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From one timber family to another for NSW hardwood business

COVER STORY P 2



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Sale confirmed for J Notaras and Sons

J NOTARAS and Sons, the sawmillers – hardwood specialists based in Grafton, NSW, has confirmed the sale of its business to Newcastle's largest family-owned timber products supplier Marshall's Timber.

After more than 70 years supplying quality hardwood timber and timber products, the Board of J

Notaras and Sons ("the Company") has advised the business will be continuing its 'strong legacy and commitment to the family-owned service ethic and outstanding quality its customers have come to admire and respect' under the direction of the Marshall family.

Completion of the transaction, which includes land, buildings, equipment and all business assets is subject to the fulfillment of essential conditions precedent including the assignment of the Wood Supply Agreements



The main storage area of Notaras which will continue in production under the new management.

with Forestry NSW to the purchaser.

J. Notaras and Sons was founded in Grafton by two brothers - Lambrinos (Brinos) and Spiro Notaras – in 1952 and has continuously operated since then under the ownership of the Notaras family. J Notaras and Sons has an outstanding reputation for delivering quality hardwood timber products and exceptional service to local customers, and has been a significant long term employer and contributor to the Grafton and Clarence Valley community, as well as a

strong sustainability advocate for the timber industry .

Marshall's Timbers is a family owned business, operating for over 60 years and are Newcastle's largest supplier of timber and timber products with family commitment to quality and

service aligned to the Notaras family.

"We are delighted that the Marshall family can carry forward the vision of Brinos and Spiro, and that the J Notaras and Sons business can continue to operate and thrive in the Grafton business community, provide sustainable employment to its' many loyal employees and suppliers, and continue to supply

quality hardwood timber products to its customers," The board of J Notaras and Sons said in a statement.

"The sale will allow the company to continue to grow and thrive with new energy and commitment under the stewardship of the Marshall family. The Board would like to express their thanks to all present and former employees, suppliers, customers and stakeholders who have contributed to the on-going success of the J

“ WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE AND GROW THE SPECIALISED TIMBER PRODUCTION

Cont P 3



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From P 2

Notaras & Sons business over many years.”

Paul Marshall, representing the Marshalls group who are purchasing J Notaras and Sons said they welcomed the opportunity.

“We welcome the opportunity to continue and grow the specialised timber production business started by Brinos and Spiro Notaras in Grafton over 70 years ago,” he said.

“We also bring a wealth of timber knowledge and over 60 years’ experience in timber retailing from our continuation of our father’s business, Marshalls Timbers Pty Ltd. With the support of NSW Forestry, State, Federal and local governments we can keep the machines rolling to continue producing premium timber products in Grafton”.



1/ Marshall’s Timbers is a proud family business, operating for 60 years out of Cardiff in Newcastle NSW.
 2/ The acquisition will be a positive for NSW timer flooring production.

“I have mixed emotions, after working for the Notaras family for 45 years it is hard to say goodbye,” Donna Layton, general manager J Notaras and Sons said.

“However, I am excited that the Marshall family, as the new owners, will continue to keep the business operating with the existing staff and the same commitment that family businesses have.

“Their enthusiasm to continue and grow the business into the future is

great news for everyone concerned, including our community which the Marshall family will continue to support”.

The transaction is expected to close within six weeks of fulfillment of essential conditions precedent, with all employees to be retained by the new ownership structure.

Findex Corporate Finance (Australia) Limited acted as lead and financial advisors to the Board and shareholders of J Notaras and Son Pty Ltd, with Talbot Sayers have acted as legal advisers to the Company.

On the cover: The sale to another timber family means job security for current staff and ongoing products for consumers.

Bruce Larsen appointed President of the NZ Timber Industry Federation



BRUCE Larsen, General Manager and Director of Northpine Ltd,

Waipu, Northland is the new president of the New Zealand Timber Industry Federation. He has been a valuable member of the NZTIF Board for six years and replaces John McVicar who served as president from 2013.

Bruce joined the New Zealand Forest Service as a trainee in 1981 and spent a year at Turangi as a labourer with other North Island

inductees before going on to Canterbury University where he received his BForSci (Hons) degree.

After a couple of years at FRI (Scion) undertaking research in log harvesting Bruce joined the state-owned Enterprise Timberlands based in Woodhill Forest. Carter Holt Harvey purchased the northern forests in 1990 and Bruce then spent 11 years in various roles within that organisation, primarily related to harvesting and log sales.

Bruce has been General Manager of Northpine for the last 15 years and an NZTIF Board member since 2017.

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TABMA and Hardware Australia to merge

TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia today announced their intention to join forces into a merged entity and create a single Association to represent the timber and hardware industry nationally.

The leadership team, comprising of the two Boards view this as a great opportunity to be 'stronger together', especially across national advocacy and policy issues when engaging with important stakeholders.

The two industries have seen a significant evolution, with many businesses switching or expanding

“GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE 'STRONGER TOGETHER'”



TABMA Australia; The chairs of both bodies met recently to finalise the merger.

their offering from timber to hardware and vice versa; for this reason a new organisation will be a representation of what the industry will be in the future. TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia are

coming together to ensure their members are properly supported in this new and more diverse environment.

Hardware Australia Chair, Paul Stewart and TABMA Chair, Peter Hutchison recently met to discuss the ongoing relationship and the benefits of bringing their members together to create a larger national voice for the industry.

“The independent hardware industry needs a strong voice to compete in today’s market. We have been working closely with TABMA over the past four years and The Board of Hardware Australia feel that we are stronger together,” Paul Stewart said.

“A partnership between the two associations would benefit both groups of members with opportunities to expand their networks and create new business opportunities as well as having a truly national presence with a combined 700+ members from all aspects of the timber, building materials and hardware sectors.”

“TABMA Australia has been serving its members for over 80 years by staying relevant

and providing members with quality services. The Board of TABMA Australia feel to continue supporting our members, our voice needs to be bigger and broader so that we can be stronger as an industry association,” Peter Hutchison said.

For over 12 months, Hardware Australia has been seeking a

new partner to support its members and provide greater services for them. TABMA has been a natural choice for the merge after 80+ years of providing timber and building materials traders with services.

TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia’s Boards are in support of the joining of these associations as there are significant benefits for all members and the industry.

Both organisations have a strong member base who are at the core of every decision made, as their success is key to TABMA and Hardware Australia.

There is more information to come on the continued partnership between TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia, however, the future is strong.

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Responsible Wood achieves PEFC International endorsement

RESPONSIBLE Wood, an Australian not-for-profit organization that develops globally endorsed standards for sustainable forest management and the sourcing of forest products, has announced the endorsement of its new standard by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The new standard, called AS/NZS 4708-2021, is a joint Australian and New Zealand standard and has undergone a comprehensive, consultative, multi-stakeholder review process over the last three years.

"While the fundamental objective of the standard remains the same, the new standard has been significantly strengthened and improved in line with best practice forestry in Australia and around the world," Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

**“NEW STANDARD
A MAJOR STEP
FORWARD IN
ENSURING
SUSTAINABILITY**



Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries, and Sustainability Manager Matt de Jongh, presenting the new standard to members outside the Scion Innovation Hub in Rotorua, New Zealand.

"This standard sets a new benchmark for sustainable forest management and we are proud to be at the forefront of this effort."

The standard includes a number of updates to address the impacts of climate change. In particular, it includes requirements to implement positive practices that minimize greenhouse gas emissions and to consider the impacts of climate change as a key component of forest management practices. This is a significant step forward in ensuring that forestry practices are sustainable and adaptable to the changing climate.

Another key addition to the standard is the requirement for risk assessments for the use of pesticides. This not only ensures that the use of pesticides is properly documented but also prohibits the use of certain pesticides due to their negative impact on the environment. This further demonstrates Responsible Wood's commitment to promoting environmentally friendly forestry practices.

The standard also strengthens requirements to support local industry by supporting the establishment of local processing and value-adding activities, this allows

for a more sustainable industry model and a stronger local economy.

The use of traditional knowledge is given additional recognition, complimenting references to Indigenous peoples' rights, responsibilities, and values. This is particularly important for the recognition and protection of the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples living in the forested areas.

"This new standard is a major step forward in ensuring that the forestry industry is sustainable, adaptable and responsible, and Responsible Wood is proud to be leading the way," Mr Dorries said.

The standard sets out world-class requirements for forest organizations to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices that balance environmental, economic, social, and cultural interests and values. Responsible Wood is committed to promoting responsible forest management and sustainable forestry practices throughout Australia and encourages all interested parties to check out the new standard.

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Can timber construction help the industry achieve net zero?

Multiple reasons businesses from design to build should be looking towards the introduction of more sustainable timber solutions

TIMBER construction can provide a sustainable alternative to energy-intensive materials to help architects, engineers, and contractors cut the industry's carbon emissions while tackling ever-increasing demands for buildings and infrastructure, says chief executive CEO of Timber Development UK, David

Hopkins. Construction and the built environment are responsible for approximately 40 percent of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. A significant percentage of this comes from the extraction, processing, and energy-intensive manufacturing of building products.

Mr Hopkins asserted that to



1/ Using more wood in the built environment is a sustainable carbon-capture solution..

2/ David Hopkins ... wood is the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable substantial de-carbonisation of the built environment.



– if it were a country, it would be the third biggest carbon emitter in the world. Steel too is an intensely energy-hungry material.

“Increasing the use of wood and timber in our built environment may be part of the answer we are looking for. Timber construction products absorb more carbon than is emitted through their production,” Mr Hopkins said.

“As it stands, wood is the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable substantial decarbonisation of the built environment based on existing business models and proven technology.”

meet targets for net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 the construction industry must halve carbon emissions each decade, while still meeting the needs of a growing urban population, responding to the increasing demand for new buildings, and tackling the urgent requirement to retrofit existing homes to reduce energy consumption.

Emissions from the built environment come from two main sources: the energy we consume within buildings for heating, cooling, and power (operational emissions) and the emissions associated with the extraction, processing, and manufacture of building products (embodied emissions).

Energy-intensive materials used in modern construction have been major contributors to our current climate predicament. Cement is a major contributor to emissions

“ INCREASING THE USE OF WOOD AND TIMBER MAY BE PART OF THE ANSWER ”



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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& or email 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. For bookings: <https://www.eventalways.com/woodtech>

25-26: TABMA National Conference and Awards – Crowne Plaza - Hunter Valley, NSW.

TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be joining forces and hosting a national conference and awards program in 2023. TABMA and Hardware Australia are proud to announce the 2023 Timber & Hardware National Conference to be held in the Hunter Valley. Offering members and industry representatives an opportunity to connect as industry leaders and come away with information and tools to take back to your

business to help you today and succeed in the future. As part of the National Conference, TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be hosting the National Awards program for the industry to participate in. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in delivering or producing high quality products and services. For any queries contact 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.

Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact CORP COMM. Email: info@corp-comm.com.au Phone: +61 3 5977 0244

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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From P 6

Lifecycle assessment studies consistently show that timber products absorb and store more carbon than is emitted through their production – which means timber can actively reduce carbon emissions rather than adding to them on projects.

Using more wood in the built environment is also a sustainable carbon-capture solution – as once harvested, forests are replanted or allowed to regenerate naturally.

Mr Hopkins advised that

this goes beyond the bigger environmental picture and there are multiple reasons businesses from design to build should be looking towards the introduction of more sustainable timber solutions.

“For one, we are increasingly seeing the UK government spending harnessed to advantage climate-friendly solutions for public sector construction, with contracts including requirements to demonstrate how carbon savings will be made.”

“We are also seeing the

decarbonisation of investment portfolios thanks to regulation in Europe. Businesses in all industries are increasingly being penalised for bad environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. With construction notorious for negative environmental impacts, contractors will need to avoid becoming the black sheep in investment portfolios,” he said.

In terms of the public sector and larger commercial buildings, innovative engineered timber products are filling the gaps left by

traditional timber. Some new timber buildings are already reaching up to 18-storeys in height – as products such as Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), Glued Laminated Timber (Glulam), and Laminated Veneered Lumber (LVL) match the structural strength of steel and concrete whilst storing carbon.

Architects, engineers, urbanists, and all those who help shape the way we live and move around our cities have a deep responsibility to be aware of, and design for, the impact of climate change.

Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub’s (GTFIH) welcomes Workforce Development Manager

DEVELOPING career pathways and strengthening the timber and forest industries community profile are key tasks for the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub’s (GTFIH) new Workforce Development Manager Josh Praolini.

The highly-respected education leader will join the Hub team in 2023 in this newly created role and has worked in various senior teaching roles, leading innovation and entrepreneurial education.

GTFIH chair Cam MacDonald said Josh’s knowledge and experience

would be of huge benefit to the role, which will cover the entirety of the Green Triangle

“Josh will be a wonderful asset to the GTFIH team, strengthening relationships with our educational partners to engage our future workforce,” he said.

“This new role will see him connect community and industry to the school system supporting the Hub in achieving its workforce development strategy.”

Josh has worked closely with forestry, supporting 130 students in an immersive



Josh Praolini has been welcomed as the next generation of educators.

“I’m looking forward to this new career challenge which will take me out of the classroom, but indirectly still see me support local students and teachers to strengthen educational outcomes for our region,” Josh said.

“It is an exciting time to be involved in the forestry sector which is going through a major period of capital growth, investing in new innovations and technologies to futureproof the sector. I look forward to helping to promote these opportunities in the year ahead.”

design thinking challenge, based around forestry in partnership with the Hub earlier this year.



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Construction commences on NeXTimber plant

CONSTRUCTION has started on Timberlink's cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glue-laminated timber (GLT) manufacturing plant in the South Australian town of Tarpeena.



South Australian mass timber CLT and GLT manufacturing plant set to rejuvenate Tarpeena.

Ssource: Builtoffsite

Announced in December 2021, when complete, the CLT and GLT manufacturing plant will provide an Australian-made renewable and carbon-positive timber building solution for commercial, residential, and public projects.

It's backed by a \$63 million capital investment, the NeXTimber range will be manufactured on Australia's first combined world-scale softwoods CLT and GLT engineered wood manufacturing line.

Timberlink general manager of sales, marketing and corporate affairs David Oliver said the "enthusiastic and growing" uptake of the products by the construction industry was a "firm nod to moving into a sustainable future", with timber "the ultimate sustainable resource".

The CLT and GLT manufacturing facility will use local timber from Green Triangle pine plantations, processed at Timberlink's adjoining mill.

"It's the only combined

“WE ARE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT

radiata pine facility to produce CLT and GLT in Australia," Mr Oliver said.

He said the project – which attracted a \$2-million co-investment from the South Australian government – used local contractors "wherever possible" and was set to be operational in September this year.

"We've got half of our 15,000-square-metre roof on, and the equipment is arriving and being installed as we speak," Mr Oliver said.

"During the construction phase there were approximately 50 to 100 local jobs created. "We are going to see a lot of growth in employment at the site, which will have flow on effects for the township.

"We're employing around 200 people at this stage of the project and that will grow with an extra 27 jobs coming online when we reach start-up later this year. We expect that will grow as we grow production to around an extra fifty jobs being created."

Mr Oliver said the Timberlink investment "provides a big opportunity for the town" as it plans to grow once more.

Source: Builtoffsite



HYNE.COM.AU

Canada-US timber tariff 'war' continues

Does the continuing 'tensions' between Canada and the US over timber trade tariffs signal an opportunity to increase current Canadian softwood import levels?

BASED on the USA's Commerce Department's preliminary assessment the US is planning to raise tariffs for Canada's two largest timber companies, the combined countervailing and anti-dumping duties will be raised for West Fraser Timber and Canfor.

Canada's international trade minister Mary Ng said the US appears to be pressing ahead with what she calls "unjustified" duties on softwood timber imports.

Minister Ng said the anti-dumping and countervailing duties the US imposes on Canadian softwood timber are little more than a tax on American consumers.

"With these preliminary results, the US Department of Commerce has indicated its intention to maintain its unjustified duties on imports of Canadian softwood lumber."

"The results of the review are disappointing to forest sector workers, businesses, and communities on both sides of the Canada-US border," she said.

Minister Ng confirmed that

“RESULTS OF REVIEW ARE DISAPPOINTING TO FORESTRY SECTOR”



Canada will use all avenues to fight the duties, including litigation under NAFTA and its successor the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, as well as at the World Trade Organization

West Fraser, Canada's largest timber producer, faces having to pay a new duty rate of 9.38 percent, compared with its current tariff of 8.25 percent. Canfor will see its tariff climb to 7.29 percent compared with the current 5.87 percent.

The 2006 Canada-US

1/ US-bound timber ... additional duties on Canadian timber exported to the US proposed.

2 Minister Mary Ng ... unjustified duties continue to act as a tax on American consumers, increasing building costs at a time of surging inflation.

softwood agreement expired in October 2015, with no replacement. In the latest round of the long-running trade dispute, Canadian producers have been paying U.S. timber duties since April 2017.

The US Lumber Coalition argues that the United States has a better system for soliciting competitive bids for private timber rights, based on market forces, and has repeatedly argued that Canada subsidizes timber production and 'dumps' softwood into the US at below market value.

"Continued enforcement

of US trade laws against unfairly traded Canadian lumber will maximize long-term domestic production and lumber availability produced by US workers to build US homes," coalition chairman Andrew Miller said.

Canada counters that its producers get no subsidies, and they

have not been dumping into the US market.

"Canada has long been an essential supplier to the US market, and these unjustified duties continue to act as a tax on American consumers, increasing building costs at a time of surging inflation," Minister Ng said.

"With these preliminary results, the US Department of Commerce has indicated its intention to maintain its unjustified duties on imports of Canadian softwood lumber."

"Canada remains ready and willing to find solutions that allow for a return to predictable cross-border trade in softwood lumber. We are confident that a negotiated solution to this long-standing issue is in the best interests of both our countries," Minister Ng said.



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Hundreds of hardware members to descend on the Gold Coast

MEMBERS, hardware and building suppliers, and management of the Independent Hardware Group will all descend on the Gold Coast next week for the 2023 IHG Expo.

Timber suppliers will be out in force for the event which is the first face-to-face expo for the hardware group since 2019.

The Independent Hardware Group members including those from Mitre 10, HoME Hardware, Thrifty Link, True Value, and Hardings say they are looking forward to the return of the expo which was held as a virtual event during COVID.

"This is the largest gathering of influential and independent hardware

operators in Australia," event organisers said.

The event kicks off on Monday, February 6th, and includes workshops and a large expo where suppliers can connect directly with hardware operators.

The Monday afternoon includes a number of 'learning lab' sessions. These will be short workshops covering a number of topics currently affecting members and the operation of hardware in today's climate.

Tuesday commences with the annual business session providing members and exhibitors an insight into the



After three years, the Independent Hardware Group is returning to a face-to-face expo on the Gold Coast.

IHG business. Following that the trade expo opens giving members direct access to exhibitors.

"The expo event provides an opportunity for members to meet others and network, forge good deals with suppliers by giving them access to exclusive buying opportunities; exploring new ideas and innovations, emerging categories, product demos and more; plus learning

and celebrating the industry as a group," organisers continued.

It is expected that up to 600 members and their families will descend on the Gold Coast for the

event which also has a virtual component for those unable to make it.

There will be more than 200 exhibitors on site including the likes of ITI and others from the timber industry.

The three-day event also includes an independence dinner and an Awards of Excellence evening.

Read more on the IHG expo in next week's edition.

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Ability of NZ's indigenous species to sequester carbon is still up for debate

IN a previous interview with Timber & Forestry enews, Steve Wakelin, a scientist in the Forest Systems Group at Scion, noted the uncertainties associated with estimating the capacity of native species to sequester carbon. We invited him to comment further on the growing calls to emphasise indigenous plantings.

Mr Wakelin says claims that the current Emissions Trading Scheme look-up table for indigenous forest is unfair are hard to justify. Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research has analysed the growth of post-1989 native forests registered in the ETS and earlier EBEX scheme.

"It found that broadleaf and manuka regeneration appeared to be on different trajectories, but both were so far sequestering less carbon at a lower rate than the look-up table suggested," Mr Wakelin said.

"The Ministry for Primary Industries has also released a table based on the average for ETS native forest measured using the Field Measurement Approach (required for owners with more than 100 ha), and it was also lower than the look-up table based on stands measured to date.

"In short, there is no evidence from national surveys that the current ETS table underestimates the average sequestration rate

“THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON HOW SERIOUSLY YOU REGARD THE NEED TO REDUCE NET EMISSIONS

expected in post-1989 native forests – at least over the first 30 or so years. However, analysis of post-1989 forest data cannot yet tell us much about prospects beyond age 30 – or about the outcome of future afforestation if there are changes in the mix of sites, forest types, management, disturbances, etc."

TRANSITIONING PINE FORESTS TO NATIVES

Planting a nurse crop of radiata pine as a means of transitioning to natives has been a widely debated premise.

Mr Wakelin notes that radiata is a light-demanding species that produces an open canopy over time, allowing regeneration of a native understorey if a seed source is nearby and there are birds to disperse those seeds.

"Shade-tolerant native species have an advantage over pines when colonising small gaps in the forest. We know this happens naturally and can be encouraged – for example, through poison thinning or felling some pines," Mr Wakelin said.

"Even if pine stands are maintained at high stockings to maximise sequestration rates, competition will eventually see the number of trees per hectare reduce through mortality, creating more favourable conditions for a native understorey.

"However, we have little data indicating how the process will play out. Radiata pines have only been in New Zealand for around 160 years, and they are expected to live for some 250 years.

"Most stands have



Steve Wakelin says native forests planted from today onwards will be relatively young and are unlikely to be sustaining high average sequestration rates.

about possible unintended outcomes – for example, pine regenerating as pine forest, mixed forests of exotics and natives being created, or finding we no longer need sequestration to balance gross emissions and then wanting to convert these forests to a more useful forest type or land use.

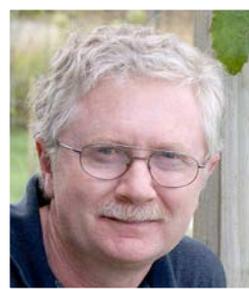
"There is also

some concern that pines may be 'too productive' on steep land with thin, fragile soils, leading to a problem with large areas of top-heavy trees being uprooted – and that owners may not have the motivation or financial ability to actively manage the transition to avoid adverse outcomes."

Mr Wakelin adds that the Climate Change Commission wants native forests to ensure there is some sequestration still occurring after new commercial pine forests have reached equilibrium – but permanent pine forests may perform the same function ... and contribute more to shorter-term sequestration targets.

"If the Commission is concerned about other benefits of native forests, then it makes more sense to identify these, establish priorities and quantify the impacts of different forest types on different sites. Appropriate incentives based on criteria other than carbon sequestration can then be provided – for example, biodiversity enhancement credits."

ACROSS THE DITCH



With MICHAEL SMITH

historically been felled before age 50, and more recently before age 30. On some sites, native forest is unlikely to establish without a planted nurse crop, whether that is native or exotic. On other sites, a native forest understorey is unlikely to develop at all without planting or seeding.

"The issue is whether or not it's too risky to introduce such a new way of managing planted forests as part of a wider landscape matrix at scale, given our current knowledge.

"The answer depends on how seriously you regard the need to urgently reduce net emissions, and how you feel

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Back to work for the year – too much to hope for some good news?

The turmoil and supply pressures of last year are likely to continue through this year

WELL, here we go again – back to reality for me to kick off the year after a pleasant family gathering at my sister's place in Brisbane. Nice to be called Auntie Cheryl again for a couple of weeks and to have family around the Christmas table.

Fair to say I think, that the turmoil and supply pressures of last year are likely to continue through this year. This is particularly with governments providing a whole raft of incentives to build things (as the Prime Minister puts it), but with the reality, and I can only speak for southern NSW, that harvesting rates for contractors and log supplies to local sawmills will be adversely impacted by the substantial plantation losses that occurred during the 2019-2020 bushfires.

On top of the domestic challenges around timber supply, I am hearing that the Russian illegal travesty in Ukraine is likely to see Australia's increasing reliance on softwood timber

“TURMOIL AND SUPPLY PRESSURES OF LAST YEAR ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE



1

1/ **Timber demand pressure in 2023 with governments providing a raft of incentives. However, supply pressures of last year are likely to continue.**

2 **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese ... reassuring commitments about support to the industry we also heard from the previous government.**



2

government in Victoria, 2023 may well spell the end of the long-established, sustainable native forest-based hardwood production industry in the state. Terminating this production will of course have a devastating impact on regional towns together with the very substantial number of industries reliant on a supply of quality Victorian hardwoods.

So where to get replacement hardwood timber? I am told South America and

imports from the Northern Hemisphere nose-dive as some traditional exporting companies are having to juggle political policy.

Hanging out for a snippet of good news, perhaps can we take some encouragement from the comments by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese when he spoke to forest industry leaders at a glitzy gala dinner at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra late last year, reassuring commitments about support to the industry. Without trying to place the mockers on the Prime Minister's comments, we are still to see any substantial commitments to new plantations – perhaps 2023

TRUNK LINES

With CHERYL FORREST

Africa looming as potential replacement suppliers.

But backing up – much more assertive work is needed by forestry and timber advocacy groups to cajole governments into action. In this regard, we have suffered a further sit back with the resignation of high-profile and energetic CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association Ross Hampton. He is off to take up an international forest industry-related position in the UK.

So, my first column for the year done and dusted! Will see you again same time, same place next month.

Cheryl

will be the year!

And of course, the situation for those manufacturers of high-end hardwood products, like windows and doors, flooring, and furniture face the very real prospect that with the return of their Andrews



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Decline in new home sales accelerates

THE HIA New Home Sales report, a monthly survey of the largest volume home builders in the five largest states, is a leading indicator of future detached home construction.

“Sales of new homes fell by 4.6% in December leaving sales in the final quarter of 2022 a remarkable 42.0% lower than at the same time in 2021,” HIA’s chief economist, Tim Reardon said.

“This slowing in sales will flow through to a slowdown in building activity in the second half of 2023.



New home sales have dropped significantly thanks to the impact of cash rate rise.

has also seen many recent buyers of new homes unable to finance their new project,” Mr Reardon continued.

“This resulted in one in five recent new home buyers having to cancel their new home building contract as

their access to finance was reduced by the rise in the cash rate.

“With one in five customers cancelling their new home building project each month, the pipeline of building work will be eroded quickly.

“Once this pipeline of new home construction work is exhausted, the full impact of the RBA’s rate increases will become apparent. This is expected to occur in the second half of 2023.

“A cut to the cash rate will be necessary in 2023 to avoid an unnecessarily sharp downturn in building activity.

“The RBA will not restore the economy to stable growth by putting the housing industry through boom-and-bust cycles,” Mr Reardon concluded.

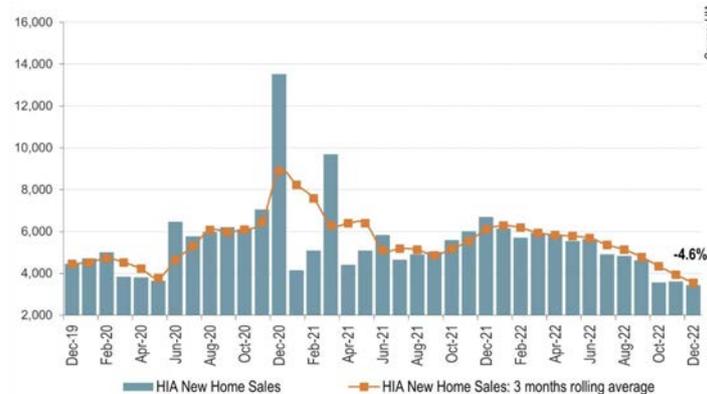
For the three months to December 2022, compared to the same period in 2021, new home sales in New South Wales were down by 66.7%, followed by Queensland (-49.9%), Victoria (-36.4%), and Western Australia (-30.9%). South Australia saw the only increase, up by 13.9%.

“SALES OF NEW HOMES CONTINUE TO DECLINE SHARPLY

“When this hiking cycle began, there was a significant pipeline of home building work under construction, and many more projects yet to even begin construction. This has created a significant lag in the RBA’s impact on employment across the economy.

“The rise in the cash rate

PRIVATE NEW HOUSE SALES - AUSTRALIA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



Update provided on the Sunsetting Review of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation

THE Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have provided an update on the Sunsetting Review of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation.

As part of the department’s review of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation (the Regulation), the Australian Government has agreed to recommended reforms to both the Regulation and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act

2012 (the Act), including:

- requiring regulated entities to provide key due diligence information to the department upfront to verify legality, such as the timber species and origin of harvest
- adding powers to seize, sample and detain regulated timber products
- adding injunction and enforceable undertaking powers
- adding publication powers

for compliance findings and instances of non-compliance

- adding or amending definitions in the Act.

As part of this process, the department used the feedback received from stakeholders during the public consultation phase to develop a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) exploring the costs and benefits of proposed reforms and other legislative options.

The Minister considered the RIS and agreed in December to pursue the recommended option to reform the legislation, over the options to either remake the Regulation as is or let it sunset. The department is now progressing the legislative reforms, which require changes to both the Act and the Regulation and will be considered by Government once substantially drafted.

TimberTED students excel with knowledge and skills

SEVERAL new Timber TED courses will provide a comprehensive understanding of timber design and support the practical development of vital timber skills, according to the first group of students to graduate.

The first full Timber Technology Engineering Design (Timber TED) courses began last year, with students from across the timber supply chain graduating from the 12-week course in December.

The Timber TED courses have been developed by the New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering (NMITE), in partnership with Timber Development UK (TDUK) and Edinburgh Napier University. They are designed to upskill and reskill the built environment professionals of the future to address the climate emergency and have a better understanding of timber's role in the path to net zero.

Students included architects, engineers, project managers and timber frame manufacturers, all of whom wanted to upskills and better their understanding of how to use more timber in their design and building projects.

Knowledge and skills triumph with first TimberTED students



The first cohort of students passing through have been highly skilled with more to follow.

The course began in the forest, with students also visiting Woodland Heritage's sawmill and a construction site to better understand the journey that timber goes on from forest to final build, before returning to the classrooms at NMITE's campus in Hereford to learn about materials, products and connections.

The students then formed multi-skilled teams and were asked to design and execute a sustainable built-environment structure using timber, putting into practice their new understanding of timber construction and digitally driven design.

Feedback from the students proves just how transformative the Timber TED courses can be.

Gerard Clarke, who works in technical sales and marketing at timber frame manufacturer FastHouse, said: "I am delighted to have just completed the TED1 Timber Engineering and Design Course. What an enjoyable way to future-proof my skillset in the concepts of sustainability and timber construction.

"This unique course has made me appreciate the sustainable built environment and the principles of sustainable timber design in construction. I have enjoyed networking with other professionals and feel lucky to become part of a community of knowledge in helping timber transform the built environment."

Fellow student Oliver Dewar,

a trainee timber frame designer at Taylor Lane, added: "The 12-week course provided a fantastic opportunity to expand and develop my understanding of sustainable timber practices and their importance in the industry."

On graduation day in December, academics and professionals from across the timber industry also visited the NMITE facility in Hereford and were given the chance to see how the students had fared. All were impressed by the level of knowledge that had been gained, and the practical structures they had designed and built.

Patrick Guest, Managing Director of National Timber Group and a TDUK Board Member, said: "I think the facility and training platform that has been created is very impressive. I see NMITE's facility as the cap of the educational iceberg and we need to be using this platform to make as many people as possible aware of what can be achieved with timber."

The second Timber TED1 course began in January with another 16 students, while the Timber TED2 course, which will focus on design, construction, technology and manufacture, will commence on 2 May.

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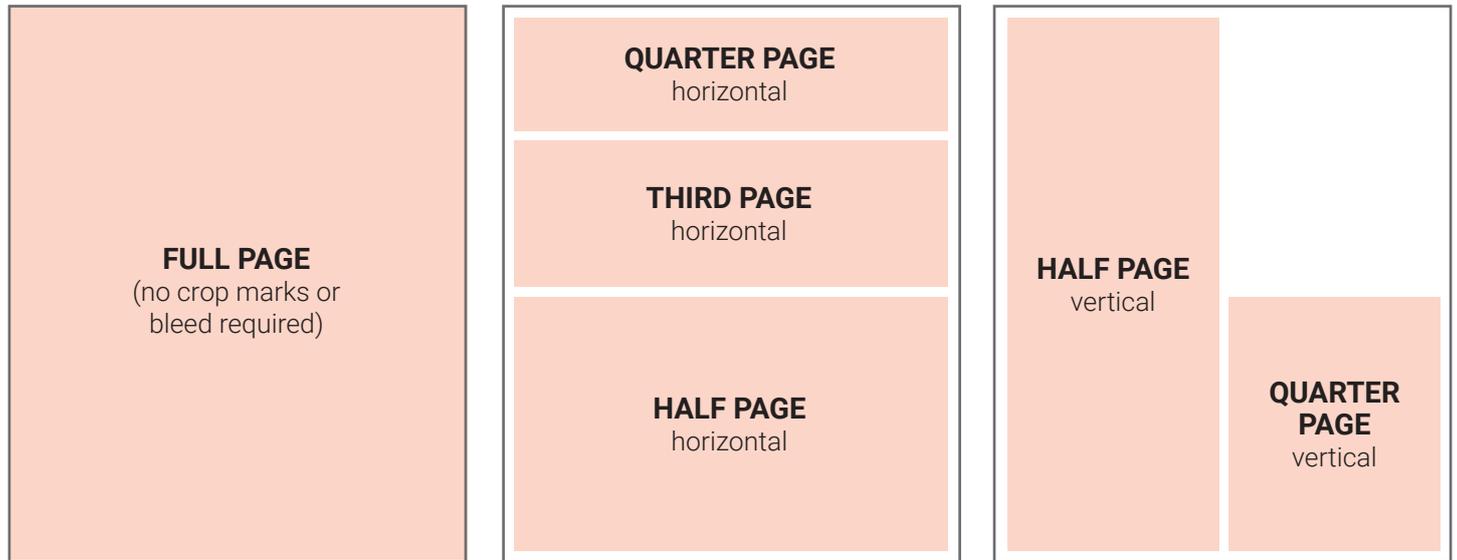
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