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# timber & FORESTRY *e*news

## Consumers first as Independent Hardware Group Expo returns

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# Industry growth and supply chains key factors at IHG annual Expo

THERE was no shortage of timber suppliers and timber-related products on display at the annual IHG Expo which was held this week on the Gold Coast.

ITI NSW, Hyne and Timberlink were among the suppliers representing the timber industry at the three-day expo which was the first face-to-face event in three years.

The convention centre hall was a hum of activity as major and minor suppliers showcased the best on offer, connecting, networking and wheeling deals with members of the Independent Hardware Group. More than 400 members were in attendance with a number also attending virtually.

In their business session, IHG reported another highly successful year with significant growth in both



The team from Hyne on hand to discuss products with IHG Members.



The team from Dindas showcased timber frames to group members.

retail and trade.

Executives of IHG acknowledged there

are likely to be further challenges ahead, particularly surrounding the rising interest

rates and the extended impact on the building and retail sectors.

The event comes under 12 months after IHG launched their Mitre 10 “the other hardware store” campaign, aimed at tackling competition head-on and ‘owning’ their space in the market. The company has

also worked to reposition and define its other brands including HoME Hardware and Total Tools.

“Both three brands are very successful with the group reporting a significant increase in sales since the recent realignment of brands,” the executive team reported.

“The share of voice has seen a large uplift in the last 12 months which has resulted in an increase in web traffic and subsequent sales.

Along with a dinner for

Cont P 3



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From P 2

the Independents, the event also incorporated a welcome dinner for new members of which the group has reported a record number of new members and new stores to the fold.

“It’s a reflection of the confidence and success surrounding hardware and building retail and trade at the moment and the operation of the group,” a member of the advisory committee told enews.

Overall, thoughts are supply chains are coming back on, easing pressure for stores however there could be patches of over and under-supply in the next 12 months with uncertain times ahead.

“Primarily, as we know, hardware has remained fairly resilient to the global changes however it will be put through to the test as the economic belt is further tightened.”

The event wrapped with an Awards of Excellence dinner at the Gold Coast convention centre.

**On the cover: Andrew Toomey, Roger Cooke and Howard Jones from the IHG Executive team say the 2023 Expo has been a huge success for members and suppliers.**

**Doug Jones, CEO Metcash and Annette Welsh, CEO of the Independent Hardware Group report the group is in a strong and growing position.**



- 1/ HUME Doors had a large display of their timber doors and door systems.
- 2/ ITI Australia caption please.
- 3/ Timberlink say supply chains have eased for timber however there are likely to be further hurdles throughout this year.
- 4/ The TABMA and Hardware Australia teams set up at the IHG expo.



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# Newly merged industry body to host 2023 conference & awards

TABMA Australia has announced its 2023 National conference will be hosted in partnership with Hardware Australia for the first time bringing the industry bodies together.

It follows last weeks announcement that the two organisations will merge creating a new industry body, yet to be named.

The Conference will bring industry leaders together to provide a valuable opportunity for the whole industry to meet in one place, allowing attendees to connect with colleagues, meet new faces and build strong connections at every point in the supply chain.

"After the success of our



TABMA awards winners from the 2022 event held in NSW.

2021 Conference, TABMA is excited to be able to provide the industry with another conference that will be centered around people," Alicia Oelkers, general manager of membership for TABMA said.

"How to attract, retain, understand and keep your people safe. We are also excited to be co-hosting this year's conference with Hardware Australia.

"With both Associations, who are merging, co-hosting the conference it ensures that our National Industry Awards program is truly national and we have some really great contenders."

The Conference theme is Lead, Connect, Succeed, with 'people' at the centre of our agenda.

"Our aim at the Conference is to provide you and your teams the opportunity to gain new skills and share ways to attract and retain employees, as well as keep them safe," TABMA said in a statement.

The program will focus on current trade industry issues, will include case studies and real experiences, vocational education and training, and workplace health & safety

TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia look forward to meeting with members and stakeholders to plan for crucial development of the industry as one.

Additionally, as part of the

National Conference, TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be hosting the National Awards program to be celebrated on Friday 26 May in the Hunter Valley. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations who are delivering or producing high quality products and services.

The National Awards will substitute the State Awards Program for 2023 and finalists will be drawn from the 2022 State Awards winners. The categories have been updated for the joint awards, including:

- Timber Supplier of the Year
- Hardware Retail Supplier of the Year
- Best Hardware Retail Store under 2500
- Best Hardware Retail Store over 2500
- Best Hardware Garden Department
- Timber and Building Materials Store of the Year
- Best Timber Manufacturer
- Best Frame and Truss
- Industry Legend – Posthumous
- Industry Legend – Living
- Industry Legend - Family

"The joining of award programs of TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia is significant and brings the whole industry together to celebrate its achievements," a statement said.

"Hardware Australia traditionally offers state awards only, so this will be a great opportunity for its members to be recognised on a national level."

# Asian hardwood woodchip imports hit another record

**DENNIS NEILSON**

EACH year it seems Asian pulp mills require more and more imported hardwood woodchips. 2022 was no exception.

In fact, a total of 28.2 million Bone Dry Metric Tonnes (BDMT) were imported. This is close to 55 million Green Metric Tonnes (GMT), or around twice the total harvest from all Australian forests for all end uses.

The multi-year “elephant in the room” supplier - Vietnam - again confounded the experts by increasing shipments to a record 15.5 million BDMT. This was up 15% in 2021, a huge increase of two billion BDMT.

Each year a bevy of global wood supply experts predict that Vietnamese exports have peaked – and each year they all get proved wrong.

In 2022 a massive increase in woodchip FOB prices

(from \$125 per BDMT in January 2002, to \$195 in October) drove the two million Vietnamese plantation tree farmers to accelerate harvest levels, reducing the rotation age of Acacia pulpwood crops down to as little as four years.

In second place in 2022 was Australia, with shipments of 4.6 million BDMT, up 11% in 2021, or an additional 450,000 BDMT.

China’s insatiable demand for more hardwood woodchips continued last year, with imports totaling 17.6 million BDMT, up

another giant 19% in 2021. This increase alone was 60% of Australia’s total supply. Japanese demand was steady at 9.4 million BDMT.

Smaller importers included Korea at 509,000 BDMT (but up 21%) and Taiwan at 425,000 BDMT (a reduction of 7%).

However, the eyes of suppliers should be on

Indonesia. Itself a major pulp producer, and a woodchip exporter, Indonesian imports rose from only a tiny 16,000 BDMT in 2021, to (a still small) 250,000 BDMT in 2022 – but still a 1,480% increase.

If the major Indonesian pulp producer confirms (and it’s still only a rumour) that it is about to construct another 2.8 million air dry tonnes per year kraft pulp mill (requiring an additional 5.6 million BDMT of woodchips) then the dynamics of North Asian woodchip import demand could be altered forever.



1/ A 3-month Vietnam Acacia hybrid pulpwood crop.



2/ A truckload of 4-year-old Acacia pulpwood logs. Most of these ‘logs’ would be left on an Australian hardwood plantation cutover.

**“ DEMAND IS DRIVING HARVEST**

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# Sawn softwood timber imports continue to grow



Imports dominated by structural softwood products predominantly from Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, New Zealand, and Sweden.

AUSTRALIA'S total imports of sawn softwood products lifted to 1,00,989 cubic metres year-ended November 2022, an increase of 58.8% on the previous period, with the weighted average import price at a

new record AUDFOB877 per cubic metre. November itself saw imports at 61,073 cubic metres, the second strongest November recorded after 2018, when imports were 85,372 cubic metres.

4407.10 AU\$ CONIFEROUS SAWNWOOD MONTHLY, YEAR END, AU\$FOB



Graph: HireThinkingPtyLtd. Source: IndustryEdge

Imports are mainly dominated by structural products. The dominance of a few grades is matched by the importance of just seven countries delivering the significant bulk of supply. Between them, the following countries contributed 81% of the year-end total import volume. These countries are:

Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, New Zealand, and Sweden.

**“IMPORTS ARE MAINLY DOMINATED BY STRUCTURAL PRODUCTS”**



## Develop our future workforce

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

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

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## Global uncertainty, local challenges

THAT'S the theme of the ABARES Outlook 2023 conference which will be held in Canberra March 7-8.

The 2-day conference discusses current events and future trends to provide delegates with a deeper understanding of issues that will shape the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry industries.

It will also enable attendees to build a deeper understanding of what is important to sector stakeholders.

Network with delegates from across Australia and hear from thought-provoking speakers and chairs across 12 sessions on a range of

industry issues including the global and national economic context, the evolving international trade landscape, key commodities plus more.

Outlook 2023 will attract delegates from state and federal government departments and agencies, universities, farmers, banking and finance, industry representative bodies, economic development agencies, agribusiness equipment and advisory services, property valuers, membership and advocacy organisations, plus many others.

To review the program and register visit [www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook)

**FEBRUARY**

**20: Field Days at Sassafras – Tasmania.** The field days have been designed specifically for landowners wishing to learn more about the opportunities to manage native forest regrowth on their properties. The February event is the first of two and will be held in the small rural community in the north-west and west regions of Latrobe and Meander Valley. **Time:** 8.30 am- 12.30pm. Contact [admin@pft.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@pft.tas.gov.au) or call (03) 6477 7389 for more details.

**MARCH**

**27: Field Days at Levendale – Tasmania.** The March event is the second of two and will be held in the southern Midlands region, 53 km north of Hobart. The Southern Midlands Council area 53 km north of Hobart. **Time:** 9 am-1.00 pm. Contact [admin@pft.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@pft.tas.gov.au) or call (03) 6477 7389 for more details.

**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**

**15-18: Ligna trade show – Hannover, Germany.** The world’s leading trade fair for the woodworking and wood processing industry is jointly organized by Deutsche Messe and VDMA Woodworking Machinery. It showcases the entire range of products and services for the primary and secondary industries – tools, machines and systems for custom and mass production, surface technology, wood-based panel production, sawmill technology, energy from wood, machine components and automation technology, as well as machines and systems for forestry, round wood and sawn wood production.

**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](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.** 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

**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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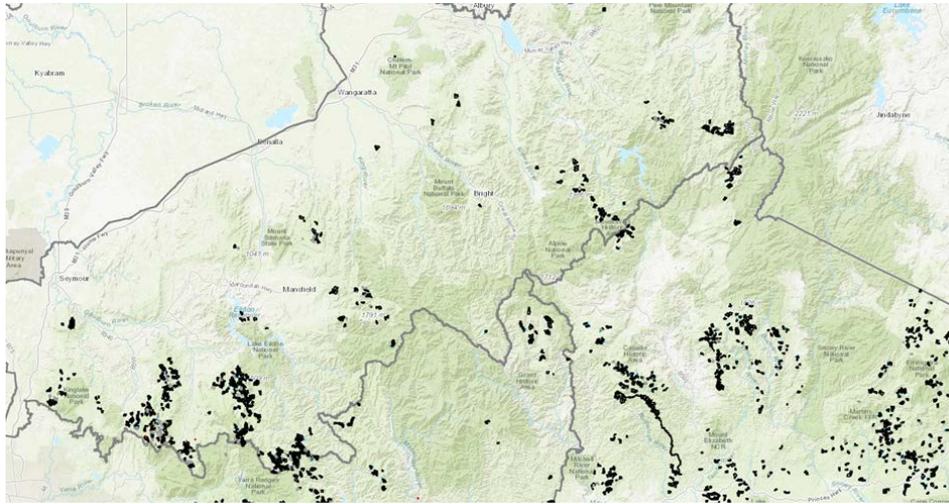
# Changes to the VicForests' Timber Release Plan approved

VICFORESTS has released the amended Timber Release Plan (TRP), which includes the addition of 11 new coupes, the removal of 111 coupes that have been regenerated and the removal of 124 coupes that are no longer planned to be harvested.

Of the 11 new coupes, six are in areas that have been clear-felled since 1939 and the other five coupes are in areas where it has been identified that intensive surveying for Greater Gliders and Yellow-bellied Gliders is possible.

All areas within the gross boundaries of the 11 new

**“VICFORESTS' BOARD HAS APPROVED THE AMENDMENTS**



**The TRP shows areas where operations in state forests, including timber harvesting, can be conducted. These areas are divided into sections of the forest called coupes.**

coupes have been subject to consultation.

VicForests' Board has approved the amendments to the TRP, in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004, and a notice in relation to the amended TRP was published in the Victoria Government Gazette S 37 on 3 February 2023.

Other proposed coupes subject to the consultation for TRP amendment conducted in March and April 2022 are still being reviewed and may



**Areas where intensive surveying for Greater Gliders and Yellow-bellied Gliders is possible were identified.**

be gazetted at a later date.

These changes to the TRP supports ongoing responsible timber supply and helps communities to understand

where timber harvesting may occur.

All timber harvesting and regeneration operations are conducted in accordance with Victoria's strict environmental regulations and the State's Forest Management Zoning scheme.

A Timber Release Plan factsheet is available at <https://www.vicforests.com.au/publications-media/forest-facts/timber-release-plan-factsheet>

For more information on the timber release plan visit: <https://www.vicforests.com.au/vicforest-forest-management/ops-planning/where-vicforests-operates/timber-release-plan>

A schedule of the approved timber harvesting areas as well as location maps are available on the VicForests website.



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# Decision on Australia's white paper future expected this week

THE future of employees at Australia's last remaining office paper manufacturer remains up in the air with the union expecting a decision soon.



**A decision on the future of the white paper plant is expected with hundreds of jobs in limbo.**

Australian paper manufacturer Opal stood down 120 workers from its white paper production line between December and January, at its Maryvale mill in the Latrobe Valley, east of Melbourne.

The production line primarily makes printing and inkjet paper with a lack of timber supply being blamed for the decision. It is understood the company failed to secure an alternative hardwood supply when a court order late last year halted VicForests' operations across the state.

The mill's Japanese-owned parent company, Nippon Paper Group is expected to make a decision this week.

In November 2022, Victoria's supreme court handed down judgments against the state-owned VicForests when it found the logging agency had failed to protect endangered gliders in Gippsland and Central Victoria.

The mill also produces brown paper, in the form of kraft liner board for containers, however at

this point, brown paper production is not affected.

Maryvale mill Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union sub-branch president Bill Scott told the ABC he believed Opal Australian paper had made their recommendations but the Nippon board was still to decide.

"This process has been dragged out for too long" Mr Scott said.

**“THE PROCESS HAS BEEN DRAGGED OUT**

"What was a noisy and busy machine for 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the past 20-odd years is now in silence."

Further to this he said the unions hoped the decision was made and communicated to staff sooner rather than later.

At least 200 workers would be made redundant if the white paper side of the business does close.

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# Rocky Point and Hyne Group announce new partnership

THE Hyne Group and Rocky Point have announced an exciting new partnership, combining years of know-how and experience to grow the respective businesses into the future.

Rocky Point is a like-minded, family-owned business based in Queensland since 1949. They supply premium quality products to the retail garden, nursery, agriculture, home gardeners and erosion management industries and like the Hyne Group, prides itself on sustainably and locally sourced feedstock.

This latest partnership with Rocky Point sees the Hyne Group hold a 60% interest while Rocky Point retain the remaining interest of 40%.

Hyne Group CEO, Jon

Kleinschmidt said this is an exciting new chapter for both the Hyne Group and Rocky Point.

“Rocky Point is a like-minded, family-owned business based in Queensland since 1949,” he said.

“In our JJSL partnership announcement 12 months ago, we committed to expansion and growth, focused on family-owned businesses with shared values including our focus on the production of sustainable, quality products.

“Rocky Point is a great partnership opportunity and



Hyne Group CEO Jon Kleinschmidt with Rocky Point CEO, Matt Keith. Photo: Hyne Group

growth. CEO and third generation of the business, Matt Keith said this is a significant milestone for the business.

“This will create opportunities for future growth while allowing our generational family business to execute succession planning for future generations. The

partnership will open a new chapter where we can focus on manufacturing quality products at a national level.

“We all share the sentiment for the importance of cultural integrity and excellence,” Mr Keith said.

together, we can grow our businesses, delivering even better, world-class products and services into the future,” Mr Kleinschmidt said.

Rocky Point has been actively pursuing partnerships as part of its strategic plan for



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# Blue Sky Award winners congratulated by AFPA

AUSTRALIA'S forest industries congratulate the winners of the international Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Awards, while also commending Australia's applicant for the competition, chief executive officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Joel Fitzgibbon said recently.

The Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Awards for the Global Forest Products Sector is an initiative of the International Council of Forest & Paper Associations (ICFPA). The competition collects proposals from aspiring scientists and young researchers from around the

world who have conceived innovative solutions that can help further decarbonise the forest products sector. Finalists are then assessed by an international judging panel after the initial process where they are put forward by national associations

The 2022-23 winners are Ivana Amorim Dias from Brazil, Ilona Lappänen from Finland and Leane Naude from South Africa.

Joel Fitzgibbon said, "Forest industries in Australia and globally are at the cutting edge of innovation, especially in the climate change mitigation space. That's only because the sector encourages investment in effective R&D, including initiatives like the Blue Sky Award so we can realise our potential. This is why Australia's new \$100 million



**Dr Van Holsbeeck from Australia was one of 14 finalists.**

is undertaking tremendous research into improving the productivity of sandalwood plantations."

Dr Van Holsbeeck's research focuses on the use of wood fibre from host trees that are required for sandalwood plantations to grow effectively and maximising the use of that fibre to reduce waste and increase output.

"The world needs forest industries, not just for the essential products we create, but for the climate mitigation power we have. The Blue Sky Award is an excellent initiative that AFPA, along with the broader forest sector in Australia will continue to support while continually making the case for public investment in R&D," Joel Fitzgibbon concluded.

**“ I CONGRATULATE THE INTERNATIONAL BLUE SKY WINNERS**

National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) is so important and why its rollout best supports local industry.

"I congratulate the international Blue Sky winners and commend our AFPA sponsored Australian applicant, Dr Sam Van Holsbeeck from the University of the Sunshine Coast who

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# AE Gibson & Sons Pty Ltd appointed as Cardinal Sawquip partner

AE GIBSON & Sons Pty Ltd has announced it has been appointed regional Australia and New Zealand partner for Canadian company Cardinal Sawquip.

Sawquip International (a division of Cardinal Corporation) was founded in 1988 to provide quality sawmill equipment for the primary and secondary breakdown of softwood and hardwood logs into timber and is especially recognised for high volume processing of small logs. Since its arrival on the market, Sawquip has successfully provided sawmill equipment to highly regarded sawmills in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Oceania. With its offices and plant located in Lanoraie, Quebec, Canada.

Cardinal Group specialises in the design, manufacturing and distribution

**“PARTNERSHIP  
ALLOWS  
CUSTOMERS  
THE BEST  
SOLUTIONS**



**1/ AE Gibson & Cardinal Sawquip Team at the Sawquip factory in Canada ... from left to right are Troy Krogh (AE Gibson), Pascal Labranche, Loius Belzile (Cardinal Sawquip), Curtis Gibson, Robert Mudge, Logan Hesse (AE Gibson).  
2/ Sawquip International was founded in 1988 to provide quality sawmill equipment.**



of equipment used in the sawmill, forestry, recycling, mineral exploration, and mining industries.

“We are very pleased to partner with AE Gibson in the Oceania region to provide Sawmill equipment systems and solutions to the timber industry,” Cardinal Sawquip

Group president Mr Pascal Labranche said.

“Their extensive experience and network in the region, along with their abilities to design, engineer and support high tech machinery, provides great synergies with the Sawquip business, and allows customers in the region to

enjoy the very best solutions for their Sawmilling needs.”

AE Gibson & Sons Pty Ltd was founded in 1896 and is a fifth-generation, family-owned Australian business located in the Mid North Coast NSW region, with offices in Kendall, Coffs Harbour, Melbourne, and Sydney. AE Gibson designs and manufactures leading technology for Sawmilling equipment and Automated Systems, including advanced sensing and robotics.

“We are very excited to be partnering with Cardinal Sawquip to bring world-leading high-speed small log processing solutions and experience to Industry in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands,” AE Gibson & Sons general manager Curtis Gibson said.

“The combination of AE Gibson and Son’s local Australian-based machinery design, manufacturing and Timber industry experience, coupled with the Sawquip machinery for high volume and small log processing applications, provides the Australian and New Zealand Timber industry with the latest technology to improve production volume, efficiency, and yield.”

## Architects reveal plans for 700-home timber scheme in UK

A DEVELOPMENT team led by two former Greenpeace chiefs and including practices Archio, Ash Sakula, Charles Holland, Mae and Mole have revealed plans for a sustainable 700-home scheme in East Sussex in the UK.

Masterplanned by

Periscope, the £430million Phoenix project for developer Human Nature aims to create the UK’s largest timber neighbourhood on a 7.9ha brownfield site in Lewes.

According to the developer, the scheme will be powered entirely by renewable energy and ‘represents a new and

regenerative way to make a place, build a community and create a more productive local economy for the 21st century’.

The housing project on the banks of the Ouse will be constructed from timber cassettes, insulated by bio-based fibres and ‘embellished’

with other low-carbon and repurposed materials.

The proposals also include 3,300m<sup>2</sup> of workspace, eight public squares and gardens, 50 electric car hire and car club vehicles in a new co-mobility hub, and a health centre.

**Source: architects UK**

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# Wood processing innovation grants now open

THE critical timber shortages of the past two years have exposed Australia's over-reliance on timber imports, which have become more expensive and difficult to source, which has driven up building costs and significantly delayed construction.

While the federal government has a goal to plant one billion trees it will take time before this alleviates the resource shortage. Fortunately, the government has also provided a \$113 million program to support the industry to innovate and maximise productivity by making the most of the timber or wood fibre currently available, which is taking applications for grants now.

The Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program grants opened just prior to Christmas and closes February 28. This program will support projects that make

better use of our existing timber resources, add value to existing products, create new products, or reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

Most of our processing facilities were working at full capacity over the last two years and many have identified areas where they can improve production. So, this is a golden opportunity for the industry to take advantage of government support to shore up our resources while we grow the plantation estate to meet our future needs.

Individual grants of up to \$5 million are available for eligible applicants.

The construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings account for almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia. But, our industry has a great story to tell. The timber used in building houses is carbon positive, so



**Richard Hyett... Senior Policy Manager of the Australian Forest Products Association.**

the more timber you use in construction the better it is for the environment, and the more you can help the government meet its emissions targets to tackle climate change.

At the 2022 federal election, AFPA encouraged both the federal government and opposition, not only to rapidly progress the 'billion tees by 2030' program but also to provide more immediate

solutions to Australia's supply issues – like this grants program.

These grants are a major part of the response from the federal government which is why I strongly encourage industry to consider this opportunity and make the most of it!

This sort of strategic, carefully crafted government policy supported by a substantial funding program doesn't present itself often, so timber or wood processing operations should at the very least consider the grant opportunity guidelines and assess whether they could benefit and leverage from the assistance that's on offer.

More information on applying for the Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program grants can be found at [www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au)

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# “Thank you”, Waratah Forestry Equipment marks 50th anniversary

WARATAH Forestry Equipment, the New Zealand based forestry equipment manufacturer, is celebrating 50 years of innovation within the forestry industry and thanking its customers for decades of trust and loyalty to the brand.

“We’re proud to celebrate our 50th anniversary this year thanks to our loyal customers and dedicated team members across the globe,” said Heather Robinson, general manager of worldwide distribution at Waratah.

“It’s exciting because we are in a unique position to offer our customers experience, expertise and innovation.”

Waratah customers are a testament to the company’s reliability and legacy. While the industry has changed over the last 50 years, Waratah has always been Built To Work® – supporting its customers, so they can outsmart and outperform the others.

“We’ve had great experiences with Waratah,” said Reid Lind, owner of G.R. (Mac) Lind Logging Ltd., Princeton, British Columbia.

“You know what you’re getting when you buy it. For



**Waratah Forestry Equipment is taking a walk down memory lane as it celebrates 50 years of service to the industry.**

us, it’s the industry standard.”

Established in 1973 in Tokoroa, New Zealand, the company manufactured a delimber-feller-buncher with a four-roller fixed head to meet local loggers’ heavy-duty delimiting needs. Following that innovation, a red grapple processor manufactured for the Canadian markets marked the start of the 600 Series line. It cemented Waratah’s place as the original redhead in the industry.

Today, Waratah’s full line

of harvesting, processing and felling heads are used in a variety of logging applications from cut-to-length hardwood harvesting at the stump, to processing on a landing, felling on steep slopes or debarking on plantations.

“WE OFFER OUR CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND INNOVATION”

“Waratah heads are designed well, tested well and built well,” said Pasi Volotinen, managing director of Waratah OM, Finland.

“We are always aiming for best-in-class. We are happy when our customers are feeling good in the forest.”

Waratah continues to build on its past to innovate for the future – manufacturing more productive

heads, engineering products with parts that don’t quit and working to earn each customer’s trust every day.

“Waratah’s legacy is about taking care of the customer, building a superior product, and improving it with each series,” said Robert D’Agostini, president and CEO of J&R Logging Inc., Fair Play, California.

“We bought our first Waratah head in 2005, and we love them.”

## UK foresters shortage prompts free course offering

A SHORTAGE of foresters has prompted the UK government to launch free courses as it rushes to meet targets for tree planting.

Courses include training in chainsaw maintenance, coppicing, woodland management, hedge laying and the sale and marketing of timber.

The Institute of Chartered

Foresters said in November 2021 that the industry faced a shortfall of 10,000 trained workers.

“Without those positions being filled, the government will not be able to meet its climate goals of increasing woodland cover.”

Additionally, the government has promised to increase England’s woodland



cover from 14.5% to 16.5% by 2050, and tree-planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares

a year by the end of parliament.

The government hopes the courses will prompt people to consider a career in forestry, so the sector can grow and woodland goals can be met.

Ministers said it could also create new green jobs and boost the economy.

# Display space filling up quickly as leading trade fair returns

ORGANISERS of the world's leading trade fair say two-thirds of LIGNA's longstanding exhibitors have already confirmed their participation for 2023. 75 percent of the available exhibition space is already occupied with the event set to run from the 15 to 19 May 2023 in Hannover, Germany.

"This positive trend underscores the importance of LIGNA for the woodworking community as a key networking hub and platform for development and innovation," commented Dr. Bernhard Dirr, managing director of the VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association, referring to the high level of registrations.

"After four years, the industry needs this opportunity for face-to-face contact in Hannover. It is all the more gratifying that all market leaders have already made their decision to exhibit at LIGNA 2023 and will be unveiling innovations at the event," he continued.

"Based on the current rate of bookings and our discussions over the past few months, we can confirm the high level of loyalty and commitment of our exhibitors towards LIGNA which provides them with the opportunity to perform live demonstrations - not just of machines and tools, but of total solutions covering all aspects of their products and services," Stephanie Wagner, head of LIGNA said.

"We are convinced that, in close cooperation with our exhibitors, the upcoming LIGNA 2023 will continue to



**LIGNA, the world's leading trade fair will return in May in Germany with many long-standing exhibitors confirming their attendance.**

be the leading international showcase. Along the entire value chain, innovative solutions for all stages of woodworking and wood processing – from harvesting to surface finishing – will be on display.

"And this, involving not only wood as a raw material – which is at the core of our LIGNA – but also other materials such as plastics, glass, stone and composites, among others," she added.

The world's leading trade fair for the woodworking and wood processing industry is jointly organized by Deutsche Messe and VDMA Woodworking Machinery. It showcases the entire range of products and services for the primary and secondary industries – tools, machines and systems for custom and mass production, surface technology, wood-based panel production, sawmill technology, energy from wood, machine components and automation technology, as well as machines and systems for forestry, round wood and sawn wood production.

In 2023, key global players

and national leaders will again be relying on LIGNA. Achim Homeier, senior director of global marketing & product management at HOMAG GmbH said: "For us at HOMAG, LIGNA is the leading trade fair and a unique platform for presenting innovations to all target groups from craft to industry.

"We show the entire spectrum from individual machines to plants, software and services and get direct feedback for market-oriented further development from our customers and interested parties."

In addition to the opportunity for face-to-face networking and presentations at exhibition stands, LIGNA 2023 also scores high with its focus on current industry developments.

"Sustainability is the central theme of our time for our customers as well as for us. By

**“SOLUTIONS FOR ALL STAGES OF WOODWORKING AND WOOD PROCESSING**

choosing 'Digitization' and 'Wood in Construction' as its focus themes, LIGNA 2023 is addressing important sustainability aspects, presenting new, innovative solutions and thus reaffirming its position as the world's leading trade show for our industry." According to Klaus Kullmann, member of the board of management at Jowat SE said.

"For us, LIGNA is the perfect platform for face-to-face exchanges with customers and system partners, so we are delighted to be back as an exhibitor after such a long time."

In addition to the presentation of tool and machinery solutions, next year LIGNA visitors can also look forward to discussions of highly relevant industry challenges at the LIGNA Stage. At the LIGNA Campus, participants from research and education will present their educational offers and research projects, and at the LIGNA Future Square powered by VDMA, startups from the industry will showcase their business ideas. At LIGNA Recruiting, professionals and companies will have the opportunity to present themselves in a digital job forum and exchange ideas in person in a matchmaking area onsite.

"Following a four-year break, it is realistic to expect a firework of innovations at LIGNA 2023. LIGNA 2023 will be a must-have-can't-miss event for all of us," Stephanie Wagner said, looking forward to May 2023 with optimism.

# Surveillance confirms additional Varroa mite detections within eradication zone

CONCERNS for farmers and beekeepers in the NSW Hunter and Central Coast regions continue with further Varroa mite detections confirmed.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) surveillance and tracing work has confirmed four new detections in the areas which have been of primary concern since its initial detection in 2022.

These cases bring the total number of infected premises to 112 since Varroa mite was first identified at the Port of Newcastle in June 2022.

Chief plant protection officer Satendra Kumar said the new detections at Vacy and Tumbi Umbi fall within the eradication zone, while another was located in the surveillance zone at Allworth.

"In the Hunter area we will see an expansion of the eradication zone north and west of Vacy and a larger extension to the north of Karuah," Dr Kumar said.

**“WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ERADICATING VARROA MITE FROM NSW**



**Further detection of the mite is causing ongoing concern for farmers with cross-pollination at risk if colonies are irradiated.**

"There will also be a very slight expansion on the Central Coast, south of Tumbi Umbi, with a new emergency order now in place."

"These new detections are not unexpected with the level of surveillance work being carried out by response teams who have tested close to 12,000 hives in the surveillance zone and more than 32,000 hives state-wide."

Destruction of hives has begun at the infected properties and trace investigations are underway.

"We remain committed to eradicating Varroa mite from NSW after National agreement earlier this month to declare proof of freedom in the Blue Zone," Dr Kumar said.

"While this is a positive step forward for the response, now more than ever we need beekeepers to ensure they are doing the right thing so we continue to move in the right direction."

"The data collected through hive movement declarations and mandatory alcohol washes is vital to maintaining confidence in the containment of this devastating pest."

As part of the response, it is mandatory for all beekeepers to carry out alcohol washes at least every 16 weeks and to report these results to DPI by filling out the online form at [dpi.nsw.gov.au](https://dpi.nsw.gov.au) or calling 1800 084 881.

Beekeepers in the General

Emergency Zone or Blue Zone can only move bees or hives if they complete the hive movement declaration form online, which must be completed within 72 hours of the movement taking place.

DPI reminds all beekeepers across the State to ensure they are aware of the requirements for each zone and stresses that non-compliance with these requirements can result in significant penalties and fines.

"Achieving the goal of eradication is a shared responsibility between NSW DPI, industry and the community and I would like to thank all those who have done their part through what we know is a difficult time," Dr Kumar said.

For more information visit: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa>

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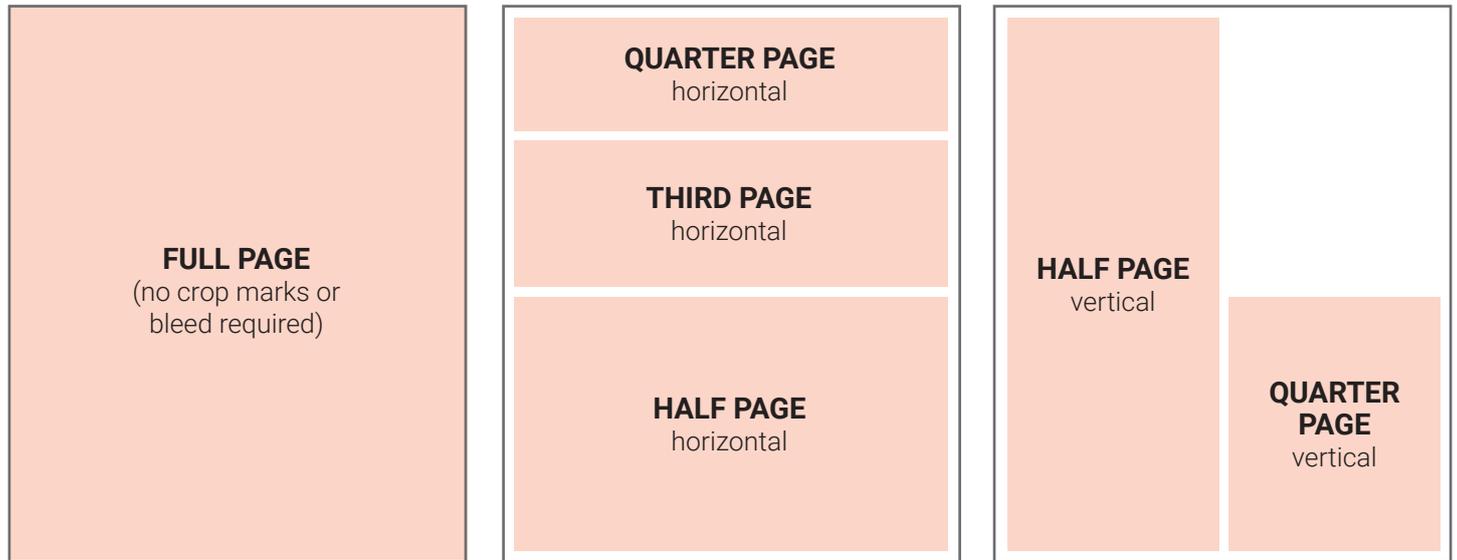
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