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ISSUE 736 | December 8, 2022

# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

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less hectic 2023**

COVER STORY P 6



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# Prime Minister Anthony Albanese backs forest industries at Canberra dinner

Activities consistent with sustainable native forestry practices, with a focus on promoting sustainable production and trade, and scaling up regional carbon markets

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese has provided a strong endorsement of Australia's sustainably managed native and plantation timber industries and their vital role in achieving Australia's net zero emissions goal and global partnership to end deforestation.

Speaking at the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) dinner in Canberra last week he congratulated AFPA and the National Farmers Federation for leading a joint agriculture and forestry delegation to the climate talks COP27 recently concluded in Egypt and was adamant that Australia's signing of the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership



Incoming chair of the Australian Forest Products Association Diana Gibbs with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

at COP27, initiated by the UK, is completely consistent with supporting climate smart forestry such as is practiced in Australia.

"The partnership is consistent with our sustainable native forestry practices and it will see us focus on promoting

sustainable production and trade, along with scaling up regional carbon markets," said Mr Albanese.

"We will work together to meet our commitments and provide new and yet-to-be-developed renewable forest materials to help move Australia to a net

zero economy."

Mr Albanese also backed the vital role of Australia's timber plantation sector in meeting Australia's net zero emission goals, and committed to working with the sector to maximise its opportunities in the carbon market by removing regulatory barriers in the Emissions Reduction Fund:

"I know the plantation industry wants to play its

part in achieving net zero emissions, and we want to work with you in doing just that. We are undertaking an independent review of our carbon credits system so Australia can benefit from a strong and credible market

Cont P 3

“PLANTATION INDUSTRY TO PLAY PART IN ACHIEVING NET ZERO EMISSIONS”



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Swapping notes are leading industry advocates Eileen Newbury, Forest and Wood Products with Adan Dovile, television personality and The Ultimate Wood™ campaign brand ambassador.

From P 2

place, and we'll continue to work with you to remove barriers to investment in plantations and farm forestry including changes to the water interception rule," said

Mr Albanese.

Incoming chair of AFPA, Diana Gibbs, said, the industry was privileged to have Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator the Hon Murray Watt, attend the dinner.

"Both spoke forcefully and passionately about the vital role forest industries in this country must play in delivering climate goals, timber for our homes, regional jobs and sovereign

**“FOREST INDUSTRIES MUST PLAY VITAL ROLE IN CLIMATE GOALS”**



Timber industry statesman ... Nick Roberts, former managing director, Forestry Corporation of NSW and current director, Forest and Wood Products Australia with John Simon, former chair of Forest and Wood Products Australia.



Hardwood timber industry warriors catch up .... Deb Kerr, CEO, Victorian Association of Forest Industries Timber Industry and soon to be interim CEO Australian Forest Products Association Hon Joel Fitzgibbon.

capability," she said.

"I was very pleased to have the opportunity to thank them both for the more than \$300 million in election commitments which have been delivered in the budget. These commitments will

help us drive innovation to deliver more timber from the sustainably used forests we already have as well as start the urgent business of adding more production trees to the estate."

Cont P 4

# The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 3

“The Federal Government has committed to seeing another billion production trees planted to ensure that we have the timber for our children’s homes. We are well behind on this goal. As well as stocking the hardware shelves, a billion more trees will also be a major down payment on the Government’s 43% emissions reduction target so we really are in a position to deliver a win-win if the policy settings are right.”

“Importantly, we also have bipartisan support for these policies, and we thank Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Jonno Duniam, for speaking in support of these policies, and being such a passionate supporter of Australia’s sustainable forest industries,” Ms Gibbs concluded.



**Getting ready for dinner ... Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association, Linda Hampton, incoming chair Diana Gibbs, Jos McCormack and outgoing chair Greg McCormack.**

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**Pre dinner chat ... Victor Violante, Deputy CEO, AFPA with Rab Green (left) and Phil Clements.**



**Comparing notes over dinner ... Fiona Simon, President National Farmers Federation with Andrew Metcalfe AO Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.**



Celebrating a stellar contribution to the timber industry by Jim Bowden (middle) over dinner are Ross Hampton, CEO Australian Forest Products Association (left) and Richard Colbeck, former Federal minister of forests.



Sharing a table for dinner ... Bob Gordon, President, Forestry Australia; Bill Hurditch, consultant; JD Veldsman and Brenda Mukomberanwa.

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## Real Christmas tree prices impacted by challenging weather and rising costs

REAL, natural Christmas trees are in short supply this festive season and prices are on the rise. The Australian reports 2.7 metre trees are fetching \$350. Challenging weather and rising fuel and fertiliser costs are being blamed for price hikes.

Owner of North Pole Christmas Tree Farm in Beveridge, Victoria Fabio Luele said there is a shortage of Christmas trees across Victoria and NSW and demand is very strong.

"We've had to cut back on our wholesale sales because private direct to the public sales have just gone through the absolute roof this year."

This year's extreme rainfall across NSW has creating supply issues. Trees shorter than 182 cm are selling for up to \$200, an almost 40% increase

on prices from last year. Sydney was hit by a third consecutive La Nina in 2022, recording more than 286mm of rain during its wettest October on record.

Merlino's Christmas Trees in Sydney's inner-west said the wet weather has wiped 40% of their crops this year. "We had way too much water which caused a lot of root rot," said Robert Darrigo, from Merlino's Christmas Trees.

"Also, it wasn't a very warm year, so the trees didn't grow as much. As such, trees taller than 240 cm will not be available for purchase this year despite their popularity with customers."

But Mr Darrigo expects Merlino's Christmas Trees will have to shut up shop and turn customers away by the second week of December.

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# Another year about to be ticked off – what about 2023?

E-NEWS has had a successful year with a growing distribution data base, an expanded editorial network and with a much-appreciated band of existing and a healthy number of new advertisers.

Well, we have made it through another difficult and tremulous year for the forestry and timber industry. This notwithstanding, we are delighted to be able to report that e-news has had a successful year with a growing



*Jim Bowden sharing a celebratory drink with Joe Prevedello, Communications Director, Australian Forest Products Association.*

the last 30 years or thereabouts with a distinct focus on the forestry and timber industry.

We appreciate and knowledge Jim's stellar contribution to e-news and we will continue to look forward to having Jim as part of the e-news family next year, but in a somewhat least frenetic role. That said we are fortunate to have Nicky Ainley as associate editor. Nicky will be stepping up to assist with additional editorial

duties supported by our regular columnists and other contributors next year.

distribution data base, an expanded editorial network and with a much-appreciated band of existing and a healthy number of new advertisers. This ongoing support has provided us with the confidence to move forward into 2023.

However, the year hasn't been all beer and skittles concluding with the decision of managing editor Jim Bowden, as he approaches his ninth decade, to ease back somewhat from the weekly discipline of producing and getting a magazine out to readers every Thursday. But all is not lost, Jim will continue to have some involvement albeit less intense as an occasional contributor next year. Jim is unquestionably Australia's leading timber industry journalist with a long and distinguished career back over six decades in the rural and agricultural press, and for

**“ THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS ”**

Along with co-publisher Dennis Neilson we salute our readers, advertisers and team members for their continuing support throughout the year, and look forward to this support continuing in 2023.

E-news has embarked on the planning a major conference in Melbourne in August 2023 dealing with the timber supplier crisis. We are already advanced with planning and securing leading international and Australian speakers. This will be a major event for the

*Cont P 7*

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**DECEMBER**

**10: Native forest management field day. – 128 Sandows Road, Binjour, QLD (turn off 18 km west of Gayndah on Burnett Highway and follow the field day signs).** 9 am-3 pm. Presenters Bill Schulke, Sean Ryan, Sam Slack. Impacts of thinning on forest health, productivity, economic returns

and grazing within spotted gum and Gympie messmate plantation and adjacent private native forest. RSVP admin@pfsq.org.au Tel: (07) 5483 6535 or 0428 457 322 Bring a water bottle, lunch and a chair. Tea, coffee provided.

**2023**

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**AUGUST 29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Crisis Summit – Melbourne.** Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact CORP COMM. Email: [info@corp-comm.com.au](mailto:info@corp-comm.com.au) Phone: +61 3 5977 0244

From P 6

industry as we confront the on-going challenges of timber supplies into the future.

So again, we acknowledge the contribution that Jim Bowden has made to the forestry and timber industry over the decades. Finally, we wish you our readers, staff, advertisers and supporters all the very best for the upcoming festive season and for a prosperous and less hectic 2023.

*On the cover: Christmas tree, Martin Place, Sydney. Enews salutes readers, advertisers and team members for their continuing support throughout the year, and look forward to this support continuing in 2023.*

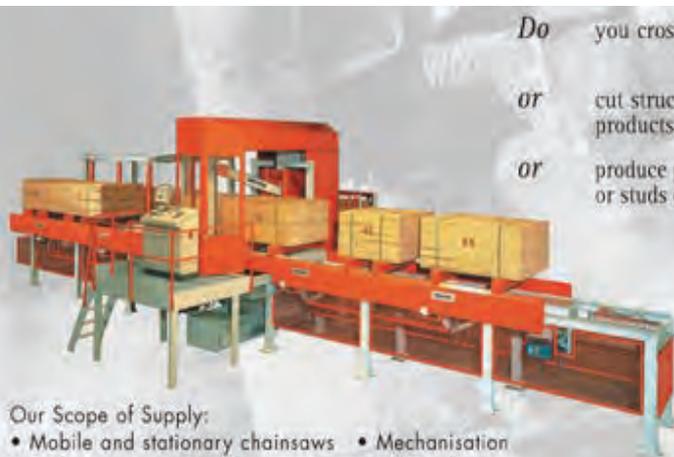


A major conference in Melbourne in August 2023 dealing with the timber supplier crisis already advanced with planning and securing leading international and Australian speakers.



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# Credibility test – a rubber stamp or genuine review?

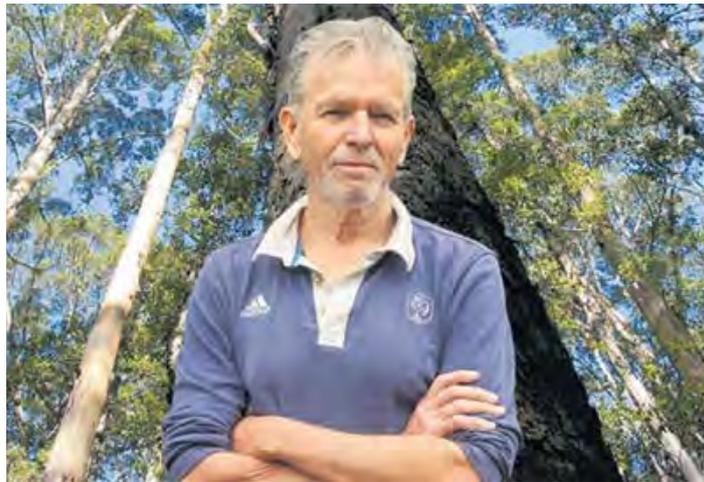
Industry and community could feel indignant at being deceived over the government’s forestry intentions.

**GAVIN BUTCHER**

PARLIAMENT’S Upper House in Western Australia is controlled by the Labor Party and could be excused for giving the tick to Mark McGowan’s wishes on the future of the state’s forests.

However, in the case of forestry, the integrity of government processes and decision-making requires more detailed examination. Two petitions to parliament have highlighted the lack of consultation, consideration of the impacts or options and failure to use the available science in deciding to close the native timber industry. It’s now up to those parliamentarians to review those decisions.

The industry and community could feel indignant at being deceived over the government’s forestry intentions. On March 29, 2019 the Premier signed an agreement with the Prime Minister to extend the



**Gavin Butcher... integrity of government processes and decision-making requires more detailed examination.**

regional forest agreement. This agreement committed to maintain a world-class reserve system for forest biodiversity, and for a continued yield of timber to provide for a stable timber industry. During the 2021 election campaign no change of policy was announced or even suggested. Yet on 8 September 2021, the Premier tore up his agreement with

the federal government, and more importantly abandoned support for the timber industry and its communities.

The Hon David Kelly  
MLA Minister for Forestry

**“WA GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SUBMIT LAME EXCUSES**

continues to submit lame excuses for the government’s decision. Last week he came up with a new one – the yield of jarrah sawlogs was predicted to drop. Where did this come from? Two Freedom of Information inquiries failed to provide any documents to support this claim. In any case it has been long known that the industry needed to adapt to new technology to process smaller logs, and he, as minister, should have been promoting the wood veneering technology that could have revolutionised the state’s industry. Instead, he has left the industry in a state of depression where no-one is likely invest due to the sovereign risk of dealing with his government on forestry.

The Upper House committee has now an

*Cont P.9*



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From P 8

opportunity to restore some credibility to the government by providing some realistic policy options for forestry. It is quite clear from the science that has been published that maintaining the industry at its current level is not a threat, and in fact could be beneficial in thinning the forests.

The current approach where the only timber provided will be sourced from mine clearing demonstrates the perversity of the government's approach. One industry that destroys forests and is allowed to dig up increasing areas of forest, the other industry which has achieved international certification for sustainability can only pick up the waste from mining.

For there to be full use of the timber that can be made available there needs to be a commitment to supply a quantity. Based on the current Forest Plan the government not willing to specify a quantity. One wonders how it expects industry to plan and invest without any supply commitment. Imagine the mining industry investing if it didn't obtain a clear right of access to land.

The second area for the Upper House Committee to consider is whether more timber could be made available from private forests. Currently the level of green regulation around harvesting timber on private land impedes commercial timber management by landowners. Now that all State forests are to be 'protected' perhaps



**Hon David Kelly MLA Minister for Forestry... continues to submit lame excuses for the government's decision to close down the state's native forest-based industry.**

restrictions on the use on private forests could be eased.

The third area for consideration is the promotion of long-term hardwood timber plantations. The government tried to establish a new hardwood plantation industry in the 2000s but got cold feet and withdrew financial support. The advent of a revenue stream from the carbon value could make this option more viable. To embark on such a program requires decades of bipartisan commitment, not a commodity that is easily found in forestry matters.

**“LONG-TERM HARDWOOD PLANTATIONS REQUIRE BIPARTISAN COMMITMENT**

For the unloved timber industry, it will be of keen interest to see whether the Upper House committee is willing to take the scab of the forestry wound and try to provide some real policy for the government.

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# Wooden TreeCard raises US \$23M

## Profits from merchant surcharges channelled into reforestation programs

TreeCard, the provider of a wooden Mastercard debit card that channels profits from merchant surcharges into reforestation programs, has raised US\$23 million in a funding round involving Peter Thiel's Valar Ventures, World Fund and EQT, Seedcamp, Episode 1 and various angels.

Eco-friendly search engine Ecosia bought a 20% stake in TreeCard in 2020 for £1 million. The startup raised a further US\$5.1 million in February last year ahead of its launch in the UK.

The wooden debit card comes with an app that lets users track spending, split bills with friends and monitor how many trees have been

planted as a result of user spending.

Operating over the Mastercard network and using back-end card processing services from Synapse, TreeCard acts as a fully-fledged debit account, able to receive top-up from a user's regular bank account, with support for chip and PIN, contactless transactions and mobile payments.

TreeCard makes money from the interchange and promises to invest 80%



treecard™



*TreeCard ... promising to invest 80% of profits into sustainable causes, including reforestation.*

of profits into sustainable causes, including reforestation in partnership with Ecosia. The company claims to have planted 200,000 trees since

its launch.

The new funding comes as the company gears up to enter the US market, where it has a waitlist of 250,000 people.

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# Global timber trade turbulence caused by from the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Second in a two-part series examining the timber supply chain impacts from the Russian invasion of Ukraine

IN the first part of this series, it was noted that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has unleashed a humanitarian crisis, and added to mounting concerns of a sharp global economic slowdown. Further, that countries around the world have imposed sanctions on Russia and Belarus. They have retaliated by banning some trade – including in wood products – with those Russia calls “unfriendly” countries.

Before the invasion of Ukraine Russia was the world’s largest exporter of sawn wood and the fourth-largest exporter of other wood products. Current trade embargoes by timber importing countries and the export bans by Russia and Belarus have disrupted supply chains. Overall, these actions are expected to add to the volatility of wood markets and contribute to a significant wood supply deficit in 2023 and beyond.

In April 2022, the Japanese government cancelled the most favoured-nation trade arrangement for Russia, which meant import duties on all products almost doubled. To support the sawn wood sector, the Japanese Forestry Agency has reportedly decided to give financial aid to construction companies changing to domestic sawn wood supplies. This follows the government’s ban on sawn wood imports from Russia. It is reported that about JPY 4 billion (USD 30 million) will also be made available from the government’s reserve fund



Before the invasion of Ukraine Russia was the world’s largest exporter of sawn wood and the fourth-largest exporter of other wood products.

for transport subsidies.

It is becoming clearer how sanctions over Ukraine are affecting the global economy. Ongoing disruptions in global supply chains and financial markets are already complicating the outlook.

Freight costs, even before the Russian invasion started, were 5-10 times their historical averages, driving up consumer prices and import costs across the board.

As sanctions removed Russian commodity exports

from world markets, prices were driven higher, putting pressure on import costs and public finances in net-commodity importing emerging market and developing economies. Unsurprisingly, these are the countries that have not joined the sanctions against Russia since they are most at risk of a balance of payments crisis if sanctions on Russian exports are tightened over an extended period.

Global timber markets are not immune from the direct and indirect impact of sanctions. Around 10-15 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood products, or just over 30% of the volume shipped from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine in 2021, has been removed from markets in Europe and Asia (except China) because of sanctions. Europe, which

## CONSTRUCTION COSTS INDEX

For single-family houses under construction, excludes the cost of Land



Supply shortages are already adding upward pressure on sawn wood prices in the US, where house-building costs have become so high that the government is introducing measures to stem the price surge.

Cont P 14

## Komatsu PC270HW



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From P 12

imported 8.5 million m3 of sawn softwood (around 10% of total consumption) from the three countries in 2021, will be the hardest hit.

European net exporters of sawn wood to the global market could make up for the deficit in Europe, but that would mean cutting shipments to other markets – a concern for sawn softwood importers in the US, which accounted for roughly 20% of EU sawn softwood exports in 2021, and for Australia.

Supply shortages are already adding upward pressure on sawn wood prices in the US, where house-building costs have become so high that the government is introducing measures to stem the price surge.

Chinese importers can still secure imports from Russia and Belarus. However, because FSC and PEFC have



**Manufacturers in Southeast Asia, South America and West Africa produce plywood to international standards.**

stopped certifying timber from the two countries, they will not be able to export products manufactured from Russian and Belarussian “conflict timber” to Europe or other countries that recognise FSC and/or PEFC labels.

Volatile markets are not good for business, so a priority for the global timber sector must be to stabilize international markets by adjusting trade flows. It

is here that alternative emerging wood product producers could contribute.

However, for tropical countries have the possibility to increase sawn softwood output to meet the structural

specifications of importing countries. However, there are possibilities when it comes to demand for veneer and plywood. Producers in Southeast Asia, South America and West Africa produce plywood to international standards. If they can ramp up production for export they will contribute to stabilizing international trade in these products.

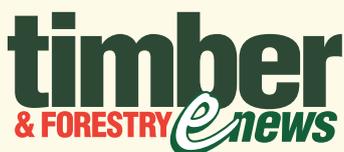
*Source: Tropical Forest Update (ITTO) Volume 31, No 2, 2022*

**“ SUPPLY SHORTAGES ARE ADDING UPWARD PRESSURE ON SAWN WOOD PRICES IN THE US ”**

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# EARLY WARNING ALERT

*2023 Timber & Forestry eNews*

## Australian Timber Supply Crisis Summit

### CRITICAL ISSUES

- A static softwood plantation resource
- **Decades of native forest lockups have decimated hardwood timber supply**
- A reducing hardwood plantation area
- **Australian construction and building industries increasingly at the mercy of timber imports**
- Will major timber supplier Russia be off the table?
- **How bad can it get?**
- Where to from here?

### SAVE THE DATE

- **29 & 30 August, 2023 - Melbourne, VIC Australia**

### PRESENTER LINEUP TO INCLUDE:

- Global timber supply experts
- **Timber supply forecasting authorities**
- International timber/EWP suppliers
- **Australian housing and construction demand forecasting experts**
- Australian Federal and State politicians
- **Australian timber suppliers**
- Australian timber traders

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# Kiwi forestry plan launched

## NZ Forestry and Wood Processing Industry Transformation Plan will increase wood processing and grow a low-carbon, high-value industry

THE New Zealand Forestry and Wood Processing Industry Transformation Plan (ITP) will increase wood processing and grow a low-carbon, high-value industry, Forestry Minister Stuart Nash announced last week.

“Through working closely with industry we’ve developed an ITP that will both boost the value and future-proof our forestry sector, providing greater economic security all New Zealanders during this global downturn. The forestry and wood processing sector is a multi-billion-dollar sector in New Zealand, with an export value that has grown by 22% since 2017, and is now worth around NZ\$6.6 billion, and employs more than 35,000 people in regional communities.

“The ITP will see our export numbers rise further,



**Forestry plan designed to see exports rise further, while creating new domestic opportunities for the sector.**

while creating new domestic opportunities for the sector. An initial investment of NZ\$2.5 million from the Government, plus another NZ\$1 million from industry contributions, will see a series of initiatives rolled out from 2023 onwards,” Minister Nash said.

The ITP sets the path for future export growth that does not just rely on exporting logs and

instead opens up domestic opportunities such as converting wood into high-tech low-carbon products such as construction materials, including timber frames, fence paling and decking, and into bio-

“**MORE WOOD PROCESSING WILL CREATE JOBS**”

materials such as liquid and solid fuels. These will all create more employment and lift sustainability.

The Government allocated NZ\$27 million in the 2022 Budget 22 to support delivery of the ITP.

“We will also develop our domestic woody biomass industry that takes forestry by-products such as branches, bark, chips and sawdust and turns them into products such as

pellets and particleboard, and into bio-fuels to power our transport, make plastics and pharmaceuticals, and replace high-emissions materials in our buildings.”

“More processing in New Zealand will create jobs, drive growth and provide more wood residues to support the growing bio-economy,” Minister Nash concluded.

Timber & Forestry enews is the most authoritative and quickest deliverer of news and special features to the forest and forest products industries in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. Enews is delivered weekly, every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year. Advertising rates are competitive with any industry magazine. Timber&Forestry enews hits your target market – every week, every Thursday!

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## ADVERTISING RATES

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Now in its 14th year, Timber & Forestry eNews has grown to be the Number ONE online weekly news journal for the forest and forest products industries – across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

### AD FORMATS



### DISPLAY AD RATES

**FULL PAGE: \$485**

297mmH x 210mmW

**HALF PAGE: \$290**

Vertical • 254mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

**QUARTER PAGE: \$185**

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

**THIRD PAGE: \$215**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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

Horizontal • 30mmH x 190mmW

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

Horizontal • 45mmH x 49.5mmW

**PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking**

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

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Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK and Europe. Ad rates shown are based on a weekly booking and are subject to GST being added. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

### DEADLINES

**Display ads:** Book by 9am Tuesday prior to publication

**Supplied artwork:** Wednesday 12 noon prior to publication. Supply hi-res jpg or pdf to our specifications. **NO crop marks or bleed required.**

### WHO TO CONTACT

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**Accounts:** e: johnh@timberandforestryenews.com | **Subscribe:** www.timberandforestryenews.com

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**JOB ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY**

**BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY**

744pxH x 720pxW

### BANNER ADVERTISING

• **FEATURE PACKAGE: INCLUDES**

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

Horizontal strip • 30mmH x 190mmW

Email strip • 395pxH x 1500pxW

Top website banner strip • 120pxH x 1000pxW

• **STANDARD PACKAGE: INCLUDES**

**PAGE 8 module / email module / website module on advertising page**

Module • 63mmH x 61mmW

Email module • 336pxH x 336pxW

Website module • 260pxH x 260pxW

### TERM DISCOUNTS

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24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

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Go to [www.timberandforestryenews.com/post-a-job/](http://www.timberandforestryenews.com/post-a-job/) to place a job vacancy. Book by 12noon Wednesday prior to publication. Job ads are for individual positions. If more than one position is to be advertised, separate ads will need to be created and advertised accordingly.

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### TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.