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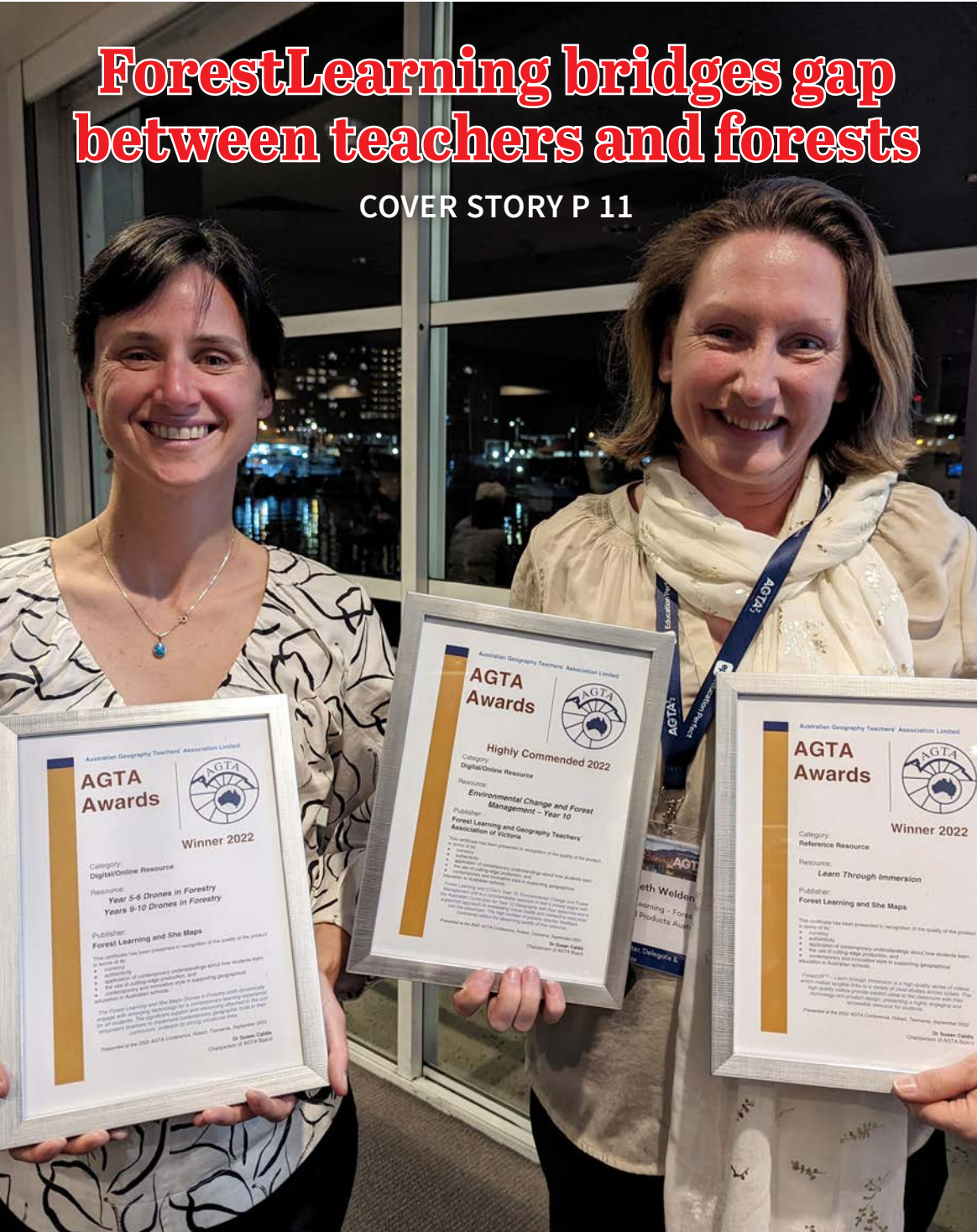
ISSUE 727 | October 6, 2022

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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## Forest Learning bridges gap between teachers and forests

COVER STORY P 11



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# Industry lauds government's progress on removing barriers to carbon market for new timber plantings

## Golden opportunity to prepare for insatiable international demand for sustainable wood and fibre

THE Australian Forest Products Association has welcomed the federal government's consultation process to remove regulatory barriers preventing new timber plantings participating in the Emission Reduction Fund.

AFPA acting CEO Victor Violante said this was a significant step by the government towards delivering on its election commitment to scrap the 'water rule' with the release of a consultation paper on changes to the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015.

"The 'water rule' prevents plantation forestry and farm forestry project access to the carbon market in areas with annual average rainfall above 600 mm, thereby holding back much-needed investment in new timber and fibre plantations in most timber processing regions," Mr Violante said.

"AFPA has been campaigning to remove this regulatory barrier for many years, as access to the carbon market will be a key driver



1/ **Scrapping 'water rule' will be a key driver for growing Australia's timber plantation estate.**

2 **Victor Violante... removal of the 'water rule' a modest and sensible reform to encourage investment in new timber and fibre plantings.**



combined.

Furthermore, says Mrs Violante, Australia has the golden opportunity to ready itself for insatiable international demand for sustainably-sourced wood and fibre, with global demand forecast to quadruple by 2050.

AFPA also acknowledged the previous government's progress in removing the 'water rule' in several key

for growing Australia's timber plantation estate.

"New plantations are urgently needed to help Australia meet its future timber and wood fibre needs and make a significant contribution to Australia's emissions reduction targets.

"The federal government has a much-needed goal to get one billion new production trees planted by 2030 to secure Australia's future timber and fibre supply for everything from house frames

to packaging and paper products.

"The removal of the 'water rule' would be a big step to open up potential new investments and get new trees planted."

Recent AFPA-Master Builders Australia research highlighted that Australia will be 250,000 new house-frames short of demand by 2050 if Australia's doesn't achieve the billion new trees by 2030 goal. That's cities the size of Newcastle and Geelong

forestry regions. The changes proposed in the discussion paper will see the regulatory barriers removed in the remaining forestry regions, including Queensland, central west NSW, southeast NSW, and the Northern Territory.

"The removal of the 'water rule' would be modest and sensible reform to encourage investment in new timber and fibre plantings in key strategic forestry areas nationwide," Mr Violante said.



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# Malaysian timber mission to Australia focused on new joint plantation and wood processing ventures

Governments and business working together a mutual benefit for both countries: MTC chief

THE Malaysian Timber Council's lead trade and marketing mission to Australia last week had an extremely busy program.

An important aspect of the mission was to learn more about the opportunities to establish hardwood plantations and related wood processing ventures and followed the joint venture initiative by Tilling Timber, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Woodsfield Glulam to develop an engineered wood products manufacturing capacity in Sarawak utilising Acacia magnum plantation timber.

The mission delegation consisted of executives from



**Pre-mission briefing for MTC board members in Melbourne... Khairul Anwar, director, international business development, Dr Chris Lafferty, FWPA Marie-Claire McKiernan, Timber Merchants Australia, John Halkett, ATIF; George Yap, managing director, Weng Meng Industries, Noor Ateeqah Abdul Rahman, executive, MTC industry development and transformation, Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, general manager, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, and Omar Ali Sepian, assistant general manager, International Trade and SME division, STIDC.**

MTC, managing directors and other senior executives from a wider range of Malaysian timber product producing companies.

The delegation visited timber product manufacturing companies, timber importers, sawmills and hardwood plantation projects in Victoria and NSW. In addition, business-to-business

seminars were held in Melbourne and Sydney that attracted Australian timber importers, wholesalers and others from across the timber supply chain. The mission commenced with a valuable briefing from Forests and Wood Products Australia, the Australian Timber Importers Federation and Timber Merchants Australia.

The trade and marketing mission was supported by

the Consulate General of Malaysia, MATRADE and Malaysian business interests in Melbourne and Sydney to reinforce the already close ties and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships between the two countries.

ATIF general manager John Halkett said the

Cont P 4



**Marking their joint venture Sarawak EWP manufacturing collaboration... Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, general manager, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, presents a commemorative plaque to Glenn Tilling, Tilling Group managing director.**

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From P 3

federation was pleased to support and assist with the mission and acknowledged the many ATIF companies that participated in various ways.

“Malaysia is a stand-out leader in tropical timber production, innovation and compliance, with the country increasingly regarded as leading the tropical forestry industry in areas such as third-party forest and product certification, building standards compliance and product innovation and sophistication,” Mr Halkett said.

MTC’s CEO Muhtar Suhaili

**“MALAYSIA TO STEP UP PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS IN AUSTRALIA**



**Malaysian trade delegation visiting Tilling Timber, Kilsyth, Melbourne. Tilling Group Managing Director Glenn Tilling on the far right.**

said he was confident that the timely and important mission would assist in stepping up the Malaysian timber industry’s promotional efforts in Australia given the positive outlook within the next several years.

“It is my hope that both governments and business communities will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of both our

countries,” he said.

“Malaysia is poised to become a strategic business partner especially in the wood-based industry post-Covid 19”

MTC’s director of international business

development Khairul Anwar said he was confident the bilateral trade between Malaysia and Australia would continue to flourish.

“While trading has been the traditional business activity between the timber-based sectors of Malaysia and Australia, I believe

that other initiatives, such as potential discussions on joint-ventures in the manufacturing of timber products and tree plantation programs could all be further developed,” he said.



**Jon Lambert (left with cap) briefing Malaysian delegates about radial sawmill technology and eucalypts plantation management at Yarram, Vic.**



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**Malaysian delegation joining with national buyers and executives at Bunnings Mentone Warehouse in Melbourne.**

# Losing money seems to be a growing habit at FPC as ‘year from hell’ bludgeons WA forest industry

From **GAVIN BUTCHER**

THE embattled WA Forest Products Commission has announced a troubling \$27 million loss in its 2022 annual report.

In the year from hell when the rug was pulled out from under the native forest industry the FPC also needed a \$14 million injection from Treasury to ensure that it had enough cash. This annual report, usually effusive about achievements, is tight-lipped about the FPC’s performance. It’s time for a serious rethink about how the state goes about managing its forest resources.

Both the native forest and plantations businesses chalked up losses, but luckily there was a major upturn in the sandalwood business from China, with a 50% increasing in revenue. In fact, overall sales revenue



FPC has slid dramatically under the current government. The minister Dave Kelly’s results are well below those of his Coalition predecessor Mia Davies.

Dave Kelly took over the FPC in 2017 when it was operating profitably and paying a

dividend. Today government forestry is starting to look like a basket case. If this was a private company the shareholders would be calling for a change in management to turn the business around.

No doubt the minister will give excuses for this calamity, but the truth is that WA is experiencing a boom in the housing market ... but log supply targets aren’t being met. The shortfall in log supply has seen wood markets rely increasingly on imports. Sadly this will be

**1/ Sandalwood... the only bright light in Western Australia’s forest industry.**

**2 Dave Kelly... \$350 million expansion funding applauded, but it will be a struggle to acquire land in the current red hot agricultural land market.**

FPCs missing its log delivery targets for customers with its production levels 13% off demand for softwoods and 20% off for native forest logs. You wonder at the government’s logic of paying employees to leave the industry, there just aren’t enough workers to meet the contractual obligations.

The performance of the

Cont P 10

**“INDUSTRY FRACTURED BY NATIVE POLICY DECISION”**

increased by \$10.5 million, unfortunately expense increases were even greater.

The fracture in the industry caused by the government’s native forest policy putsch hasn’t been helped by the

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# Plantation transition plan won't save timber towns

THE Victorian Labor government's promise of jobs with a transition from native forests to plantation forests, announced last week, does not add up, says Forest & Wood Communities Australia.

According to the plan, FWCA says Victorian taxpayers will be required to pay a \$120 million as part of a co-investment with Hancock Victorian Plantations to fund 14,000 ha worth of plantations and somehow make them grow fast enough to support 2000 jobs.

"As it takes at least 15 years for trees to grow to

**“THEY JUST SEEM TO PULL FIGURES OUT OF A HAT**



**Felicia Stevenson... it would take decades for this plantation fantasy to replace jobs.**



people in native timber have successfully harvested and regrown small areas of the forest many times over in the past 150 years.

"It has kept people in jobs, communities thriving and supplied renewable and natural wood for hundreds of every-day uses."

the minimum harvest age, and the government plans to end native forestry in eight years, timber towns face ruin, with Orbost set to lose 37% of its full-time jobs," says FWCA national membership manager Felicia Stevenson.

"The promise that this

transition to plantations will save jobs is as empty as Victorian sawmill timber yards are right now under the timber shortage," Ms Stevenson said.

"Where is this 14,000 ha coming from? Farmland in the Gippsland area is currently selling for record high average values of around \$25,000 a hectare meaning it would cost \$350 million to purchase this land, provided you could find farmers willing to sell up.

"While HVP is a good operator, it's hard to see how they can make this work. But if they do miraculously get this land all at once and plant it all now, it will be at least 15 years before you can start taking wood out of it, and then it would only be a small portion to thin the plantations."

The announcement is also in contrast to the one made in 2017 when the Victorian government promised to spend \$110 million for 50,000 ha of plantations through its Victorian Forestry Plan.

"They just seem to pull figures out of a hat," Ms Stevenson said.

"The reality is that the

Ms Stevenson said it would take decades for this plantation fantasy to replace the jobs the government was stripping out of timber communities and towns would be devastated."

Felicia Stevenson is president of the Heyfield Timber Festival committee and whose family has been in forestry for three generations, brings a wealth of knowledge and connections to FWCA.

Felicia started the Facebook page Support the Future of Australian Hardwood Forestry after people close to her were put out of work for some time by an activist media stunt

Forest & Wood Communities Australia is a not-for-profit association representing grassroots timber workers, timber communities and supporters of a sustainable, world-certified timber industry.

The FWCA board includes retired forester Peter Rutherford, Timber Towns Victoria chair Karen Stephens, Queensland lawyer and landowner Tom Marland, Tasmanian grassroots timber industry supporter Kelly Wilto, and third-generation forester Steve Dobbys, chair.



## Develop our future workforce

ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering services to support the skills development of the forest, wood, paper, timber and furnishing industries.

ForestWorks works with industry, government and the education and training sectors to improve skills standards and qualifications and support the development of forestry-related industries, their people, and enterprises.

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[www.forestworks.com.au](http://www.forestworks.com.au)

**OCTOBER**

**12: Australian Timber Importers Federation Board meeting – Brisbane.** Further information contact John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: john.halkett@atif.asn.au

**13: Where has all the timber gone? Death taxes and timber shortages – ONLINE WEBINAR 12noon - 1pm.**

Presenter John Halkett, general manager, Australian Timber Importers Federation. Register at Visit wifm.asn.au/timber-shortages-global-challenges-and-top-tips/

**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 Visit 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/ or contact Mariela Ferrari at 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, Tarlgon, 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.

**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 or contact the Forest Industry Contractors Association Email: office@fica.org.au or phone (New Zealand only) 0800 342 269.

**29: AFPA's gala dinner – Hyatt Hotel, Canberra.**


With the cancellation of the AFPA forest industries gala dinner scheduled for September 14 and the mourning of the passing of the Queen, AFPA will now focus on enlarging the dinner arranged for November 29 at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra., which will celebrate the decade-long chairmanship of Greg McCormack with

political leaders in attendance. Tickets purchased for the gala dinner can either be refunded or transferred to the November dinner. Please advise your preference via events@ausfpa.com.au

**DECEMBER**


**8: 23rd Australian Timber Design Awards – Crown Sydney, Barangaroo, NSW.**

The awards are distinguished by a proud heritage of innovation and achievement, promoting and encouraging outstanding timber design. It has been a few years since we last celebrated the awards together, so come and join us for the evening to find out the best in timber design for 2022 – and enjoy a three-course meal and drinks while being entertained by The Ultimate Renewable brand ambassador Adam Dovile, resident builder on Channel Seven's Better Homes and Gardens. Visit www.tdansw.asn.au or call 0420 232 253. Tickets at ticketstripe.com/events/1030921



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# Furniture webinar: where has all the timber gone?

ACCORDING to an April 2022 interim report by the FWPA, the housing construction sector faces a critical timber shortage with an ever-increasing reliance on imported timber doubling by 2050 if Australia falls short of its plan to plant an additional one billion production trees.

With international demand for timber surging, coupled with the Covid-led worldwide construction boom and the Ukraine conflict, Australia is competing in a highly globalised but nonetheless disrupted timber supply chain.

And our reliance on imported timber is forecast to grow in the years to come.

In an Australian Furniture Association webinar exclusive, John Halkett, general manager of the Australian Timber Importers Federation, will discuss the current timber



1/ Australia faces growing shortage of imported timbers.  
2/ John Halkett

supply crisis and its dramatic impact on softwood timber imports.

In addition, hardwood timber supply challenges arising from decisions by the Western Australian and Victorian state governments to shut down native forest-based hardwood timber

production will increase demand for high-value hardwood timbers from the US and Europe (ash / blonde temperate hardwood species) and southeast Asia (tropical hardwood species).

John Halkett, with tertiary qualifications in forest science and public policy,

is managing director of Sydney-based Forestlands Consulting and co-publisher of Timber&Forestry e-news. He has served on the board of the Global Timber Forum, has been a member of the NSW Forest Industries Taskforce and has held senior positions in government forest and conservation agencies in Australia and New Zealand.

The webinar will be presented at 12-1 pm (ADST) on October 13. Visit [wifm.asn.au/timber-shortages-global-challenges-and-top-tips/](http://wifm.asn.au/timber-shortages-global-challenges-and-top-tips/) to register for the event.

The Australian Furniture Association's WiFM delivers informative networking, training and upskilling events which are relevant and meaningful to practitioners and business professionals across the furnishing industry supply chain sectors.



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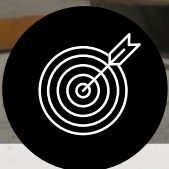
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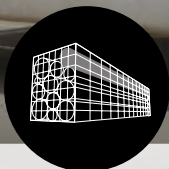
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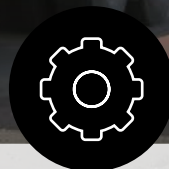
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From P 5

an increasing trend due to historic underinvestment in timber development in WA.

As well as not being able to supply the logs the market needs, the government wood prices are below the market. Timber prices have gone through the roof, yet WA's contracts lag behind. The government appears to be missing out on millions of dollars due to under-pricing.

In other aspects of the FPC's performance there is a shortfall in achieving many of its targets. Of greatest concern is the management of the forest resource. For many years the pine estate has been overstocked due to a lag in the thinning program.

**“CREDIBILITY GAP IN THE MIND OF THE PUBLIC**

The same concern exists for the karri forests. Without thinning, the growth of wood slows and future sawlog yields are diminished.

Equally the rate of plantation establishment is well below target, only achieving 64% of the 2292-ha goal. The Forestry Minister has boasted about the government's success in expanding the plantation estate. In fact, under Dave Kelly's leadership there has been a drop of 3200 ha in the area of pines to 2020. The \$350 million expansion funding is to be applauded, but it is proving to be real struggle to acquire land in the current red hot agricultural land market. The first year of the pine expansion sourced just 600 ha.

Areas of highest achievement for the FPC were in environmental performance and regeneration in the karri forest. Perversely,



**Areas of highest achievement for the FPC were in environmental performance and regeneration in the karri forest.**

these are the areas of greatest public criticism. It would seem that despite very positive outcomes there is a credibility gap in the mind of the public. Unfortunately there has been no effort by the government to promote the industry.

Given the decline in FPC's financial performance, and a policy axing the native forest industry, it seems time to

reconsider how the state manages its forest industry.

If the future is to be entirely focused on plantations it's time to have a wider discussion about what the state's timber needs are and how these can be grown and managed in the future. There have been positive steps in this space with the FPC developing partnerships with FIFWA, the SW Timber Hub and the Water Corporation. However, there is a major hole where there needs to be a definitive government strategy on the future demand and supply of timber resources.

To be more effective the role of government could focus on policy, strategy and technical support, providing significant financial incentives to growers rather acting than as an investor itself. The confusion between its two roles has meant that the FPC has done neither well.

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# ForestLearning winner of multiple categories at Australian Geography Teachers Assoc Awards

## Addressing gap in Australia-specific teaching resources about forests and wood products

FOREST and Wood Products Australia's education program ForestLearning has been recognised for its outstanding contribution to geography education, collecting two wins for three of its teaching resources and one highly commended resource at the biennial Australian Geography Teacher's Association Awards in Hobart last week.

The awards reward quality geography teaching products that meet all set criteria including the resource's currency, authenticity, application of contemporary understandings about how students learn, the use of cutting-edge production, and contemporary and innovative style in supporting geographical education in Australian schools.

The award-winning ForestLearning resources included the world-first ForestVR – Learn through immersion education toolkit. ForestVR brings virtual reality forest and milling experiences into the classroom and allows students an immersive 360-deg. view of Australia's productive forests and wood processing facilities.

Filmed at more than 75 forest and wood processing sites across Australia, ForestVR video experiences can be viewed via the classroom ready ForestVR

app or via any school technology via web-based content.

Meanwhile, 360-deg. photo tours with embedded hotspots form another avenue for student VR exploration. Phase 2 ForestVR was launched in June with 10 new video experiences and was funded with support from the federal government.

In conferring the awards, AGTA judges commended the high quality of the ForestVR education products and pointed to the "explicit value to their classroom with their technology-rich product design" which present a "highly accessible and engaging resource for students".

The two drones in forestry teaching units for primary and secondary classrooms produced in partnership with She Maps also picked up a win for best Digital/Online Resources. Launched in August, these resources have already been downloaded over 520 times in their first month of being published online.

The new, innovative, highly engaging and technology-rich units of work for Years 5-6 and 9-10 geography and digital



**VR exploration... 360-deg. photo tours with embedded hotspots form another avenue for student education on forests and wood products.**

technologies classrooms allow students to explore and understand through real-world case studies how drones and geographic information systems including remote sensing, assist forestry workers to sustainably manage the forest environments that provide sustainable and renewable resources for society.

Finally, the highly-commended Year 10 geography Environmental Change and Forest Management resource produced in partnership with the Geography Teachers Association Victoria and published in May, provides teachers with a complete teaching toolkit aligned to the Australian curriculum focusing on Australia's

productive forests. The resource fully equips teachers with a range of engaging and technology-rich teaching tools including the embedding of ForestVR tools and interactive spatial resources into the geography classroom for enhanced student engagement.

"Our curriculum-aligned resources

make it easy for teachers to engage students in topics such as sustainability, spatial technologies and the environment. Importantly, they address the gap of Australian-specific teaching resources about forests and wood products," says ForestLearning national education program manager Beth Welden.

"Using the power of virtual reality, the ForestVR 360-deg. videos and photo tours make otherwise inaccessible areas of Australia for school field trips instead accessible online for educators and their students," Beth said.

"Similarly, the 'Drones in Forestry' story maps, drone-coding activities and forester case studies draw from a wide

*Cont P 15*



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# IPA report: Red and green tape is strangling rural communities as environmental bureaucracy grows

Since 2000, federal bureaucracy has grown three times faster than the agricultural sector itself

RED and green tape is strangling Australia's farming future," says Daniel Wild, deputy executive director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Each year there are more city-based bureaucrats with clipboards telling farmers what they can and can't do, than there are actual farmers," he said in a keynote address to the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia in Perth, a lobby group acting in the interests of agricultural and associated industries.

Daniel Wild released a new research report by the IPA, 'Australia's Green Tape Army: A comparative analysis of the growth of the environmental bureaucracy

**LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO AVERT THE REGULATORY BURDEN**

and the agricultural sector'.

The report reveals that since the year 2000, the size of the federal environmental bureaucracy has grown three times faster than the agricultural sector itself.

"Despite pledges from successive governments to relieve farmers of burdensome regulation, the evidence is clear that red and green tape, and the bureaucrats that administer it, keep piling up," Mr Wild said.

The report finds that since 2000 at the federal level, environmental bureaucracy has more than tripled, while employment in agriculture throughout the country has declined by one-fifth

"The cost of the federal



government's environmental bureaucracy has grown at almost three times the rate as the size of Australia's entire agriculture sector. For every job created in the environmental bureaucracy, 14 jobs have been destroyed in the agricultural sector."

The report says the environmental bureaucracy in Western Australia has more than quadrupled while employment in agriculture throughout the state has declined by one-third.

"WA's environmental bureaucracy cost has grown at almost six times the rate as the size of the state's agriculture sector."

The report highlights the extent of the problem by uncovering the fact that there are now 20% more bureaucrats

working in the green tape army than soldiers serving in Australia's regular army.

"Governments at both state and federal levels need to show leadership by taking concrete action to alleviate the regulatory burden on farmers," Daniel Wild said.

"We need to let our farmers get on with the job of feeding and clothing [and sheltering] the nation, free from harassment of inner-city bureaucrats."

OPINION

## State by state we need to count the losses of the forest sector

THIS (IPA report) is the hard-hitting, facts-based paper that forest industry lobbyists in Canberra and across all states as voices for the full value chain surely ought to be scripting for our sector of the Australian economy and broadcasting it in spades and hammering governments.

Western Australia has announced it will vaporise the native forest-based industry there in 2024. Victoria has

joined the epidemic and will close the people's forests to timber getting in 2030. These are appalling decisions from supposedly representative parliaments that are infused with the green virulent virus. Most of Queensland eucalypt forests are already locked away and NSW is suffering the challenges from a plethora of incremental no-go constraints.

Where are the casualty

lists recorded and published? Individuals, family businesses both directly and indirectly involved in the forest industries continuum, bush communities, regional infrastructure ... all have been lost to the green pandemic.

State by state and for the quantum whole the losses need counting. Where is the logic of diverting scarce resources from core government investment in

health, education and security into an existing, regionalised, sustainable industry that is carbon positive and pays a commercial rent?

What then I ask again are the equivalent statistics on job losses from the Australian forestry sector per se and akin to the agricultural analysis?

– DR GARY BACON AM



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# It's official: no facts behind WA forestry decision

**GAVIN BUTCHER**

STATE Cabinet in Western Australia was not given any factual, statistical, scientific or technical information on climate change or forest yields when it made its decision to close the native forest industry.

A freedom of information request to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has revealed that its cabinet submissions were free of facts.

This startling admission is contrary to the claims by the Premier and his ministers when announcing the policy change and at subsequent media interviews.

In fact, the FOI for the year leading up to the decision revealed that DBCA had no information on the impact of climate change and forest yields to be able to explain the situation to the confused

timber industry or the general public. Even more surprising that there was no work at all done on the karri forest.

This farrago of mistruth was first revealed by the Conservation and Parks Commission in July when it reported that it had been unable to update carbon storage data in the forest due to the lack of funding meaning no work had been done on this key performance indicator number 14. Yet the government had claimed that one of the reasons for ending timber production was carbon storage.

The commission also reported that climate damage was occurring in the northern and eastern forests, but overall there was no trend evident in the southern forests where most timber production occurs.



**Mark McGowan and the former Environment Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson make an announcement to the media last year that the government will close the state's native forests from 2024, investing a record \$350 million to expand softwood timber plantations.**

Then the new Minister for Environment Reece Whitby refused in parliament to table any documents in support of the decision saying that everyone knew about it.

A second FOI request at the Minister for Forestry's office indicated that he had received no scientific information.

Yet it has been repeated claimed by the government that their decision was based on science. They have been caught out making a damaging policy without factual information.

A parliamentary petition has been launched to uncover the real science behind the empty media bites issued by our ministers.

**Note:** WA government forest policy points – Forest Management Plan 2024-33 to end logging of native forests; all two-tier karri forest immediately protected; expansion of softwood timber plantations; Just Transition Plan to support affected workers and communities.

**GAVIN BUTCHER is a Perth-based forester and former director of the WA Forest Products Commission.**

*From P 11*

range of multi-media materials to create interactive and highly engaging learning experiences for students."

Teachers and students responded enthusiastically to the ForestVR resources with 5687 views across YouTube and Vimeo and 12,575 visits to ForestVR website pages.

A December 2021 survey of Australian teachers conducted by Youth Insight for ForestLearning showed that although 90% of teachers believe it is important to teach students about forestry and wood products, 78% did not feel confident or only somewhat confident in teaching about these topics.

ForestLearning resources aim to bridge this gap by equipping teachers with the tools they need to teach

these important topics using innovative pedagogy and modern teaching practice.

"I'm proud of this huge achievement that reflects not just the work of ForestLearning but the many forest and wood product industry and government partners that collaborated with us to produce these award-winning resources," Bev said.

"We congratulate our Drones in Forestry partner She Maps on this win, as well as our Year 10 Environmental Change and Forest Management partner, the Geography Teachers Association Victoria for our 'highly commended' award, and all the other winners, particularly our collaborators and other partners.

"We also thank AGTA and the judges for their investment of expertise and time in

conducting and evaluating these awards."

ForestVR was developed by ForestLearning, an initiative of Forest and Wood Products Australia via collaborative consultation with Geography Teachers Association Victoria, the Design and Technology Teachers Association Victoria, successful early adopters of VR teachers in classrooms, leading universities, the Australian Forest Education Alliance and industry partners.

The ForestVR, Year 10 Environmental Change and Forest Management toolkit and 'Drones in Forestry' resources can be freely download via the ForestLearning website [forestlearning.edu.au](http://forestlearning.edu.au)

Links to resources include:

- ForestVR virtual tours and 360-deg, video experiences:

[forestlearning.edu.au/forestrv.html](http://forestlearning.edu.au/forestrv.html)

- Drones in Forestry Years 5-6: [forestlearning.edu.au/find-a-resource/article/105/drones-in-forestry-years-5-6.html](http://forestlearning.edu.au/find-a-resource/article/105/drones-in-forestry-years-5-6.html)

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- Year 10 Environmental Change and Forest Management education toolkit at: [ForestLearning/GTAV Geography Year 10: Environmental Change and Forest Management](http://ForestLearning/GTAV%20Geography%20Year%2010%20Environmental%20Change%20and%20Forest%20Management)

**On the cover: Beth Welden, program manager, ForestLearning (right) and Veronica Tyquin, ForestLearning curriculum specialist accepting the Australian Geography Teachers Association awards for ForestLearning Resources.**



# New forest-centric way for sustainable packaging

PACKAGING isn't just part of the products we buy ... it's a product and an entire industry by itself – in fact a \$US900 billion industry.

Forest fibre-based packaging is essential to the products we buy online and also the food we eat by extending shelf life and protecting it from damage. More and more people are getting packages delivered to their homes and workplaces as the global parcel delivery boom continues.

Australia Post says more than 200,000 new online shoppers have entered this market since the Covid pandemic.

When it comes to a product's packaging it's fair to say that kids and adults alike are now well conditioned to think of recycling, and rightly

so. However, consumers and brand owners have often not thought beyond recycling. Which, when you think about circular economies, resource management, climate, carbon and energy use, recycling is only part of the equation. No fibre in the world can be recycled indefinitely, however, forests produce a truly renewable resource.

This is why the idea of Responsible Packaging is based on the notion of three 'Rs' – Renewable, Responsible and Recycled.

Responsible sourcing is about more than how the forest is managed – to be truly sustainable, the people



who produce the forest products must also be treated fairly. This means safe working conditions and fair labour practices throughout the entire chain of custody.

Recycling is not the full equation but it remains an essential part of any sustainability strategy and is a key component of the approach to Responsible Packaging. As demand for forest and tree-based products continues to increase, and while wood

fibre is the ultimate renewable packaging material, the use of recycled materials helps to optimise the sourcing of the raw materials and to move towards circularity.

Responsible Wood and PEFC International's Responsible Packaging Campaign offers a holistic sustainability solution that centres on forests. Consumers and brand owners supporting responsible packaging are protecting biodiversity, supporting local communities and rewarding foresters and suppliers who demand safe working conditions.

By broadening our approach, by not just focusing on part of the equation, we can actively promote the protection of our forests through certification.

## 2022 DANA - GINGKO GLOBAL WOODCHIP AND BIOMASS TRADE CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP



### SINGAPORE CONFERENCE, 26 - 28 OCT + VIETNAM FIELD TRIP, 31 OCT - 1 NOV 2022.

#### 2 1/2 Day Conference in Singapore with 7 major themes:

- Global Wood Chip Trade: Regional user and supplier updates.
- Details of the >150 dedicated woodchip vessel shipping fleet.
- Global Biomass Trade: Regional user and supplier updates.
- Global pulp-mill status and expansions: Market pulp trends.
- The future impact of Russia: Woodchip and Biomass Trade.
- The Global status of the tree based carbon credit industry.
- A 'New Projects, New Products' panel.



#### 2 Day Vietnam Field Trip:

Visit chip and wood pellet mills, two export ports and Acacia hybrid pulpwood plantation(s).  
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# Formaldehyde-free plywood set to roll for China

WOOD-based panel production free of formaldehyde will come into production at the end of the year in China's Shandong province.

An annual output of 700,000 cub m is forecast for the product in Linyi City in the south of the province, which accounts for more than 21,000 timber enterprises with an annual output of 35 million cub m accounting for one-third of the national plywood output.

Linyi City, one of the three largest wood-based panel processing bases in China, hosts the World Wood-based Panel Conference and a national forestry industry demonstration zone has been built in the city.

The solution boasts zero formaldehyde additives

during plywood production by gluing the wood with a certain kind of polyurethane, and is expected to improve the production capacity of green plywood products with automation, according to global specialty chemicals producer Huntsman Corporation, which co-developed the solution with Chinese partners including the China Forest Industry Design and Planning Institute.

China is the world's largest plywood producer; 5300 manufacturers produced 179 million cub m of plywood last year, accounting for more than 50% of the world's total, according to the China



**China is investing heavily in formaldehyde-free plywood products.**

low-output, a low degree of agglomeration, failure to adapt to market changes and failure to meet environmental protection standards.

Formaldehyde-free wooden panel is becoming more and more popular

in the Chinese market. Because of this a project on formaldehyde-free production has also been initiated in Tancheng County, which is under the administration of the prefecture-level city. An annual formaldehyde-free output of 300,000 cub m of straw particleboard, 300,000 cub m of veneer and 200,000 cub m plywood will be achieved through this effort.

National Forest Products Industry Association.

However, there are challenges.

The Linyi wood-based panel industries are limited by the production processes and technology which has meant they cannot produce high-end products. Because of this they will be out to capture market share through low prices.

More recently they have faced challenges of



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# Bunya pine an emblematic Australian conifer and a majestic relic of much older vegetation in the forest

Only survivor of the plant family Araucariaceae that was widespread in the Jurassic period

THE Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), sometimes also called the false monkey puzzle tree, is a distinctively emblematic Australia tree. Specimens can now be found in botanic gardens, parks and as feature trees in many places around the world where climatic conditions are suitable.

There is strong evidence that this majestic evergreen conifer is a relic of much older vegetation. It is now found only in just two limited areas of rainforest 1300 km apart almost at opposite ends of Queensland. Notably the bunya pine grows most prolifically in Queensland's Bunya Mountains, hence the name of the tree.

The fossil record demonstrates that bunya pines are the only survivors of the distinct plant family Araucariaceae that was widespread in various parts of the world as far back as the Jurassic period. The *Araucaria* genus now has 18 living species, the majority confined to New Caledonia, but with two each in Australia and South America.

Bunya pine is an impressive large tree with a characteristic symmetrical development typical of the genus. Its dimensions are slightly less than those of hoop pine being



1/ Bunya pine... a large tree with a characteristic symmetrical development typical of the genus.  
2/ Bunya pine cone and seeds.. roasted seeds were an important Aboriginal dietary supplement.

30m to 45 m in height and up to 2 m in diameter. The trunks of mature trees are usually free from branches from one-half to two-thirds of the tree's height, and are straight with little taper. With maturity, bunya pine crowns tend to flatten and the branches are crowded together near the top of the tree in a very characteristic manner.

Bunya pines never form pure stands, but are found scattered as a dominant species in areas of rainforest. It grows mainly in the same localities as does hoop pine, selecting lower and moister positions in the landscape, whilst hoop pine tends to occupy the higher and better-drained sites. Bunya pine is usually more resistant to frost than hoop pine.

The timber of Bunya pine is very similar in appearance and



plantings, but to a much lesser extent than hoop pine since it grows more slowly, is more heavily branched and more difficult to establish. It is widely planted as an ornamental feature tree.

Aborigines of southeast Queensland know the tree as 'bunya bunya' and travelled long distances every year to feast on the large, nutritious

seeds contained in its very large cones. The roasted seeds were an important dietary supplement. Each Aboriginal family would own a group of trees and these would be passed down from generation to generation. This is said to be the only case of hereditary personal property owned by the Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal people's close association with the trees led to colonial authorities in 1842 prohibiting settlers from occupying land or cutting down trees within a proclaimed 'bunya district'. However, the district was abolished in 1860.

## TALKING TREES



With JOHN HALKETT

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the properties to hoop pine and Queensland kauri, and is used for similar purposes.

Bunya pine has been used in Queensland forestry plantation



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# Opportunities for women in manufacturing on display at Zonta Club's tour of operations at Hyne Tuan mill

OPPORTUNITIES for women in manufacturing were on show at Hyne Timber's Tuan mill on Queensland's Fraser Coast this week when the company hosted the Hervey Bay Zonta 'Women and Careers' event.

Zonta, with the motto 'Build a better world for women and girls', coordinated the attendees made up of female school leavers and women considering new life pathways.

"We know not many women consider careers in manufacturing for various reasons but in partnership with the manufacturers themselves we can break down these barriers and stereotypes," Hervey Bay Zonta club secretary Robin Rayner said.

"There is a whole world of opportunity in our own backyard including career support, training and development," she said.

"It was great for the group to be reassured from both James and Kelly Hyne about the commitment to recruit more women while also hearing from a young woman who recently joined the business and is progressing



1/ Zonta careers participants with hosts at the Hyne Tuan mill.

2/ Students Cara Williams, Elle Taylor and Chloe Haskeew enjoy 140 Year celebratory cupcakes at Hyne.



rapidly through hard work and initiative.

The visit to the Tuan mill commenced with a welcome and introduction by 5th generation Hyne family members Kelly and James Hyne.

Team member Lisa Coy shared her journey of development since commencing with Hyne Timber just 12 months ago and is now an apprentice electrician.

People and culture specialist Emma Conway shared information specific to current career opportunities at Hyne, employee benefits and practical tips on how to present the strongest resume and what to expect from the recruitment process.

The visit to Hyne included group tours to inspect various working environments and diversity of the roles within a large-scale sawmill.

"I am proud of the working environment we have today," Kelly Hyne said.

"We have come a long way as far as women in manufacturing roles are concerned and we truly value all the diversity and advantages this brings to us as a business.

"In return for great people joining our team, we can offer a range of benefits including flexible working

arrangements and training needs, acknowledging not everyone's circumstances are the same.

"It was clear from the questions from the participants that there was a genuine interest to learn more, not only about career paths, but also about the renewable building materials we produce."

Kelly added: "At the end of the day, we want people to want to work with us because of the environment provided, a great team ethos and also because of the renewable products we are proud to make."

The tour ended with participants enjoying celebration cupcakes to mark Hyne's 140th birthday this year.

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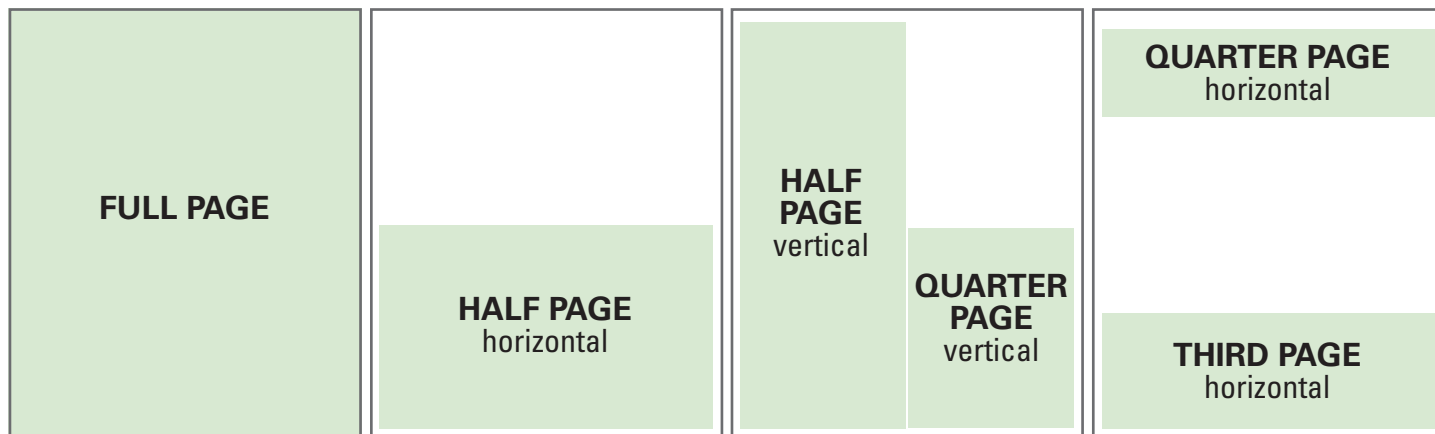
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