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ISSUE 723 | September 8, 2022

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**Consumers 'in the frame' as Bunnings tells green timber story across Australia**

COVER STORY P 5

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# Timber industry ‘crisis summit’ in 2023 to tackle burning issue for Australia: supply, supply, supply

It’s a case of all hands to the pump to meet an ever-growing demand for timber and EWPs

JIM BOWDEN

A GLOBAL wood supply crisis summit is on schedule for Melbourne next year, initiated by Timber&Forestry enews with input from Australian and international stakeholders and government.

Flagging the event for August 28 and 29, co-publishers Dennis Neilson and John Halkett said the event was critical and timely as industry headed towards 2023 with more and more holes appearing in the country’s wood supply source.

“It’s a case of all hands to the pump to meet the growing demand for timber and engineered wood, particularly LVL,” Neilson said.

The Master Builders Association and the



1/ *The dilemma of wood supply deficits has been an uphill struggle in recent times.*  
 2 *Dennis Neilson... approaching ‘perfect storm’ threatens to drive industry onto the rocks.*

support the planting of future timber supplies threatens the construction industry and the jobs it supports.

Analysis concludes that by no later than 2050 Australia will have an implied gap between demand and local production of 2.6 million cub m a year, equivalent to 40.5% of total demand.

Neilson points to an approaching ‘perfect storm’ ... “but not one which will catch the sails of the industry to drive it home, but one that threatens to drive it onto the rocks”

Neilson summarises some of the challenges:

- COP 26 at Glasgow in 2021 – and no doubt COP 27 in Cairo in 2023 – will bring home again how important it is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions if land and ocean temperatures are not going to run amok and produce uninhabitable regions into the future. That means the use of energy and emissions-intensive cement and steel (especially aluminum) must be curbed in favour of sustainable wood products.

- The call for a billion trees program from various governments in Australia has been ignored to date. As a result the softwood resource base has been static for

Cont P 4

“AN APPROACHING ‘PERFECT STORM’ THREATENS TO DRIVE US ONTO THE ROCKS

Australian Forest Products Association agree Australia is heading towards a deficit of 250,000 timber house frames by 2035 and the failure by governments to adequately



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# Will it be Mr Albatreese? PM to address industry dinner on new plantations and wood supply pledge

## Hundreds booked for biggest stakeholder gathering at Parliament House in Canberra since 2017

LABOR'S pre-election commitment to support the one billion trees program and assurances on wood supply will be tested next Wednesday when the Prime Minister addresses more than 450 forest industry leaders at a gala dinner in the Great Hall at Parliament House Canberra.

Hosted by the Australian Forest Product Association, the event has also attracted dozens of federal MPs and senators who will gather for the first forest industries dinner since 2017.

Anthony Albanese will be joined by Forestry Minister and former 'legal eagle' Senator Murray Watt, a passionate advocate for regional Australia and primary industries in his previous role as Shadow Minister for Northern Australia,

"This will be the first opportunity for our industry to hear from the Prime Minister

**HOLDING PROMISE ON ONE BILLION TREES PLAN**

about the progress of the ambitious \$300 million forest industries package he announced at the election and to work with us to grow our sector, tackle climate change and secure Australia's future timber and paper needs," AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said.

"The Albanese government has a full policy and funding agenda connected to Australia's forest industries sector and we thank the Prime Minister for taking time in a busy schedule to address our sector," Mr Hampton said.

Federal Labor's industry commitment follows its claim to be "a proud supporter of the forest sector."

The Albanese Labor government has pledged almost \$220 million to expand the work of the National Institute for Forest



**Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to address AFPA gala industry dinner in Canberra.**

Products and Innovation, continue the rollout of regional forestry hubs to work with industry and state and local governments, and for grants targeted at better utilisation of logs and fibre, value adding and supporting the industry to continue to reduce its carbon footprint.

Labor will also provide \$86.2 million for the establishment of new plantations to secure future wood supply and \$4.4 million towards Australia's

illegal logging traceability and timber identification systems.

And, says Labor, the forestry sector can expect a share of investment through the \$500 million for agriculture, forestry and fisheries under the National Reconstruction Fund.

Labor has reiterated its policy of removing the water rule in relation to the Emissions Reduction Fund and carbon farming, helping to encourage growth in the plantation resource across the country.

The night is also an opportunity for guests to recognise long-standing industry stalwart Greg McCormack who will stand down as AFPA chair at the dinner ahead of his retirement from the board at the AGM in November. His successor Wagga Wagga-based agro-economist Diana Gibbs will be among the well-wishers.

Registrations for the gala dinner remain open. Visit [ausfpa.com.au/events/afpa-all-industry-gala-dinner](http://ausfpa.com.au/events/afpa-all-industry-gala-dinner) or contact AFPA on 0408 404 764 or email [enquiries@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ausfpa.com.au)

**Australian Forest Products Association**

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From P 2

decades, rotations driven down to a point of barely sustaining the strength required for house framing and roof trusses. In any event, planting new trees now will not help wood supply for 30 years.

- The loss of more than 17 million ha of forests and land in the 2019-20 bushfires that made a bad supply situation a whole lot worse.

- Decades of nonsensical federal and state political decisions have all but locked up Australia's native forests.

**“BILLION TREES PROGRAM HAS BEEN IGNORED TO DATE**



**Australia is heading towards a deficit of 250,000 timber house frames by 2035.**

These provided some of the best commercial timber, the most productive, managed and sustainable in the world. And lockups look like getting worse. This has forced the building and construction industries to look for alternatives, including much more unsustainable and dodgy overseas alternatives

- The rapid growth in demand for engineered wood products such as LVL and now CLT requires quality raw material, now sadly lacking in Australia.

- Europe has been a growing supplier of timber and EWPs, but the Russia-Ukraine conflict has altered the balance of supply and demand in Europe, pushed up prices and threatens future supplies from Europe, even after the conflict has ended.

- Russia has been Australia's most important supplier of LVL, but that source is now closed to the industry and for how long?

The Australian Timber Importers Federation every day faces the dilemma of wood supply deficits, shipping and transport confusion and how it can help – an uphill struggle in recent times.

Neilson and Halkett are both well qualified to

understand the supply problem and able to attract the world's best presenters to cover all the major issues – and maybe identify some solutions.

As managing director of Forestlands Consulting and

general manager of the Australian Timber Importers Federation John Halkett every day is faced with the dilemma of wood supply deficits and how to find a way through the struggle.

Dennis Neilson is very familiar with the export -orientated New Zealand wood industry and as a long-time information provider of global forest and wood resources and international wood supply and demand scenarios. Both are well placed to help identify the best international speakers to invite to this hallmark event in August next year

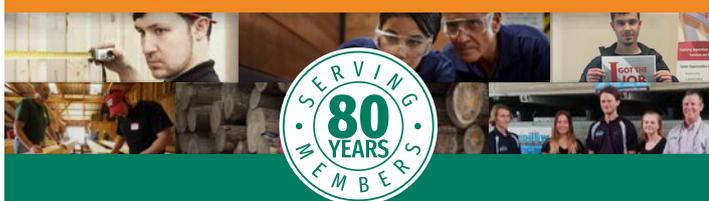
Readers should mark the dates. Further details will be provided in coming months.



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## RBA risks overshooting on rates

THE Reserve Bank raised its benchmark cash rate target by 0.5% on Tuesday, marking five consecutive monthly increases totalling 2.25%.

HIA economist Tom Devitt says bringing the cash rate target from its emergency policy setting of 0.1% in May to the new setting of 2.35% the RBA has undertaken its sharpest hiking cycle in almost 30 years.

“The RBA's intention is to bring Australian inflation back to its 2-3% target. But the nature of the current cycle means the RBA risks pushing

the cash rate too high,” Mr Devitt said.

“In a typical cycle the lag from an increase in the cash rate to a slowing in home building could be as little as six months, but in this cycle, the lag will be more than 12 months.”

Mr Devitt said the significant pipeline of work still to complete heading into this cycle will ensure building activity and demand for skilled trades remains exceptionally strong through the rest of 2022 and into 2023.

# Consumers ‘in the frame’ as Bunnings delivers the green timber story across five capital cities

THE Timber Framing Collective is participating in all five Bunnings’ expos this year across Australia – with Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane already staged during August.

The expos are helping the collective to introduce a suite of easy-to-use creative resources to help consumers share the remarkable green story of ‘Timber Framing – The Ultimate Renewable’.

The expos will reach Adelaide and Perth in September and October, with all events attracting thousands of Bunnings’ PowerPass trade customers to an exhibition of building materials supported by a non-profit collaboration with the framing collective.

**NEW INDUSTRY  
AMBASSADOR  
STAR CAMPAIGNER**



**Bunnings’ staff across Australia roll out the welcome mat for timber promotion**

The Melbourne and Sydney events had an extra drawcard with presentations by Adam Dovile, the industry’s new ambassador, promoting ‘Timber Framing. The Ultimate Renewable and the new ‘Build a Better World’ campaign.

Adam’s friendly down-to-earth personality was a great success with expo visitors of all ages and backgrounds talking to the builders, like Adam, about the benefits and ease of building with structural timber.

Adam’s involvement as the new brand will now extend beyond Australia’s television screens, and into the industry itself, with an offer of a special industry fee

for his appearances at FWPA member events.

“Adam is an experienced, charismatic and engaging speaker, and a wonderful asset to our industry,” said Eileen Newbury, head of marketing and communications at FWPA.

“This is the first time any external media talent has agreed to support us in this way,” Ms Newbury said.

“It’s an extremely exciting opportunity, and we hope members of the forest and wood products industry will enthusiastically take up Adam’s generous offer.”

If you’re planning a conference, networking event, awards ceremony, Q&A session, or any other

professional function, you should consider engaging Adam to take on the hosting duties.

FWPA members keen to engage Adam in their promotional events should contact Cathy Baker at CMC Talent

Management by emailing [cathy@cmctalent.com.au](mailto:cathy@cmctalent.com.au) to express an interest.

Fees will be negotiated based on the specifics of the request, and what Adam will be required to do. It is also worth noting that, as Adam is based in Melbourne, members wishing to engage him for regional or interstate events will be responsible for travel, accommodation and expenses.

**On the cover: Promoting the Timber Frame Collective at the recent Bunnings’ expo in Sydney are Fran Martinelli of Timberlink, Jacinta Colley of Vida, Adam Dovile, the industry’s ambassador promoting ‘Timber Framing The Ultimate Renewable’, and Christine Briggs of AKD.**

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Responsible Wood would like to announce that applications are now open for the 2022/23 Community Grants Program.

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Gang-gang Cockatoo  
(Photo Birdlife Australia)

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**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)

**14: AFPA's gala dinner – Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT.** Time: 6 pm-10 pm. Dress code business attire. To take advantage of the 15% discount, guests can visit their web sites directly and follow the links to make a reservation. Enquiries 0408 404 764 or email [enquiries@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ausfpa.com.au)

**26-29: Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Marketing Mission – Sydney and Melbourne.** Executives from MTC will be visiting to liaise with timber supply chain

representatives, including hosting meetings and visiting wholesale and manufacturing facilities. Further information to follow. Enquiries to John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

**OCTOBER**

**12: Australian Timber Importers Federation Board meeting – Brisbane, QLD.** For further information contact John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: [john.halkett@atif.asn.au](mailto:john.halkett@atif.asn.au)

**20-22: Forestry Australia Symposium – Mantra Hotel, Albury, NSW, and online.** Theme: Leading, Adapting and Reimagining the Future for Forestry. Closing keynote address by corporate speaker James O'Loughlin, one of Australia's most respected, entertaining and experienced corporate speakers. Early bird registrations close August 10. Take advantage of discounted fees for in person and virtual registration and register early. Contact Forestry Australia on +61 3 7065 4252 or email: [conference@forestry.org.au](mailto:conference@forestry.org.au)

Visit [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au)

**26-28: DANA-Gingko Global Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Marriott Singapore Tang Plaza Hotel, Singapore.** Includes post-conference field trip to inspect chip and wood pellet mills in Vietnam. Field trip places are limited and preference will be given to those registering for the conference. Information on the conference and field trip is on [danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/](http://danaevents.co.nz/2022singapore/) or contact Mariela Ferrari at [marielaferriari.e@gmail.com](mailto:marielaferriari.e@gmail.com)

**28: TABMA Australia NSW awards gala evening – Le Montage Lilyfield NSW.** Nominations and ticket sales open later this month, so look out for further information. Contact Alicia Oelkers on 0418 449 031 or free phone 1300 693 483.

**NOVEMBER**

**10: AFCA's Hall of Fame dinner – Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Tarlton, VIC.** Celebrating industry achievers and new

accolades for emerging leaders. Event kicks off inaugural AFCA mentoring program next day (November 11). Visit [www.afca.asn.au](http://www.afca.asn.au).

**18-19: Fast & Forward Forestry Expo – Rotorua, New Zealand.** New Zealand's first event of its kind, Fast & Forward Forestry brings the forestry industry together, showcasing the contribution the sector makes to the New Zealand economy. Visit: [www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo](http://www.fica.org.nz/fast-and-forward-expo) or contact the Forest Industry Contractors Association Email: [office@fica.org.au](mailto:office@fica.org.au) or phone (New Zealand only) 0800 342 269.

**DECEMBER**

**Australian Timber Design Awards – date and venue TBA.** Award entries have been extended by two weeks. Entries are pouring in so make sure to get ready, or sneak in a last-minute entry. Don't miss this great opportunity. Visit [www.tdansw.asn.au](http://www.tdansw.asn.au) or call 0420 232 253



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# Poll confirms Victorians want home-grown timber

NEW polling has found overwhelming public support for the state government to invest in home-grown timber and reinforces the Victorian Forests Products Association's call to increase the number of trees planted for harvesting.

A UComms poll in the Keysborough district showed an average of 86% of voters agree that Victoria should grow more trees for timber production. More trees in the ground will help fight climate change and secure Victoria's future timber supply.

VFPA CEO Deb Kerr said every action – or inaction – had consequences.

**“OUR FUTURE GROWS ON TREES**

“A lack of vision for forestry by successive state governments, bundled with high demand and a growing population, is now creating a perfect storm,” Ms Kerr said. “The brunt of it is borne by our hard-working industry, along with builders and home owners who are facing exploding prices.”

Ms Kerr said sustainably-harvested and replanted forests and plantations were a natural way of managing carbon, and Victoria's industry was world-class.

“Demand for sustainably-sourced fibre is increasing globally and Victoria is in a great position to become a global leader. What is missing is having the right policy settings in place to produce and secure this fibre,” she said.

A plantation expansion



**Deb Kerr... lack of vision for forest industry is creating the perfect storm.**

growth, and jobs”, Ms Kerr said.

The latest poll shows overwhelming support for policies that increase the plantation estate and secure future timber supply; 84% believe it is important that the next Victorian government ensures growing enough trees to meet the state's housing needs and

target forms a key element of VFPA's two-pillar policy platform, “Our Future Grows on Trees”.

“This will deliver more timber to our tradies, help decarbonise Victoria's economy to achieve net zero by 2050 and drive innovation,

provide local jobs.

“We have a sustainable, renewable resource at our doorstep,” Ms Kerr said.

“Voters are supporting our common goal this coming election – sustainably growing Victoria,”



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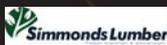












target forms a key element of VFPA's two-pillar policy platform, “Our Future Grows on Trees”.

“This will deliver more timber to our tradies, help decarbonise Victoria's economy to achieve net zero by 2050 and drive innovation,

# Updated FWPA kit: how industry can say 'no' to misleading claims about forest and timber products

## Empowering members to act against false and deceptive statements on competing materials

FWPA'S Misleading Claims Kit has been updated to help the forestry and wood products industry identify and act against misleading environmental marketing claims that may reduce the appeal of timber and wood products.

The kit has been prepared with members and the supply chain in mind and will provide a resource to help the industry formulate legitimate environmental claims about the benefits of timber in promotional materials.

Any company, whether operating in the forest and wood products industry or a competing industry, takes a serious risk when promoting misleading environmental claims intended to generate profit by falsely positioning products as 'beneficial for the environment' – a practice known as greenwashing.

This resource was created in response to concerns raised with FWPA by industry members regarding misleading or deceptive public statements made by non-wood competitors

Members will benefit from guidance around what actions can be taken to remove or report misleading environmental claims about



wood, as well as about competing materials.

"Information and resources included in the kit will empower members to act against false statements that could prove damaging to the forest and wood products industry.

When a business manufactures, supplies or advertises products or services with statements about environmental credentials and impact, it is essential to ensure all claims are accurate and verifiable.

Where false environmental claims are made, a breach of the misleading and deceptive conduct and false representation provisions covered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and other regulatory bodies may have occurred.

These bodies regularly monitor environmental claims made by businesses,

### Challenging and making environmental claims.

An action kit for the forest and wood products industry



### TALKING TIMBER



**With Eileen Newbury**  
Head of marketing and communications and head of WoodSolutions program

meaning there's a high likelihood that those engaging in greenwashing will be identified.

Where breaches occur, the offending party can find

themselves facing serious consequences. Aside from the legal and financial repercussions, businesses may also suffer commercially and risk reputational damage.

Clear examples are included in the kit to help guide the industry in identifying where a breach may have occurred. Sample letters of concern, complaint and warning are also included for those inspired to take action.

Equally as important is the inclusion of guidance specifically designed to support the forestry and wood products sector in remaining compliant and properly verifying its own environmental claims. This information will help members avoid committing damaging breaches of their own.

Timber is the ultimate renewable building material. It's a pretty simple process, and one that has helped keep our forests protected and sustainable for generations. Every time a tree is harvested multiple trees are grown in its place. Beyond that promising regrowth, wood products typically have a lower greenhouse footprint than alternative products.

The full Misleading Claims Kit can be found at [www.fwpa.com.au/resources/misleading-claims-kit.html](http://www.fwpa.com.au/resources/misleading-claims-kit.html)



An industry services company working to grow the forest and wood products market  
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# Sustainable native forest biomass is renewable: IPCC

THE Australian Forest Products Association urges the federal government to heed the international scientific consensus and advice from the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change that sustainably-sourced forest biomass is a renewable energy feedstock, following this week's announcement of a review into its inclusion in the Renewable Energy Target.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton said Australia should not close the door to a dispatchable renewable energy source that is widely used around the world at a time when we need more renewable energy sources.

"Bioenergy produced from sustainable biomass wood residues is carbon neutral and recognised internationally as a renewable energy

resource," Mr Hampton said.

"For the government to disincentivise wood bioenergy would make no sense when it wants to drive a carbon-constrained economy and achieve ambitious emissions reduction targets. These practices mean less wastage of tree products in the manufacturing process.

Mr Hampton said AFPA would engage in the consultation process and strongly urged the government to listen to the science, and not the rhetoric from anti-forestry groups that used this as a political football.



The significant potential for the forestry and forest products industry to contribute to climate change mitigation – including through renewable bioenergy – is acknowledged in the 4th assessment report of the IPCC, which states: A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber,

fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.

"The fact is that the use of native forest residues for electricity in Australia is negligible," Mr Hampton said.

"Our native forests are primarily managed for high-value hardwood timber products such as floorboards, decking, furniture and joinery. The industry then tries to find the highest value uses for the residues," he said.

"The woody biomass like sawdust, timber offcuts and forestry waste produced from wood processing activities has great potential to complement local operations, fight climate change and help Australia drive down emissions."

## MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL AUSTRALIAN MARKETING MISSION

26-30 September, 2022  
Melbourne and Sydney

The long awaited MTC Marketing Mission will be held in association and supported by Australian trade entities and MATRADE Melbourne will underscore the commitment to strengthen the already close ties and mutually beneficial relationships with Australia companies.

Face-to-face meetings and factory visits planned by a high-level Malaysian Timber Council delegation of

timber and furniture industries business executives.

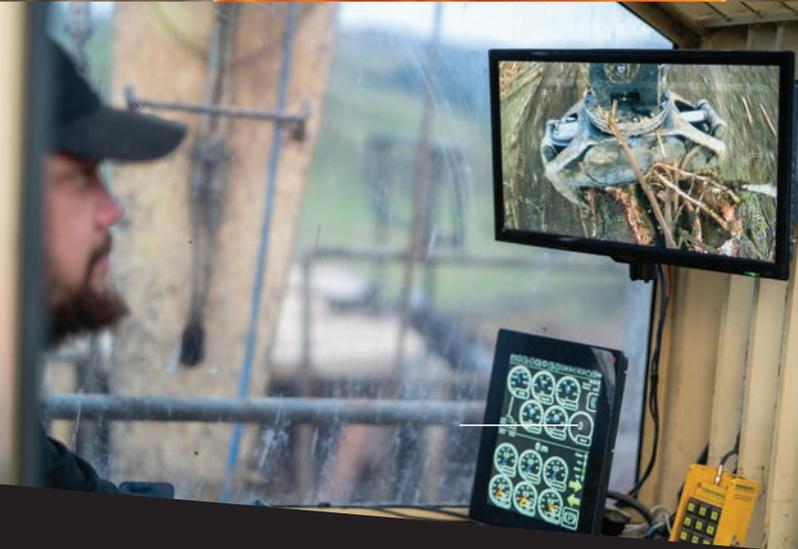
Enquiries regarding the upcoming Malaysia Timber Council marketing mission may be directed to **Campbell McInnes** on 0406 223 007 or email [campbell@mitimber.com.au](mailto:campbell@mitimber.com.au) or **Ms. Noor Ateeqah**, email [noorateeqah@mtc.com.my](mailto:noorateeqah@mtc.com.my) [www.mtc.com.my](http://www.mtc.com.my)





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# Most of the preserved wood in this country may not be a disposal problem, but we need the data

## We're going to have a hard time stopping policy makers thinking preserved wood means CCA

JUST on a year ago, I wrote about the disposal of preserved wood waste. In that article (it wasn't really a rant), I wrote about the lack of decent metrics on the volume of preserved wood being produced in this country.

At the time, I guessed there was about 1.5 million cub m of preserved wood being produced annually and further assumed that about half of this was product preserved with CCA.

Later that month, in response to my article, a colleague advised that the total preserved wood produced in Australia was in fact around 2.5 million cub m with the breakdown as follows: 33% CCA; 7% copper-based; 41% H2F (envelope treated framing); 3% water based azole; 11% LOSP; 2% creosote and 3% sapsstain and boron systems.

I have more faith in these numbers than my earlier guesses, but I am concerned that the data may still include assumptions/projections.

Now I know Forest and Wood Products Australia has



1/ *We don't have the detail to tell us the volume of preserved wood by preservative type.*  
 2/ *The importance of metrics.*



an awesome data collection system, but I don't think they collect the detail to tell us the volume of preserved wood by preservative type.

The last national survey was done by State Forests NSW around 2000, and I feel strongly that we need to update it. Perhaps we can get around concerns about commercial-in-confidence information by using a third independent body to collect and collate the data and report on totals only.

Why, I hear you ask, is Jack ranting about this? I reckon waste disposal is the wood protection industry's Achilles' heel and while policy makers continue to think preserved wood means CCA, we are

**JACK'S RANT**

**With JACK NORTON**  
Secretary, TPAA

going to have a hard time stopping them from enacting draconian legislation that will have a huge impact on the preservation industry.

We can only do this with accurate and up to date information.

Most envelope (H2F) preserved framing is treated with organic wood preservatives that either break down when in contact with the soil or are converted to carbon dioxide and water if burned as biomass energy. While there has been a lot of research on the disposal of wood containing CCA preservative, there has been very little done on the systems used for H2F treatment. So waste disposal authorities play it safe!

Just last week I visited an LOSP plant where a lot of the preserved product goes into the production of trusses and frames. The cost of disposal from the truss and frame plant is scary and if this waste could be diverted away from land fill, it would be a huge step forward for man-kind.

But to get back to the numbers. I believe it is really important to have up-to-date data so that we can inform policy makers. Don't get me wrong. If it is dangerous then we must handle the material accordingly. But my colleague's information is that most of the preserved wood in this country may not be a disposal problem but we need the data. We need to avoid a Precautionary Principle underpinning policy development.

# Gippsland families face uncertainty and closure amid Victoria's worsening timber shortage crisis

THE current timber supply shortages in Victoria brought about by vexatious legal action against VicForests has caused anguish among the people of Orbost in the east Gippsland region where 37% of its workforce faces the axe.

Already thrown into an atmosphere of uncertainty with the announcement in 2019 that the Andrews government would inexplicably shut down native timber harvesting by 2030, Orbost is the canary in the



**MecTec owner John Mekken... the sawmill is normally allocated 10,000 cub m of timber from VicForests every financial year, but has received much less this year.** Photo: Snowy River Mail

off its casual workforce and put its permanent staff on whatever annual leave they had left after Covid stripped much of that.

Now the 37 staff at Parkside face a similar fate. Should these mills close, along with the contracting businesses which supply them, the estimated direct timber job losses to the Orbost/Marlo area will be 115, which represents 24% of the current workforce.

One contractor said that his business and other contractors in the area employ 46 people, which equates to an estimated \$4 million in wages lost to the town each year.

**“FORCED TO LAY OFF CASUAL WORKFORCE”**

coalmine as many regional Victorian centres face similar crises, says Forest and Wood Communities Australia.

Parkside, which is Orbost's second largest employer,

is running on the last few loads of log supply and will need to take steps similar to MecTec sawmill in nearby Newmerella.

MecTec was forced to lay

Cont P 14

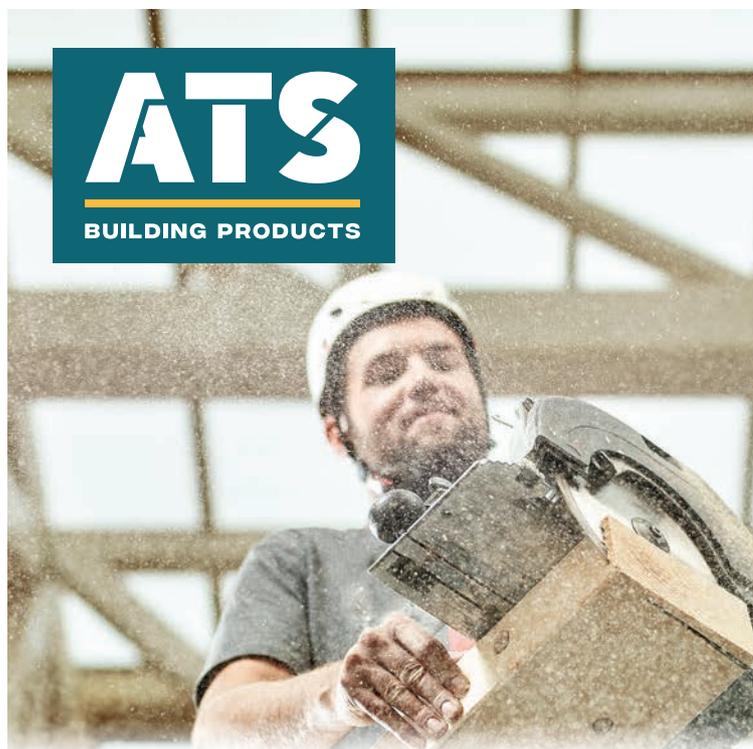


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From P 13

FWCA says the impacts will be far greater on peripheral businesses such as mechanics and tyre fitters servicing trucks and other vehicles, engineering services, fuel depots, etc.

It's estimated those services represent another 60 jobs in the area making it a total of 37% of the workforce directly impacted by the current timber supply shortages and oncoming closure of native forestry.

"The psychological impacts on those people and the families they support cannot be underestimated," FWCA said.

Jenny Edebohls is a retiree

**FRINGE ACTIVIST GROUPS REDUCE TIMBER SUPPLY TO A TRICKLE**

and sits on the Orbost Club committee. When asked what she thought Orbost might become after the demise of the timber industry which sustains it, she said, "It will be a ghost town. It will be decimated."

She added: "We will lose services and young families will leave because those services are no longer available."

Timber worker Justin Burn is just one father who is relying on those services after returning to the town to be among family as a support network for his nine-year-old daughter who suffers autism.

"We've structured my family around staying here," he said.

"But at the end of the day, if we can't get work to keep our family financially stable here, we will have to move away."

FWCA managing director Justin Law said the heart-



**Justin Law... Andrews government has not provided one scientific or rational reason to close native forestry by 2030.**

breaking situation in Orbost was unnecessary.

"The Andrews government has not provided one scientific or rational reason for its decision to close native forestry by 2030," Mr Law said.

"The Wellington Shire Council couldn't even get the reasoning for it under Freedom of Information, so we can only surmise that anti-forestry ideology is far

more important to the Labor government than the people in regional Victoria.

"That it allows self-interested fringe activist groups to reduce timber supply to a trickle in the courts, shows they don't care if people are thrown on the scrapheap before the 2030 deadline.

"If they did, they would keep their promise of maintaining 2019 levels of supply to at least ensure the people of Orbost and other regional towns can try to make a new life for themselves."

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# 2022 CHINA SOFTWOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND OUTLOOK REVIEW

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Tier One China city Shenzhen, in 1999 and 2018.

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# SA forest contractor first to use EV logging truck

A FOREST harvester in South Australia's Green Triangle will take possession of the region's first electric logging truck this month, a B-double with a purpose-built charging station under construction.

NSW startup Janus Electric is converting existing diesel trucks into electric-powered vehicles which exchange batteries like a race car replaces tyres, removing the need to park and charge.

Fennell Forestry is set to take possession of the Green Triangle's first electrified logging B-double this month with a purpose-built charging station under construction in its yard.

"There are currently about 105,000 registered Class 8 trucks in Australia," Janus general manager Lex Forsyth said.

"Our solution is well suited to around 80% of the market in Australia," he said.

Mr Forsyth said the significant capital investment needed to purchase a new truck versus converting an existing vehicle was a key factor in the modular design.

Fennell Forestry at Compton, 370 km from Adelaide, is the first logging company in the Green Triangle to trial electric trucks in its fleet.

"We've gone down a conversion model because the reality is we only produce 5000 new trucks a year for



**Lex Forsyth... converting existing diesel trucks into zero-emission electric vehicles.**

our market," Mr Forsyth said.

"If we were going to try and change the way we consume energy and go to a greener transport and logistics task, it would take us 20 years if we started producing brand new trucks today.

"The big thing for fleet operators is that after five years, trucks are due for an engine rebuild anyway. So rather than rebuilding the diesel engine, we can put in a new electric motor and get away from the diesel costs and the maintenance of operating a diesel vehicle."

Unlike electric vehicles which plug into a charging station, the Janus electric system replaces a truck's batteries like a race car replaces its tyres during a pit stop.

"We've created an exchangeable battery technology to alleviate the problem of vehicles being parked to charge and fleet operators losing utilisation," Mr Forsyth said.

"Two batteries fill the space used by the fuel tanks."

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# Versatile, fast-growing Norwegian spruce: from the traditional Christmas trees to the Stradivarius violin

For its light weight, this northern European pyramid-shaped conifer has extraordinary stiffness

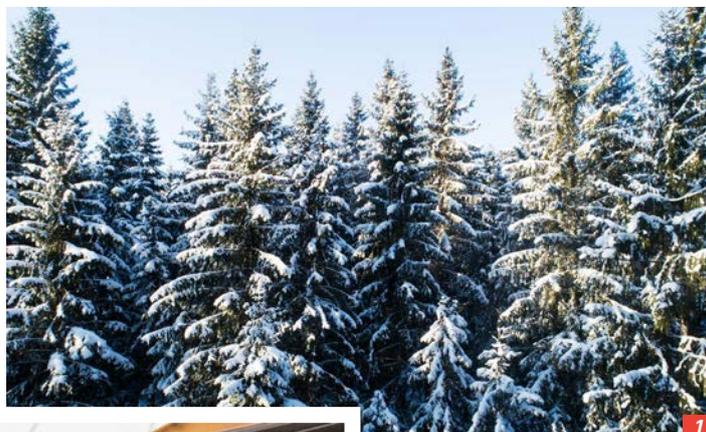
NORWAY spruce (*Picea abies*) is a pyramid-shaped conifer with a greyish-brown, scaly trunk and long, cylindrical cones; it is a large, fast-growing tree growing 35-55 m tall and with a trunk diameter of 1-1.5 m.

This spruce can grow fast when young, up to 1 m a year for the first 25 years under good conditions, but becomes slower once over 20 m. The leaves are needle-like with blunt tips and dark green on all four sides.

The native range of Norway spruce includes a swath of northern Europe – growing throughout Europe from Norway in the northwest and Poland eastward and grows in the mountains of central Europe, southwest to the western end of the Alps, and southeast in the Carpathians and Balkans to the extreme north of Greece.

The northern limit is in the Arctic in Norway and its eastern limit is in Russia.

Norway spruce is the classic Christmas tree. As a thank you for war-time help Onslow donates one each to New York and Washington DC, and one to London, to be placed in a central square of each city. Its role as a holiday



1/ Norway spruce extends across northern Europe and up into the Arctic Circle.

2/ Norway spruce 'tonewood' is used for making valuable string instruments such as the Stradivarius violin.

centrepiece is not, however, the primary reason why this tree endows us with some of our most moving moments – its 'tonewood' is used to make the sound-boards of the world's most valuable string instruments.

For its light weight, Norway spruce has extraordinary stiffness. This highly unusual combination means that a two or three cm thick panel of Norway spruce can radiate

for their incomparable quality of sound, all have sound-boards of slow-growing alpine Norway spruce.

When the luthiers Stradivari and Guarneri needed tonewood for their violins they used Norway spruce from the Italian Alps. One reason the 17th and 18th century instruments are so special is that they were made using wood that grew during the 'little ice age' that began around the 15th century and lasted for several hundred years. During this period Norway spruce trees lay down exceptionally narrow annual rings leading to very stiff and consistent tonewood – the foundation for the golden age of violin-making.

Much of the supply of wood for violin making now comes from Switzerland where foragers working for small family businesses search for the least knotted, slowest-growing 'resonant trees'. Trees are felled during the cold dormant months, and traditionally just before the new moon. There are strict limits on the number of trees that can be taken. Sawn billets of wood are seasoned very slowly – at least 10 years by which time a violin-sized slice will ring clearly when tapped, and command a commensurate price.

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sound more consistently and intensely than any other wood.

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# The growth of mass timber is on the rise globally

BEING the “tallest” was never the goal for the Ascent, a 86.5 m-high timber-framed residential tower in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, says Jason Korb, principal at Korb + Associates Architects, the building’s design firm.

Nevertheless, over the course of the project’s design phase, the scheme grew several times, starting at 19 storeys and eventually reaching 25, as co-developers New Land Enterprises and Wiechmann Enterprises sought economies of scale.

Now complete, it was designated the world’s tallest timber tower in July, by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, a Chicago-based non-profit, just days after the first residents started moving into the 259 one- to three-bedroom market-rate

apartments. The Milwaukee project supersedes the previous record holder, the mixed-use 85 m, 18-storey Mjøstårnet, in Brumunddal, Norway, completed in 2019, by only 1.2 m.

The Ascent and Mjøstårnet have not been built using traditional light-frame wood construction. Instead, they rely on mass timber, a term that encompasses a group of engineered wood products made from small-dimension lumber, wood plies, or other types of wood fibres assembled under pressure and fixed with adhesives, producing construction components of



**The Ascent in Milwaukee... now the world's tallest timber tower.** Photos: Korb + Associates Architects.

exceptional strength.

These have included glulam columns and beams, CLT panels, and laminated-veneer and LVL.

In its State of Tall Timber 2022 report, the tall building council counts 139 mass-timber buildings, eight storeys or higher, that are complete, under construction, or proposed globally. The number might sound small, but the total has more than tripled in the past five years.

Architects reckon one of the factors for the rise in mass timber is the growth in off-site construction as the components are fabricated in a factory and brought to the site for just-in-time installation.

Many architects and their clients are, of course, drawn to wood’s natural warmth and beauty. However, the chief attraction is environmental. When the forest from which they are obtained is responsibly managed, the trees perform important ecological functions, such as filtering water and air and providing habitat for wildlife. And, most critically, timber stores carbon, even after the tree is cut down; when wood is transformed into structural components, or other durable products, it sequesters carbon for the life of those elements.



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# Some forest honesty ... at last in Western Australia

A YEAR after destroying the state's sustainable native timber industry, its workers and businesses, the WA government has finally admitted there was no science underpinning their decision.

An honest answer in parliament has blown apart the façade of its claims of "protecting the forests."

Responding to Steve Thomas, the opposition Leader in the council, the response from the Minister for the Environment Reece Whitby was surprisingly candid.

Would he table all or indeed any scientific reports of the impact of climate change on the forest? "No"

Why not? "Well, everyone knows about climate change and the drop off in rainfall in WA"

Yes, we do know about this, we've known this for a long time. In 2014, the Conservation Commission indicated that there were enough trees to maintain

**“THE REASON GOVERNMENT CAN'T TABLE REPORTS IS BECAUSE NONE EXISTS**

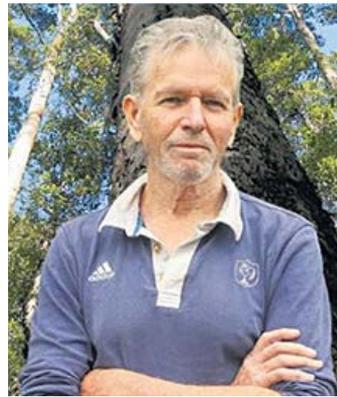
timber production for 70 years even if there was no further growth due to climate change.

The reason the government can't table any reports is because none exists. There has been no further scientific study of climate change on carbon stocks in WA forests. The government gave such a low priority to climate change on forests it even funded the measurement of one of their key performance indicators on carbon stocks. The Conservation and Parks Commission admit this in their end-of-term report for the Forest Management Plan.

A Freedom of Information inquiry at the Minister for Forestry's office was equally revealing. He also had no scientific information on the impact of climate change on forestry. There was only an email containing the opinion of an FPC staff member.

All the good news about forestry is now being hidden. You can no longer access the reports of Forestcheck on government websites; the minister admitted that you have to go to the departmental library to get access... and who knows where this is?

This information provides a science-based assessment showing the transitory



**Gavin Butcher... it's about time that decisions affecting the environment were informed by science and not the direction of the wind.**

science and not the direction of the wind.

– GAVIN BUTCHER, Perth, a forester and former director of the WA Forest Products Commission

**Editor's note:** The WA government moved to end logging in native forests by investing in softwood timber plantations, a plan Premier Mark McGowan says will save around 400,000 ha that would otherwise have been at risk of being felled.

He has said the government would spend \$350 million on softwood plantations across the state's south-west to preserve karri, jarrah and wandoo forests.

From 2024, timber taken from native forests will be limited to forest management activities that improve forest health and clearing for approved mining operations, such as Alcoa.

"By saving 400,000 ha of forests from logging, that is 1000 times Kings Parks that would have been logged that now will be preserved for future generations," Mr McGowan said.

"What that will mean is these wonderful forests, the trees, the creatures that live within them, the ecosystems, will be saved."

effect of timber harvesting on biodiversity and its subsequent recovery. It is not surprising that our forests recover well from forestry disturbance, after all they have been harvested for the last 150 years on a sustainable basis, without the loss of a single species.

The CPC assessment of forestry performance was issued without a word in July. Once again it showed that forest management was responsible and to a high standard.

Why has the minister suddenly decided to answer a parliamentary question with such candour? Who knows? But it's about time that decisions affecting the environment were informed by

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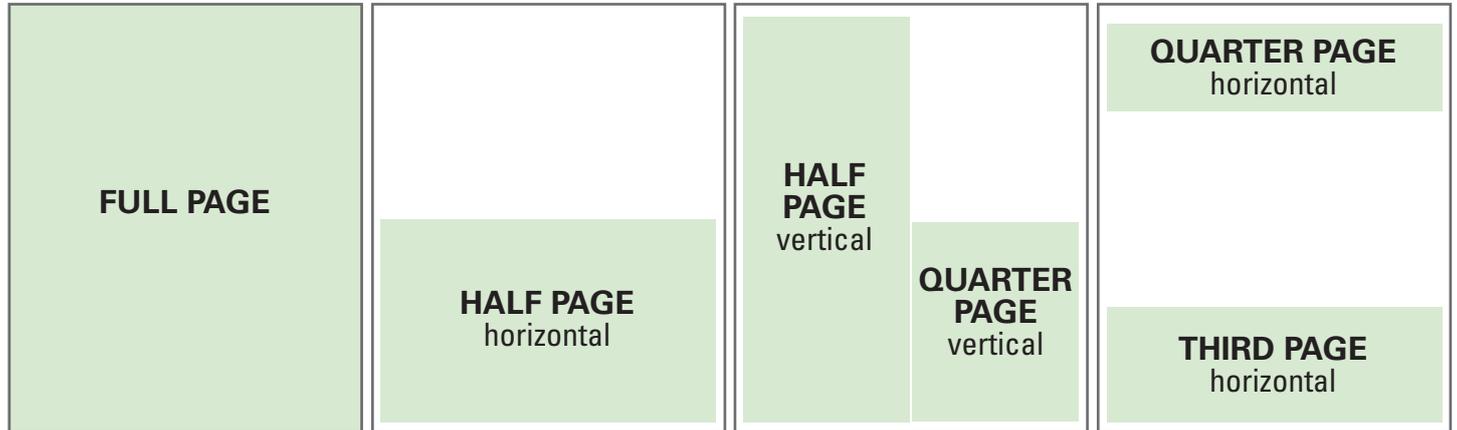
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