience in the sector.

The ForYP launch was one of the most well-attended congress sessions with more than 150 participants in person and online.

"We also received a lot of compliments, not only for the energy and dynamism of the event, but also for the clear storyline and messages," said Elaine Springgay, Rome-based UN Food

and Agriculture organization forestry officer.

"For me personally it was gratifying to finally meet in-person the ForYP board members and other YPs who have worked hard over the last couple of years to make the network a reality," Ms Springgay said.

"Meeting talented and vibrant young professionals at the WFC who are experts in their fields was inspiring and gives hope for the sector's future.

"We have been invited on a podcast and will be used for a communication campaign to spread the word of ForYP with the help of other networks and associations."

To join ForYP and register with the network visit ForYP.org or follow @ForYPorg on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube

“THE EVENT GAVE CLEAR STORYLINE AND MESSAGES

Forestry Australia welcomes Professor Mark Brown to the board

FORESTRY Australia has welcomed Professor Mark Brown to its board in a casual vacancy position, bringing nearly 25 years' experience in applied forestry and biomass supply research and innovation.

Professor of forestry operations at University of the Sunshine Coast, Prof. Brown is also deputy director of USC's Forestry Research Institute, and director of USC's Forest Industries Research Centre.



Professor Mark Brown... increasing recognition of the value of sustainable forestry in modern Australian society.

Forestry Australia president Bob Gordon said Prof. Brown's academic and research expertise, strong networks and fundraising experience would be valuable additions to the board's skillset.

"Professor Brown is a proven research leader across the entire forest product, biomass and circular economy supply chain," Mr Gordon said.

"We look forward to

incorporating and capitalising on his expertise as we work to increase recognition of the value of sustainable forestry in modern Australian society."

Professor Brown is also a member of the Australian Journal of Forestry editorial board.

“RESEARCH LEADER ACROSS ENTIRE FOREST SECTOR

From P 2

opportunities exist for private forest growers to supply wood suitable for producing high quality charcoal, but this requires coordinated planning, research into suitable tree species and time for plantations to reach a commercial size and scale.

“The lead time to establish a viable supply of charcoal from private land would be a decade or more,” he said.

“The Western Australian government has claimed repeatedly that climate change is one of the main reasons behind its decision to cease commercial timber harvesting in native forests, but it has failed to support the claim with evidence.”

In September 2021, the Premier of Western Australia Mark McGowan made a shock announcement that all native forest logging would cease in 2024, at the



Simcoa has a 15-year contract to buy 150,000 tonnes a year of ‘firewood quality’ jarrah logs for use as charcoal in the silicon-making process.

end of the current 10-year Forest Management Plan. The decision was made without consultation with the timber industry, public, or government agencies. The reasons for the decision were to save the forests and preserve the carbon stocks.

This is at complete odds with another climate change oddity – the state’s continuation of strip mining for bauxite which completely removes the forest and its carbon stocks, as well as the

soil that the forest grows in.

Moreover, the comprehensive Forest Management Plan has no control or influence over the mining activities that are allowed to continue under the government’s policy.

“GOVT DECISION WAS TO SAVE FORESTS AND PRESERVE CARBON STOCKS

The Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority approves mining expansion proposals.

The Forests Department expressed concern about the mining expansion in the jarrah forests in its 1970 annual report: “The current level of mining activity in forests areas is of major concern. The over-riding powers of the Mining Act in respect of state forests and timber reserves which date from the early days of gold mining coupled with the marked increase of mining activity, has given rise to the greatest threat the forest estate has experienced”.

Clearing for bauxite reached 2040 ha in the 1970s. It represented a five-fold annual increase in production after Alcoa’s second refinery was constructed at Pinjarra in 1972.

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‘I’ve got a government job and I’m okay, but I still want a pay rise’: well isn’t that good for lucky you

No production means no income for family businesses and those who work long and hard every day

YOU know Cheryl, you’re getting old and bitchy, said one of the team as we sat around at smoko last week. He will remain nameless, and he is anyway at least a decade my senior, so there! I am happy to be called ‘bitchy’ anytime, but I thought being called old was a bit beyond the pale!

It is certainly starting to get cooler down here as winter creeps among the pines. I reckon the first tell-tale sign that the cold weather on its way is when you see steam coming out of the nostrils of the occasional brumby trotting around the edge of the forest.

Anyway, what I was trying to say that attracted the “old and bitchy” comment was that you always know when an election is in the offing. Certainly, here in NSW there has been almost continuous industrial action now since Christmas. The trains have been a stop-start affair for months; bus drivers have been on strike and teachers, nurses, ambos have all been out front of Macquarie Street essentially demanding more

“IT MUST BE GREAT TO GET PAID AND NOT WORRY ABOUT PRODUCTIVITY



Primary producers have to live in a real world... that means they need to produce something before they can be paid.

pay and better working conditions.

You know, the one thing all these people have in common, is that they are employed and paid by the government. Meaning of course their wages are covered by the good old taxpayer. The point I was trying to make is that it’s great to be a government worker and not have to worry about the relationship between productivity and getting paid.

Contrast that with forest contractors and other primary industry and manufacturing businesses that generate hard-earned revenue so they can pay people ... and perhaps make a profit when something is produced – logs on trucks, wheat in the silo, cattle at the saleyards, and so on.

No production means no

owners themselves.

So how great it is to be on the government payroll and be able to confidently put your hand out every week, plus demand a regular pay rise when forestry workers, farmers, miners and manufacturers have to live in a real world that means they need to produce something before they can be paid.

The other reality is that it is primary industries and related manufacturing businesses that fundamentally produce the initial primary tax income in the country that funds the whole cavalcade of all those on the government ticket, from politicians down to all those agitating for more pay when there’s an election in the wind.

Without the wealth created by primary industries, frequently by small families and businesses, none of the additional largesse now being demanded by a whole array of government employees would be possible – election or no election.

That was what I was bitching about. Do you think I have a point? Catch up again next month. I should have calmed down by then.

Cheryl.



income and an inability to pay those working long and hard, much less than business



Steam from the brumbies... winter is here

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Mercer's mission: \$50m upgrades for CLT plant

LESS than a year after buying the shuttered Katerra plant in Spokane Valley, Washington state, Mercer Mass Timber plans to invest \$50 million in capital projects at the cross-laminated timber factory over the next two years.

The company has hired 80% of previous Katerra employees at the site since opening last June. Starting in July, the plant, which currently has 50 employees, will hire roughly 30 additional people to run a second shift.

Mercer Mass Timber is a subsidiary of the Vancouver, British Columbia-based Mercer International Inc., a global producer of market pulp and solid wood products with mills in Canada, Germany, and Australia.

Mercer acquired the 23,500 sq m facility – one of the largest CLT production

facilities in North America – last summer for \$50 million from Katerra which went out of business in June and laid off 63 employees in Spokane Valley.

Jason Herman, plant manager, says Mercer has hired 80% of former Katerra employees at the site since its opening. Starting in July, the plant, which currently has 50 employees, will hire about 30 people and start a second shift.

When Mercer acquired the plant last August, the company stated in a press release that the plant represented 30% of the current North American mass



1/ Mercer Mass Timber has capacity to supply about 140,000 cub m of five-ply panels a year.

2/ Todd Beyreuther... partnership with Washington State University's composites laboratory.

timber manufacturing capacity and had a capacity to supply about 140,000 cub m of five-ply panels a year.

Lumber makes up 75% of product costs and plant manager Jason Herman says demand is growing for mass timber, not just for buildings, but also homes, bridges,

barges, and other structures.

In the US, 1384 multi-family, commercial, or institutional mass timber projects have been built or are in design as of March.

Todd Beyreuther, director of product for Mercer, says access to timber in eastern Washington, Idaho, Montana,

and British Columbia is one factor in the original decision to locate the plant in the Spokane area.

Another factor is tied to the plant's continuing partnership with Washington State University and its composite materials and engineering centre.

Snap to it.

The Responsible Wood 2022 Photo Contest is now open. Entries close June 5, 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

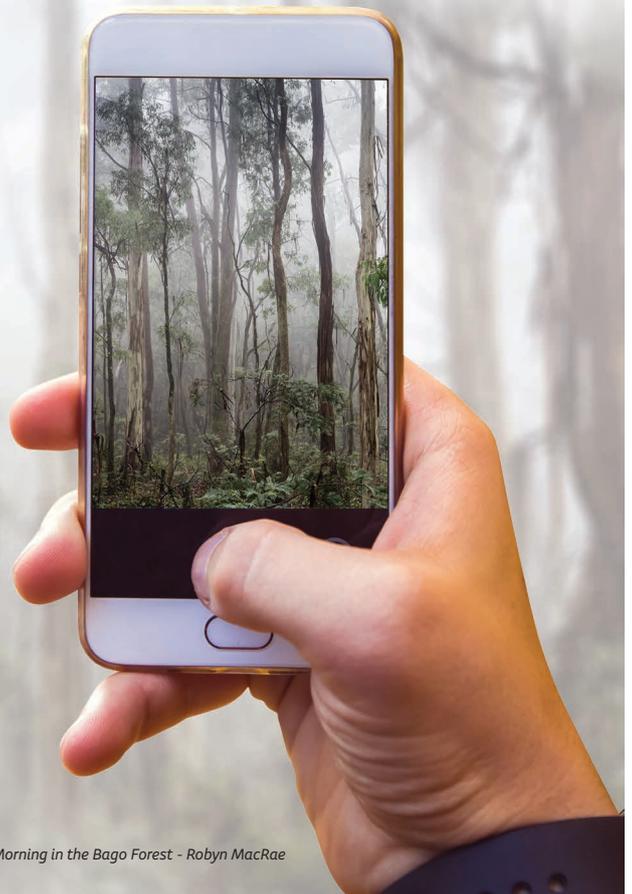


Photo: Early Morning in the Bago Forest - Robyn MacRae

Purchase by Japanese global assets giants will further promote New Forests resources growth

SYDNEY-based institutional fund manager New Forests says it plans to manage \$25 billion of forestry investments by 2030 in what could become a trillion-dollar asset class after being jointly acquired by Japanese global assets businesses Mitsui and Nomura.

The sale announced last week signifies the rapid growth of the forestry fund, founded in 2005 by David Brand, to \$7.8 billion, making it the second-largest asset manager globally in the space.

Tokyo-based Mitsui and Nomura have entered an agreement to purchase a 100% shareholding in New Forests which manages more than 1 million ha of forests, rural land and conservation investments with offices in San Francisco, Singapore, and New Zealand.

The agreement, which is expected to be completed by December, will see Mitsui become a 49% shareholder and Nomura a



1/ New Forests has nearly doubled its sustainable forestry plantations in southeast Asia.

2/ New Forests managing director, impact and advocacy, Radha Kuppalli and CEO David Brand.



41% shareholder, with the remaining 10% shareholding retained by New Forests' staff.

As part of the agreement, founder, CEO and chair David Brand will continue with New Forests until June 30, 2025, focusing on strategic initiatives and growth opportunities.

Mitsui and Nomura will provide capital to support New Forests' strategic growth initiatives and the global expansion of its investment platform. In addition, New Forests will leverage Nomura's global distribution network, particularly across Japan and more broadly in Asia.

Mitsui and Nomura share New Forests' commitment to sustainability and vision to see investment in sustainable land use with forestry central to

the transition to a sustainable future.

Chief operating manager Hiroshi Kakiuchi said Mitsui's investment in New Forests was part of a sustainability strategy to invest in companies who are at the forefront of climate change mitigation and who are positively contributing to communities.

"We are looking forward to our continued partnership with New Forests and supporting its next stage of growth."

Senior managing director Yoshihiro Namura said: "We have been impressed with the leadership and track record at New Forests. As a large global financial services group, we play a significant role in helping to solve environmental

challenges, and we see investment in sustainable land use and forestry as a key part of the solution."

"New Forests has achieved a great deal over the past 17 years, growing institutional investment in the forestry asset

class and re-imagining the investment opportunities in rural landscapes," David Brand said.

"The rising need to substantially increase investment in sustainable land use, along with increasing investor interest is creating an opportunity to accelerate the growth of the business."

Two representatives each from Mitsui and two from Nomura will join the New Forests board of directors, along with two independent directors and an employee nominee director.

Mitsui is one of the most diversified investment and service enterprises in the world, with 129 offices in 63 countries and regions.

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THIRD PAGE: \$215

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking

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PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking

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New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

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