

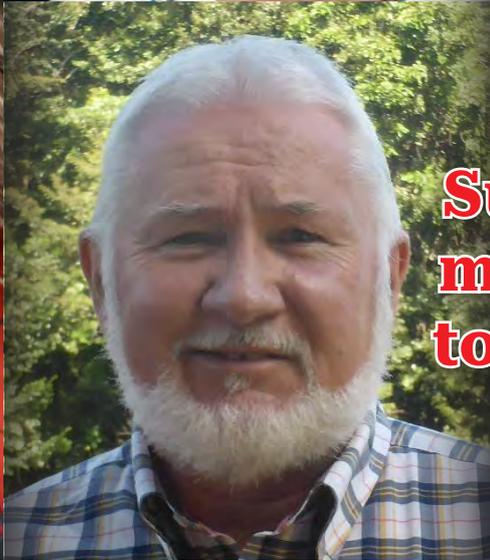
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ISSUE 737 // January 12, 2023

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## Successful forestry mentoring program to continue for 2023

COVER STORY P 3



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# Federal Government's recommitment to Regional Forest Agreements welcomed

THE Federal Government's commitment to retain Australia's Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) is an endorsement of Australia's sustainable forest practices and will be welcomed by forest industry workers around the country, Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Chief Executive Officer Ross Hampton said.

"Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's commitment that RFAs are here to stay provides much-needed certainty to the tens of thousands of timber workers whose livelihoods depend on our sustainably managed timber industries that RFAs support," Ross Hampton said.

Ross Hampton said the industry stands ready to work with the Federal Government on ensuring that RFAs – and the robust state government

environmental laws accredited under RFAs – continue to meet the objectives of the Environment Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation (EPBC) Act.

"Forestry operations in Australia are regulated to the highest environmental standards in the world, regenerating every harvested area to ensure no net loss of forested area whilst providing robust protections for threatened species," Ross Hampton said.

"Since their inception, RFAs have ensured that the objectives of the EPBC Act are met by the robust state government environmental laws accredited under them. As the EPBC Act evolves to include National Environmental Standards, we welcome Minister Plibersek's commitment to work with



**Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's commitment that RFAs are here to stay.**

former Coalition Government in recommitting to the continued operation of RFAs.

"We look forward to working with the Federal Government and the signatory states on sensible reforms to the RFAs so they continue to deliver the social and economic objectives that

they were intended to provide timber workers and their communities, alongside the environmental objectives," Ross Hampton concluded.

industry to ensure RFAs continue to meet the Act's objectives."

Ross Hampton said forest industries welcomed the Federal Government's rejection of the bulk of Samuel's recommendations around RFAs, which would have significantly undermined the continued operation of the hardwood timber industry and the national supply of many essential products.

"We are pleased that Minister Plibersek has reiterated the position of the

**“ WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ”**

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# Forestry mentoring program to continue after successful first year

FORESTRY Australia has announced a continuation of its Mentoring Program after an immensely successful first year in 2022, which saw 100% of mentees report that they were highly satisfied or satisfied with the program.

The inaugural program connected experienced forestry professionals with those who were seeking to develop professionally, and personally and evolve their career, with 54 participants enrolling in the nine-month program.

Forestry Australia CEO Jacque Martin said the program supported the development of the next generation of leaders within the forest sector and encouraged diversity of ideas, people and skills.

The program also supports Forestry Australia's commitment to meeting the needs of its increasingly diverse membership and reinforces its inclusive culture.

"A mentoring relationship is a powerful development experience that can deliver personal and professional benefits for both mentors and mentees," Ms Martin said.

"We were delighted to receive such great feedback from participants in the program's first year, and we are looking forward to enhancing this offering even further in 2023."

2022 mentee Emily Post said the program improved her professional confidence and introduced her to a valuable industry network.

"My mentor was brilliant, though the connection I have learnt how to become more

specific with my goals, and what is required to reach them," Ms Post said

"My mentor helped me to refine my resume and gave me a true confidence in my knowledge and how to effectively communicate it. The program has left me with a stronger network within the industry, a clearer sense of my goals, and a greater confidence in myself as a professional."

2022 mentor Kevin Harding said it was highly rewarding to assist in the personal and professional development of his assigned mentee.

"It has been excellent to engage with a mentee who I did not previously know and is now a valued friend," he said.

"Our discussions changed focus as he focused in on a new career path that he wants to develop – the program helped him to realise where he wants to take his career."

Ms Martin encouraged forestry professionals at any stage in their careers to consider signing up as a mentor or mentee in next year's program.

"Forestry Australia

**THIS WAS A GREAT INITIATIVE FROM FORESTRY AUSTRALIA**



*Mentor Wolfgang Drexler says he enjoyed interacting with a young and enthusiastic member of the forestry community.*

promotes an 'any age, any stage' approach to mentoring, as you are never too young or too old to benefit from receiving or giving mentorship," she said.

"We encourage anyone who is interested in growing their own career or giving back to the profession to help foster the next generation to get in touch and find out how they can become involved."

*Cont P 4*

## The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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# Multiple job losses in the paper industry

THE Victorian paper company, Opal Australian Paper has confirmed a number of individuals were stood down from their jobs just before the new year.

37 workers were informed of the company's decision just days before 2023 with the move being slammed as "unconscionable"!

The company confirmed the individuals were stood down with full pay for an indefinite period of time effective January 1.

According to AAP, a further 120 workers are facing the same possible outcome later this month or early next month.

The stand-downs had been looming for some time at the Maryvale-based paper mill, in rural eastern Victoria, following a supreme court ruling and a timber shortage.

Opal reportedly employed 850 workers at its Maryvale mill, according to The Weekly Times, prior to the temporary stand-downs, and is the Latrobe Valley's biggest employer.

The court decision has reportedly devastated the workplace and has crippled the company's ability to make paper.

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union Assistant National Secretary (Printing) Lorraine Cassin told news.com.au she outraged at the job cuts as well as the late notice.

"It's unconscionable that



The paper mill at night. Source: LinkedIn.

"It's unbelievable that they'd turn around now and treat their workers like this," Ms Cassin added.

"Opal must work with unions and the state government to make sure these workers have the

support they need."

Opal management have sacked 37 workers with only two days' notice in the middle of the holiday season," she said.

"This decision comes less than a month after Opal workers successfully defended their rights and protections through industrial action after Opal management tried to cut wages and conditions."

support they need."

In early November, government-owned timber business VicForests lost a Supreme Court case which found it was not doing enough to protect endangered wildlife including two possum species.

As a result, the company was ordered to scale back its timber harvesting in parts of rural Victoria.

From P 3

Forestry Australia's Mentoring Program is developed around a framework and tool kit of resources which supports participants to ensure effective and sustainable knowledge transfer, skill acquisition and maintaining momentum.

Mentors and mentees dedicate at least one hour a month to meet, plus set additional time to prepare for meetings including goal setting, pre-reading, planning and reflection activities.

"My mentor was brilliant, though the connection I have learnt how to become more specific with my goals, and what is required to reach them," mentee Emily Post said.

"My mentor helped me to refine my resume and gave me a true confidence in my knowledge and how to effectively communicate it. The program has left me with a stronger network within the industry, a clearer sense of my goals, and a greater confidence in myself as a professional," she said.

"It was excellent to engage with a mentee who I did not previously know and is now a valued friend," program mentor Kevin Harding said.

"Our discussions changed focus as he focused in on a new career path that he wants to develop – the program I think helped him to realise where he wants to take his career."

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On the cover: Emily Post - 2022 mentee, Christine Grove - 2022 mentee, Kevin Harding - 2022 mentor, David Faluyi, 2022 mentee. The mentees all benefited from the mentor program while the mentors said the program was beneficial.

# Challenging year ahead for timber supply chain

## Projections indicate that from the second quarter of this year building and construction, activity will pick up

THE start of this year is really a false dawn for the timber industry supply chain believes the Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF). General manager of ATIF, John Halkett suggests that since the latter part of 2022 many wholesalers have been carrying excessive stocks of most softwood timber products.

"In large part this is a consequence of robust ordering in early 2022, noting the four to six months import transit period, only to be followed by an unexpected decline in building and construction activity because of a combination of issues such as inflation, rising interest rates, floods, labour shortages and a weakening in business confidence as the year continued," Mr Halkett said.

"However, projections



**1/ Having 'pumped up' building and construction demand with a range of initiatives, the Federal and state governments have done so without sufficient attention to the resultant 'pressures' on the supply side.**

**2/ John Halkett ... ATIF has been working with existing and potentially new suppliers of softwood products, including in South America and South Africa to support the predicted building demand in Australia.**

indicate that from the second quarter of 2023, building and construction activity should pick up. This is because of the backlog of work and a range of Federal and state government incentives to 'prime pump' the industry, such as the \$350 million



pledge in the 2022 Federal budget for so-called "affordable housing.

"We know that domestic production of structural softwood products has 'flat-lined' and hardwood production is destined to

decline even further if the intentions of the Victorian and WA governments to shut down native forest hardwood production operations are implemented," he said.

"Also, the increasing dependence on imported softwood products over recent years has been disrupted because of the brutal, illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resultant dislocation of wood flows across the Northern Hemisphere.

"This has resulted in the capacity of some traditional softwood exporters to Australia to supply at levels prior to the disruptions caused by the Ukraine conflict."

Mr Halkett confirmed that ATIF has been working with existing and potentially new suppliers of softwood products, including in South America and South Africa to support the predicted building demand in Australia.

"This matter is on the agenda for a meeting with

Cont P 9

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# NZ projects demonstrate versatility of wood technology

By MICHAEL SMITH

TWO upcoming timber-based construction projects in New Zealand are significantly raising the bar in terms of the material's versatility.

Air New Zealand's new 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> 'Hangar 4' is planned for the company's engineering base at Mangere, Auckland. Designed with a 6-star green rating (certified



*Air New Zealand's 'Hangar 4' will be the largest single-span timber arch aircraft hangar in the southern hemisphere.*

"60% reduction in upfront emissions when compared with its potential concrete-and-steel counterpart".

The project will also target the highest Green Star rating by incorporating EV charging, rainwater harvesting and facilities that accommodate 'active' transport options.

Meantime, a mid-rise wood construction case study of the Clearwater Quays

by the New Zealand Green Building Council), it will be the largest single-span timber arch aircraft hangar in the southern hemisphere.

A spokesperson for the airline noted that its existing hangars were built in the 1960s and 1980s. "Our fleet has changed over the decades ... and we now need a more modern, innovative structure that takes energy use and other sustainability factors into account."

And in Tauranga, the city council's new offices at 90 Devonport Road will become the country's largest mass timber office building. Given that architects, developers and builders are still getting to grips with timber technologies, the design relies on simplicity to achieve commercial viability.

Architects Warren and Mahoney say the eight-storey building is set to achieve a

Apartments in Christchurch has affirmed the structural advantages of building in engineered timber.

The five-storey, luxury residential building features cross-laminated timber, laminated veneer lumber, glulam, and panelised framing timber. Its only structural, non-timber components are the concrete slab ground floor, and footings.

At the planning stage, alternative 'digital twin' cost models in steel frame/ concrete floors and full in-situ concrete were developed alongside the actual mass-timber costs. These allowed the quantity surveyors to estimate the cost implications of the time saved by constructing in mass timber – and enabled the construction manager to estimate the build time.



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## JANUARY

### 30-31: International Conference on Agricultural and Forestry Engineering – Sydney, NSW.

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the conference program.

Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers. Visit: <https://waset.org/agricultural-and-forestry-engineering-conference-in-january-2023-in-sydney>

## FEBRUARY

### 6-7: International Conference on Forest Biology and Dendrology – Melbourne, VIC.

International Conference on Forest Biology and Dendrology aims to bring together leading academic

scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Forest Biology and Dendrology. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Forest Biology and Dendrology. Visit: <https://waset.org/forest-biology-and-dendrology-conference-in-february-2023-in-melbourne>

### 7-8: 6th European Biomass Trade and Power Summit – Copenhagen.

On site and virtual. Attractive economics and spreads for wood pellet burn across Europe has boosted biomass demand, despite record high pellet prices. High power demand and a rebound in carbon prices has been the catalyst but a shortage of wood pellet supply will likely reduce industrial

wood pellet consumption in Europe. Visit [www.cmtevents.com/aboutevent.aspx?ev=230202&](http://www.cmtevents.com/aboutevent.aspx?ev=230202&) or email [huiyan@cmtsp.com.sg](mailto:huiyan@cmtsp.com.sg)

## APRIL

### 25-26: Institute of Chartered Foresters National Conference 2023: Connecting Trees, Farmers and Foresters – ONLINE EVENT.

Exploring how to integrate trees into the farmed landscapes and build relationships between farming and forestry. For further information see: <https://www.charteredforesters.org/event/national-conference-2023-connecting-trees-farmers-and-foresters>.

## MAY

### 18-19: The Forest Industry Engineering Association – Melbourne.

Woodtech would be showcasing new innovations, new products and new equipment to improve local sawmilling, wood manufacturing and wood panel company's operating efficiencies - and profitability.

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**25-26: National TABMA Australia Conference – Hunter Valley, NSW.** For any queries contact [events@tamba.com.au](mailto:events@tamba.com.au). For bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/993638>

## AUGUST

### 29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Crisis Summit – Melbourne.

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## OCTOBER

### 15-19: ANZIF Conference: Embracing our natural capital: The science, technology, and art of managing forests for all values – Twin Towns Conference Centre, Coolangatta, Queensland.

Further details from Forestry Australia at: <https://www.forestry.org.au/>



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# Canadian firefighters join Forestry Corporation in Bathurst for bushfire season

THE Forestry Corporation of NSW has welcomed five international recruits to its 2022 Bathurst seasonal program, with firefighters coming from Canada and New Zealand to join local recruits and support the organisation leading into bushfire season.

Canada is particularly well represented, with four recruits making the 17-hour flight to Australia to join the team this year. The two countries share many similarities, however, there have been a few hurdles to overcome, reports new Canadian recruit Ty Davis.

“Aussie slang is definitely a thing and it’s taken a little while to decode,” Mr Davis jokes. “Once we got past that though, the experience has been really great and it’s been awesome working with the Sunny Corner depot team.”

The seasonal program is an opportunity for Ty and the other recruits to travel to Australia and extend their firefighting experience. During the Canadian summer, he works with Alberta Wildfire on a seven-month contract,



Ty Davis and Brandon Allen have come from the other side of the world to help with firefighting in the Bathurst region.

allowing him the chance to travel to Australia and work in Forestry Corporation’s seasonal program in their winter.

“I heard a couple of the guys I work with mention Forestry Corporation’s seasonal program and how great it is, plus I always wanted to travel to Australia,” Mr Davis said.

“So I applied and eight days later I was in Bathurst – it’s been fantastic meeting my

team and experiencing the Australian culture. Canadians have a reputation for being super nice, but Aussies definitely deserve this too.”

Fellow Canadian Krista Lagasse also travelled to

“THEY ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR FIREFIGHTING CAPACITY”

join Forestry Corporation’s seasonal program and is based in Orange.

“Everyone has been super helpful and willing to help us settle in,” Ms Lagasse said.

“I work as a firefighter in Alberta and Ontario back home, so this has been a great opportunity to travel the world and do the job I love at the same time.”

Ty and Krista highlight the variety of staff working in the organisation’s seasonal firefighting program, with most staff locally recruited to extend Forestry Corporation’s firefighting capacity in bushfire season, said Fire & Stewardship Supervisor Dave Anderson.

“Our seasonal workforce is a valued and essential part

Cont P 9



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From P 8

of our firefighting capacity," Mr Anderson said.

"We have four Canadian seasonal firefighters here this year – they recently had their first experience of a eucalypt fire in a hazard reduction burn in Sunny Corner State Forest.

"We work hard to build a diverse and skilled



The program is an opportunity for crews to extend their firefighting experience.

seasonal team – people like Ty, Krista, Jess and Brandon are an essential part of our defence against bushfires." Forestry Corporation is responsible for preventing and managing fires in two million hectares of State forests across NSW. It also assists with large bushfires on private property and other bushlands in Australia and also overseas.

The organisation recruits its seasonal firefighting force in early spring each year. To find out more, visit [www.forestrycorporation.com.au](http://www.forestrycorporation.com.au)

From P 5

the Federal Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt scheduled for the first parliamentary sitting session of the Federal government this year," Mr Halkett continued.

"ATIF continues to be of the view that having 'pumped up' building and construction demand with a range of initiatives the Federal and

state governments have done so without sufficient attention to the resultant 'pressures' on the supply side.

"ATIF is of the view that the Federal government should now work with the industry to assist in developing additional sources of supply to support domestic building and construction efforts. The situation in relation to hardwood timber suppliers will become increasingly

challenging this year as production in Victoria and WA is likely to continue the decline."

Mr Halkett said that new potential sources of hardwood supply are being investigated from South America and Africa.

"However, these prospects will need careful investigation because of issues such as compliance with building

codes and legal logging legislation," he said.

"In this regard, ATIF notes that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has over the past six months been far more assertive in relation to compliance issues and this will need to be factored into both existing and future potential international timber supply sources."



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# FWCA welcomes new Director Mick Harrington

GIPPSLAND firewood supplier Mick Harrington has joined the FWCA Board as a new director. He replaces Tasmania's Kelly Wilton who stepped down from the Board after two years.

No stranger to the political process, Mr Harrington was a candidate for the Nationals in the Senate ballot at this year's Federal Election

"We are thrilled to announce that Gippsland

**“ HIS PASSION FOR TIMBER COMMUNITIES MAKES HIM THE PERFECT CHOICE**

firewood supplier and talented musician Mick Harrington has joined the FWCA Board as a new director," Justin Law, managing director of FWCA said in a statement.

"Mick is most recognised for his success in The Voice Australia where he was a finalist, but it is his passion for timber communities which makes him the perfect choice for our association."

"No stranger to the political process, Mick was a



**Mick Harrington says he will bring a 'massive amount of fight and enthusiasm to bring an end to the radical ideological war on forestry'.**

candidate for the Nationals in the Senate ballot at this year's Federal Election.

"We first met Mick at Orbost where he came to support the local community and he made it clear he is here

to help as best he can.

"It's an absolute privilege to join FWCA and continue fighting for communities all around Australia to ensure the future of the timber sector which supports us," he said.

"I may not bring a degree or book smarts to the board, but I will bring a massive amount of fight and enthusiasm to bring an end to the radical ideological war on forestry.

"I'm a third-generation timber worker. My Pa cut redgum and yellow box sleepers, posts, and firewood on the East Gippsland Plains. My Dad had a redgum firewood business, and now I have a firewood business that I operate when I'm home from touring as a musician."

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# Hardwood sawmills suffering from log supply shortages

ALREADY challenged by fires that incinerated parts of the region in late-2019 and early-2020.

After three years of fires and floods, sawmills in northern NSW are struggling to find reliable supplies of logs.

Roads damaged by heavy rain in early-2022 have complicated access to state forests for log harvesting crews, already challenged by fires that impacted extensive areas of forest in the region in late-2019 and early-2020.

Donna Layton, the general manager at the J Notaras and Sons sawmill in Grafton, has watched anxiously as the timber pile has dwindled to as low as one- or two-days supply during 2022.

"We haven't recovered since the bushfires. We're 30% down on what we were getting. The two weeks' supply we've got now is the best I've had in six months."

The family-owned sawmill in Grafton, which produces structural timbers, timber flooring and other hardwood timber products, has managed to retain its workforce throughout the



Log supplies difficulties ... down 30% on what has been supplied in the past.

supply shortage, but the staff has had to cut back on hours and switch to maintenance jobs while the timber is rationed out.

"We worked a four-day week for 12 months after the bushfires. But when the floods came through, they couldn't go back to four-day work weeks. It was too tough on the staff, so we've been doing things differently. We will have maintenance days, where everyone is focused on that," Ms Layton said.

The South Grafton mill, which processes up to 70 cubic metres of logs a day, was acquired in 1966 by brothers Brinos and Spiro

Notaras, who started their sawmilling business in 1952. It has run continually since and is still owned by the family.

"Some of the mill's 38 staff have worked at the mill for almost 50 years and retaining them is a priority. We've got really good, reliable staff," Ms Layton said.

Fires and floods have also made it harder for sawmills, particularly those in rural

locations, to find insurance. The issue is not unique to NSW. In Queensland, some mills are struggling to get insurance as international insurance underwriters tighten conditions, sending premiums soaring.

Timber Queensland chief executive Mick Stephens said underwriters had taken a hard stance on risks, which was reflected in drastic increases in premiums.

"We have seen increases of around 40% over a four-year period for sawmills, which are now escalating to annual -increases of 20% or higher," Mr Stephens said.

Source: The Australian

“SAWMILLS ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND SUPPLIES OF LOGS”

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Agriculture, logging and forestry have the highest levels of self-reported happiness – and lowest levels of self-reported stress – of any major industry category, according to an analysis of thousands of

time journals from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' American Time Use Survey. (Additional reporting sharpened our focus on lumberjacks and foresters, but almost everyone who works on farms or in forest stands out.)

The time-use survey typically asks people to record what they were doing at any given time during the day. But in four

recent surveys, between 2010 and 2021, they also asked a subset of those people how meaningful those activities were, or how happy, sad, stressed, pained and tired they



A recent survey showed lumberjacks have high levels of job happiness.

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# History made with first 3D printed house

THE University of Maine has made history by manufacturing the first 3D-printed home made out of entirely recyclable materials.

It's called BioHome3D and is made entirely with bio-based materials such as wood flour, or fine sawdust, mixed with a binder made from corn. Layer by layer, the wooden home was 3D printed using an industrial polymer printer at the ASCC where there was little to no construction waste thanks to the precision of the printing process.

The 600-square-foot residential prototype features 3D-printed floors, walls, and roofs from wood fibres and bio-resins, and the house is fully recyclable and highly insulated with 100% wood insulation.

The 3D-printed wood bonds the walls and the ceilings and forms a sloping curve that shelters the homeowners.

With the use of wood waste from sawmills and "bio-resins," the university was able to print the floors, walls, and ceiling. The house comes in pieces, ready to be assembled with the doors, windows, and electrical wiring. Insulation, also made of recyclable wood fibres, is already built in.

Several key figures who helped make the project



**The 600-square-foot home is the first step of a bigger project.**

happen attended the unveiling, including Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Gov. Janet Mills.

The engineers behind the project hope that the 600-square-foot 3D printed home is the first step of a larger project, which aims to lessen labour shortages and tackle a lack of affordable

housing in Maine.

"Right now, there is a need for 20,000 low-income homes in the state of Maine, and for

**“ IT IS MADE ENTIRELY WITH BIO-BASED MATERIALS ”**

a low-income one-bedroom home, that costs close to \$300,000 right now, if you can get one," Dr. Habib Dagher, the founding executive director of the Advanced Structures & Composites Centre, said. "The problem is that there is a lot of people who can't come to Maine who can't work in Maine or live in Maine because they can't find homes. So, what we hope to do is help solve this problem and we're not going to 3D print every home of course, but certainly, we will be part of the housing stock."

The Maine Housing Authority and U.S. Department of Energy partnered to fund the University of Maine to develop the BioHome3D.

According to UMaine, mass production of 3D-printed bio-based homes in factories is still years away, but the first step has been made.



**The project aims to lessen labor shortages and tackle a lack of affordable housing.**



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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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# Drought and fire risk to increase with likely El Niño

FARMERS and foresters across Australia are anxiously watching long-term climate forecasts, with fears a hot and dry El Niño system could back up the current flood-inducing La Niña.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has advised that 40 per cent of past La Niña events have switched to El Niño events in the same year that a La Niña has ended.

It follows confirmation from the Bureau that the La Niña has officially ended and from January Australia will return to a more 'typical' hot, dry summer pattern.

With that the Rural Fire Service has also advised of an increased risk of bushfires. It follows three relatively quiet fire seasons as Australia has predominantly faced flood threats.

The 2022 data from the Bureau of Meteorology concluded that overall the weather through the year was wetter and warmer overall.

The National mean temperature was 0.50°C warmer than the 1961–1990 average, making 2022 the



1/ Farming and forestry are now preparing for drought.



2/ There's an increased chance of bushfires during El Niño.

equal 22nd warmest year on record since national temperature records began in 1910.

Meanwhile the national rainfall was 25% above the 1961–1990 annual average making 2022 the ninth-wettest year on record.

Rainfall was very much above average for the south-eastern quarter of the mainland, where persistent rain saw significant flooding affecting large areas, multiple times during the year.

Rainfall was below average for western Tasmania, much of the north of the Northern Territory, and the far south-west of Western Australia.

Water storage levels have been high across much of Australia during 2022, although some storages were still low for parts of central

coast Queensland, western Tasmania, south-east New South Wales, and western Victoria.

Annual maximum temperatures were above average for most of northern Australia, Tasmania and parts of the west coast but below average for New South Wales, southern Queensland and parts of South Australia.

Annual minimum temperatures were above or very much above average for most of Australia.

The year was characterised by wetter-than-average conditions across much of eastern Australia. Climatologically, these conditions were consistent with the wet phase of natural climate variability for our region – namely a La Niña, a negative Indian Ocean Dipole in winter and spring, and a

persistently positive phase of the Southern Annular Mode from mid-autumn.

The 2022–23 La Niña has been the third in a row. It is only the fourth time three successive La Niña events in a row have been observed in the Bureau record since 1900 (with the others being 1954–57, 1973–76, and 1998–2001).

State of the Climate 2022 found Australia is experiencing climate change now, with impacts being felt by many communities and industry sectors.

The Bureau will release its full Annual Climate Statement for 2022 in February 2023. This report will offer a full analysis and report on the year's rainfall, temperature, water storage, climate influences and more in relation to long-term climate trends.

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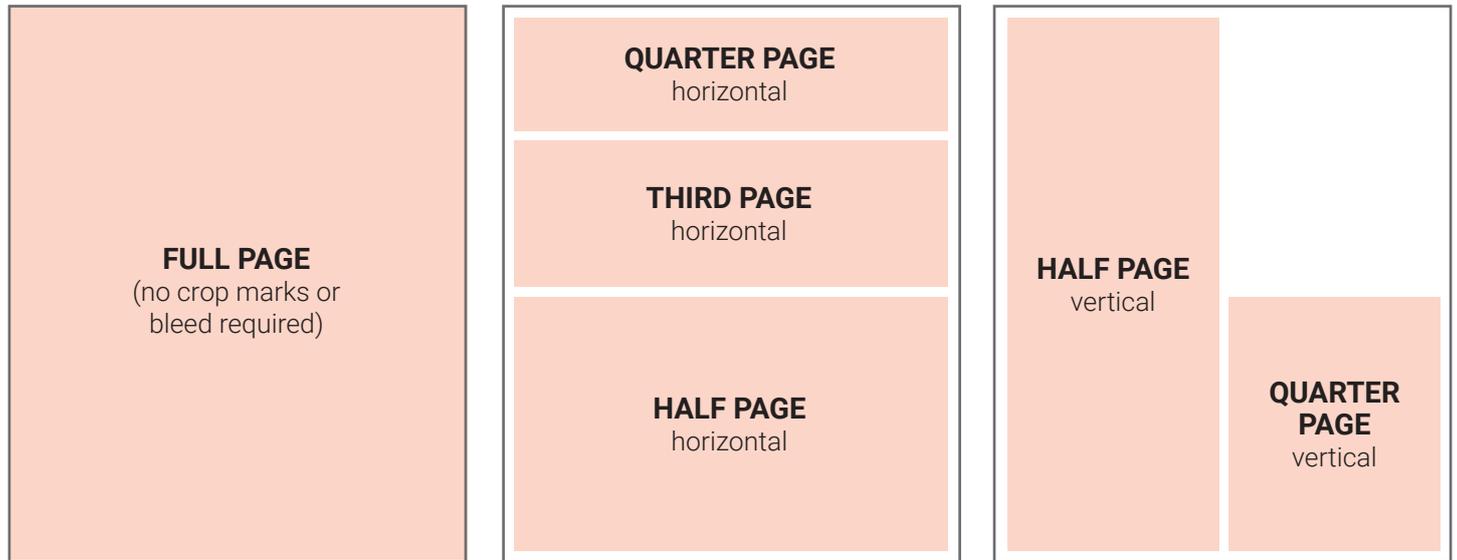
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