

DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 748 // March 30, 2023

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

Labor takes government in NSW

COVER STORY P 2



TimberTrader
news

**subscribe
now**

for your printed magazine

 **Wood
Solutions**
design and build

www.woodsolutions.com.au

ForestFit

BUSINESS, SAFETY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
CERTIFICATION

www.forestfit.com.au

 **Responsible
Wood** RW/1-10-1

2022/23
Community
Grants Program
recipients announced!

Click here.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

 **TABMA**
AUSTRALIA

 **HARDWARE**
AUSTRALIA

will merge into a single
national Association

COMING
SOON

 **NTHA**
NATIONAL TIMBER &
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

Labor takes the reins in NSW, what that means for our sector

Chris Minns has promised to govern for everyone in NSW, but how will that work in action?

AT the time of writing, Chris Minns has just been sworn in as the new Premier of NSW, though it is still uncertain as to whether his will be a minority or majority government. At the same time, the NSW upper house has also shifted to the left, meaning Labor may not need any conservative support to pass legislation unaltered.

Minns campaigned strongly on a comprehensive set of responses to the housing crisis. The centrepiece plan to increase home ownership and housing approvals is a scheme for first home buyers that will remove stamp duty on properties up to \$800,000 and offer a concessional rate on properties up to \$1 million.

Those unable to buy aren't overlooked, a mandatory requirement for 30% of all homes built on surplus government land to be set aside for "social, affordable and universal housing" is promised, with a focus on areas well served by public transport. Additionally, Minns' team has



1/ The Great Koala National Park is a key Labor promise, but communities in the affected areas worry about timber jobs. Photo: Shutterstock/Jakub Specjalski
2/ Incoming Environment Minister Penny Sharpe, MLC, told reporters that Labor would consult widely about plans for its Great Koala National Park

Social and public housing schemes will become easier with plans to merge the Land and Housing Corporation, the Aboriginal Housing Office and the Department of Community and Justice Housing into a new body, Homes NSW, which will allow faster and more effective

decisions to be made both on the development side and when housing people.

During the election campaign, the proposed Great Koala Park on the mid-North Coast raised concerns for local forestry industries. The plan as outlined is to connect 175,000 hectares of publicly owned state forests to existing National Parks, creating a 315,000-hectare nature reserve for koalas and other native animals.

This risks removing substantial resources from forestry operations at the same time as housing policies drive up demand for housing timbers. Incoming Minister for Environment and Heritage, Penny Sharpe, MLC, promised in a January press conference that the party will consult with all stakeholders to "get the plan right", committing to an independent audit on the park's impact on local jobs and communities.

Chris Minns told the same

Cont P 3



THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

Following the awarding of a Global GreenRate Level A certification, MicroPro Wood Treatment Technology has recently been awarded a GoldHEALTH rating with its recently published Global GreenTag Level A Product Health Declaration™ (PhD™).

The GreenTag PhD is the first health transparency tool in the world to assess human health concerns directly, rating the health impacts of a final product – and not just the hazards of a product's ingredients.

For more information call us now on 1800 088 809.



MicroPro® is a registered trademark of Koppers Inc. or its subsidiaries. MicroPro® timber products are produced by independently owned and operated wood preserving facilities. © 2019 Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd. Global GreenRate, GoldHEALTH, Global GreenTag and GreenTag PhD are registered trademarks operated under licence by Global GreenTag Pty Ltd.

From P 2

press conference that “we’re supportive of the forestry industry in NSW. We’ve been encouraged over the last week in conversations with the union movement and sections of the forestry industry. We’re confident that we can navigate a pathway through to protect the land that we need to for one-fifth of the koala population in NSW, but it needs to be done in a consultative way.”

Forestry Australia president Michelle Freeman wrote an open letter to Chris Minns just before the election, saying that “Forestry Australia welcomes Labor’s commitment to take concrete actions to improve the recovery of koalas in northern NSW and to do that in a consultative manner with local communities and key stakeholders, including the

“LABOR HAS PROMISED STRONG SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING



Chris Minns with wife Anna and their three sons.

forestry industry.” The letter goes on to note that research has shown National Parks to not always be the best option for koala habitat, due to weak management practices, and that “State Forests located between Kempsey and Grafton include many areas of regrowth and planted eucalypt trees, that provide the resources necessary to sustain some of Australia’s most sophisticated remaining value-adding hardwood timber processors and transmission pole producers. Given global recognition of the important roles of sustainable forest management and increasing substitution of wood products

for greenhouse gas intensive products in meeting net zero emissions commitments, Forestry Australia considers it would be a perverse outcome if the Great Koala National Park initiative led to the closure of these forest industries.”

Here’s hoping the new government is serious about listening to all of the community.

Other plans are more encouraging. Labor has promised strong support for domestic manufacturing, including \$42.7 million for three new TAFE Domestic Manufacturing Centres of Excellence as part of its

rebuilding vocational training promise.

Tradies in Sydney will be happy with Labor’s \$60 cap on weekly toll bills, slashing the cost of major roads like the M5 East and M8. The move is estimated to save some drivers up to \$3800 a year, so tradies won’t need to get up early to drive rat runs – a win for workplace safety and residents on those streets, too.

Wages are also flagged as a major platform for the new government, with the abolishment of the public service salary cap a key electoral promise. While it is clear that public service wages have gone backwards in NSW in recent years, leading to a loss of many essential workers, including teachers, nurses, paramedics and more, funding a catch-up will be difficult. The promise of freezing senior public service wages and reducing executive roles won’t come close to balancing the books.

On the cover: Chris Minns is sworn in as Premier of NSW by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales.

California announces 1200 tiny homes to combat homelessness

CALIFORNIA Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state will spend \$30 million building 1200 tiny homes this year as part of California’s effort to decrease its unhoused population by 15% by 2025.

“The crisis of homelessness will never be solved without first solving the crisis of housing – the two issues are inextricably linked,” Newsom said. “We are tackling this issue at the root of the problem by

addressing the need to create more housing, faster in California.”

These 1200 tiny homes will be distributed across four communities – Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose, and San Diego County – and beds will be prioritised for people who currently reside in encampments.

Los Angeles will receive the



The Chandler Street Tiny Home Village in Los Angeles. Photo: Brittany Chang/Insider

most at 500 units while San Diego will be dealt the least

with 150 tiny homes.

Los Angeles is no stranger to spending millions on these unique shelters. Its trial program started in February 2021 with the Chandler Street Tiny Home Village, a colourful collection of tiny homes tucked in a previously ‘forgotten’ corner of North Hollywood, which has been a resounding success.

TERMITE
PROFESSIONAL™

Termite Professional Magazine
FREE Online Subscription

Click or scan QR code
to find out more and sign up



Leading growth index stays low

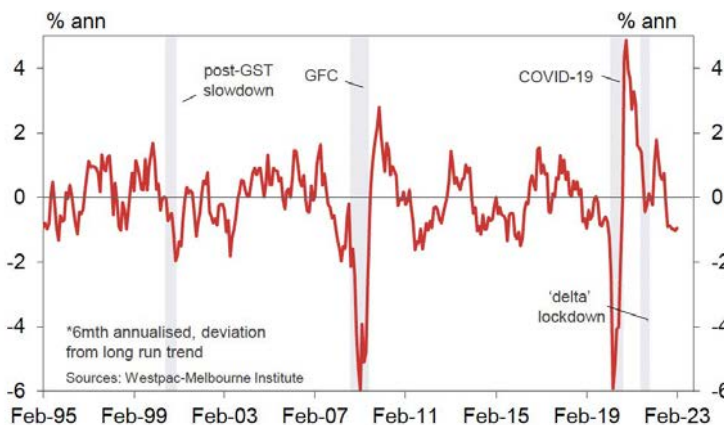
Another negative reading points to worries growth will stay low into 2024.

THE February level of the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Leading Index of Economic Activity has been released: 97.30, down from 97.36 in January. The six-month annualised growth rate in the index, which indicates the likely pace of economic activity relative to trend three to nine months into the future, lifted slightly to -0.94% in February from -1.04% in January.

This marks the seventh consecutive month that the growth rate has been negative, indicating below trend growth in the Australian economy for the rest of 2023.

The Leading Index growth rate has seen a sharp

Westpac-MI Leading Index



The six-month annualised growth rate in the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Leading Index of Economic Activity indicates the likely pace of economic activity over the near future.

turnaround from +0.75% in July last year to the current -0.94%. The main components driving the

deterioration have been: a slowdown in aggregate hours worked, falling commodity prices in AUD terms, a downturn in US industrial production and softening consumer expectations for unemployment.

These factors are expected to extend into 2024 which is expected to show a second consecutive year of below-trend growth.

In a bulletin announcing the results, Bill Evans, Westpac's chief economist, wrote: "The Reserve Bank Board next

meets on April 4. Westpac expects that the Board will decide to pause the tightening cycle for the first time since it began raising rates in May last year. Softer-than-expected prints for economic activity; monthly inflation; and wages growth are highlighting the cumulative impact of rising rates and cost of living shocks and improved prospects for a moderation in inflation. Policy is now firmly in restrictive territory, indicating that the rapid pace of tightening over the previous year can slow.

"The minutes from the March RBA meeting indicate that the Board intends to consider a pause at its April meeting. This is an unusual step. Along with the evidence of slowing in the domestic economy, caution around developments in global financial markets will also be a factor in the Board's decision. We do not expect that a decision to pause in April will mark the end of the cycle. New information will be available for the May Board meeting, particularly around inflation and the staff's revised economic forecasts. We expect this to indicate the need for a further response from the Board, with a final 0.25% increase in the cash rate in May marking the end of tightening cycle."

“INDICATORS SHOW BELOW-TREND GROWTH IN THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY.”

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

25-26 MAY 2023

HUNTER VALLEY

1800 822 621

events@tabma.com.au

www.2023-tabma-national-conference.com

BOOK NOW

HAVE NEWS?

Share media releases, news stories, events, and any timber and forestry news related information with us anytime -

news@timberandforestrynews.com

edit@timberandforestrynews.com

The Strategic Plan for South Australia's Forestry Centre of Excellence is launched

Bringing together foresters, researchers, industry and more, the Centre is designed to keep MT Gambier's timber industry at the forefront of innovation.

FOR over 140 years, the Green Triangle has been a world-leading region in forestry innovation. An important part of that has been harnessing the experience of industry experts for training new generations and working with researchers. As part of the South Australian Government's \$19 million investment in forest and timber industries, the \$15 million Forestry Centre of Excellence is now being developed to create long-term research and development capability to enhance the Green Triangle's economic prosperity, generating more jobs and investment in the region.

The Strategic Plan for the Centre has been launched by the State Government, laying out the vision behind this 10-year collaborative project. The Centre will be established at the existing University of SA/TAFE precinct in Mount Gambier and will accommodate entities such as the National Institute of



The Green Triangle is key to Australia's forest industries and the Forestry Centre of Excellence will help to propel its future.

Forest Products Innovation along with the University of South Australia, the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub, Tree Breeding Australia and the Logging Investigation and Training Association.

The strategic plan was developed with the region's forest and timber sector and creates a framework to place the Forestry Centre of Excellence as a central hub

that focuses on innovation, sustainability and the creation of new market opportunities from Australia and across the globe.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said, "The Forestry Centre of Excellence takes advantage of this longstanding wealth of local expertise, skills and knowledge, which in turn

increases our workforce capability and employment opportunities."

The Centre activities will support the full forestry supply chain including plantation management, harvesting and haulage and timber processing. It will also aim to cover the technical, safety, and training aspects relevant to those sectors, while building greater connections with First Nations people. Areas identified as forest research priorities include water, fire, breeding, wood products, data analytics, carbon, silviculture and environmental management.

A global search is soon to commence for a centre director to lead its research objectives and connect with industry to identify key resource requirements.

For further information on the Forestry Centre for Excellence and the Strategic Plan visit <https://pir.sa.gov.au/forestry>.

Enabling sustainability...
through world-class standards

responsiblewood.org.au



OneFortyOne encourages local students to connect with their forest

The annual photo competition includes an exhibition this year, as part of the forestry giant's community program.

AFTER uncovering multiple talented young photographers in recent years, OneFortyOne is expanding their annual student photo competition to include an exhibition. The competition is open to local primary and secondary students, with prizes the winner's choice of a new iPad Air, DJI drone, or GoPro.

External affairs manager



1/ A previous finalist entry from then Year 10 student Abbey Hood.



2/ Previous years have seen a wide range of entries including shots of tiny forest moments, here a broken trunk decomposing.

Charlene Riley said the competition aims to encourage students to get outside, explore the forest, and connect with their

local environment: "Pine forests are part of the local landscape and people might be surprised at the types of plants and animals they find inside the plantations. We want to encourage people to get out and explore."

Along with entering photos, students will again be asked to submit 50-200 words to share what they love about the forest.

"The highlight of the competition for us is reading the stories students submit," Riley said.

This year, in collaboration with the District Council of

Grant, some entries will be also exhibited at the Mount Gambier Airport gallery space.

"The photos and stories are always so great, we can't keep them to ourselves," said Riley.

"We're going to pick our favourites, based on both the photo and the accompanying story, to display at the Airport to welcome visitors to the area, and welcome locals home."

For more information and details on how to enter, visit the OneFortyOne site here.

ForestWorks

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.

To find out more:

Email: forestworks@forestworks.com.au
Phone: 1800 177 001
www.forestworks.com.au



Calling commercial forestry operators

Find out more at
wa.gov.au/fpc/commercial-opportunities



fpc

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. For bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/993638>

28-2 June: International Research Group (IRG) on Wood Protection – Cairns, QLD. The IRG is the world's peak world body on timber durability research and will be hosting more than 250 researchers from 30-40 countries to discuss new developments in the field. Information about the conference and registration is available at: www.irg-wp.com/IRG54/index.html

31-1 Doing Timber Business in Queensland Symposium & Field Tour – Brisbane. The 4th Biennial symposium Doing Timber Business in Queensland 2023: Preparation, Opportunity, Success will delve into where growth potential for Queensland's forest and timber industry is most likely to occur. This special event will commence with an industry research and development tour on 31 May, followed by a symposium and

networking event on 1 June. For more information admin@timberqueensland.com.au

JUNE

18-20: Malaysian Wood Expo – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Malaysian Timber Council, International Wood & Woodworking Expo. For further information see: www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my or email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

AUGUST

29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply 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/>



Are you following us on social media?

Please like and share our page so we can get the timber and forestry message out to a bigger audience. If you like our publication, please leave us a review.



Do you crosscut timber packs at ±1mm accuracy

OR cut structural timber, panel products (MDF & LVL), paper rolls

OR produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths

HOLTEC has a solution for you

For more information contact:

Ph: +64 9 416 8294
 Fax: +64 9 416 8296
 Email: sales@holtec.org
 Web: www.holtec.org

Our Scope of Supply:

- Mobile and stationary chainsaws
- Mechanisation
- Timber crosscut stations
- Sorting lines
- Log cutting stations
- Scanning and optimising systems
- Circular saws
- Special systems



WoodSolutions Project Portal aids designers

This online reference library of timber structures both inspires and informs.

THE new Project Portal from WoodSolutions bills itself as ‘The World’s Reference For Timber Buildings’ and it lives up to the promise. Timber buildings are listed with images for each, public information on size, budget, materials and construction methods and then contact details for architects, builders, engineers and suppliers.

You can search the database by location or project type, using keywords such as ‘CLT’ or ‘school’, then filter by a range of variables including size, year of construction and structural systems used. The goal of the portal is to help users discover how they can add the benefits of timber construction systems to their next venture.

NO OF STOREYS	STATUS	BUDGET	YEAR COMPLETED
2	Complete	\$30m - 100m AUD	2020

Project Breakdown

Project Type: Other Public Infrastructure

Total Levels: 2

Timber Levels: 1

Total Building Height(m): N/A

Gross Floor Area (sqm): N/A

Timber Volume (m3): N/A

The project portal provides at-a-glance details of significant timber buildings like the Marrickville Library, plus contacts for the people behind the structures.

the companies involved in their development, design, construction and supply of materials.

“Visitors to the site can not only view and review existing projects, but they can also submit their own projects, promoting their experience and expertise.”

Newbury added that the benefits driving the adoption of timber building systems range from increasing the green credentials of a project to enhancing the wellbeing of the occupants and even lowering the total cost and time to delivery.

The new WoodSolutions Project Portal complements the existing range of free online resources which include a species-matching app, more than 50 Technical Design Guides, fire test reports, a free expert advice service, recordings of presentations and podcasts, case studies and more.

Visit the new site at woodsolutionsprojectportal.com.au

“Extensive experience consulting on the development of large-scale timber projects with the WoodSolutions Midrise Advisory team indicated the value of a resource providing reference to a broad range of international projects and the teams behind them,” said

Eileen Newbury Head of the WoodSolutions Program.

“The Project Portal presents exemplar timber-rich projects in an easily accessible and searchable form, allowing users to not only view projects similar to those they might be considering, but to also see

“TIMBER-RICH PROJECTS PRESENTED IN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND SEARCHABLE FORM

Investing in people ...

Grant award applications for 2023 are now open:

- Skill Development Support
- Scholarships
- Fellowships

Don't miss this opportunity – all details www.gottsteintrust.org
Applications close on Friday, 5th May 2023.

Contact: Helen Murray
on 0419 991 424 or
team@gottsteintrust.org

advancing the industry

Free subscription to *Termite Professional* magazine

Update your pest prevention and protection knowledge.



Termites can attack and destroy any unprotected timber parts of a home, even bypassing protected timbers lower in the building, such as on this window frame. Photo: Shutterstock/Atterpon Thana

TERMITES are one of the biggest risks to timber structures in most of Australia (with their range spreading every year) and yet so many in the industry still lack a comprehensive understanding of both the risk and of protection and treatment methods.

Termite Professional magazine is an annual publication released in September of each year, providing comprehensive information on termites and termite management. Sign-up is free for the online version, with a small charge for those wanting a printed magazine.

The magazine includes

“SIGN-UP IS FREE FOR THE ONLINE VERSION”

feature articles from leading global termite researchers, a review of the relevant research papers published over the previous year and editorial from suppliers connected with the termite management industry. The annual review of research papers covers a wide range of topics and includes sections on termite repellents and wood preservation, as well as various aspects of termite biology and management.

Although there are Australian and Asian editions of the magazine, to tailor commercial content for different markets, much of the content has a global focus.

To subscribe, scan the QR code on page 3 or visit professionalpestmanager.com/subscribe

HYNE.COM.AU

QUALITY
SERVICE
INNOVATION

HYNE TIMBER

One Tree Four Seasons: exploring nature through art

Installation takes viewers on an immersive journey through the seasons combining architecture, art and ecology.

ONE Tree Four Seasons is a unique and captivating artistic collaboration between the Swedish architect Ulf Mejergren and Finnish artist Antti Laitinen. It explores the cyclical nature of the seasons and their impact on a single tree. The living art piece brings together architecture, ecology and human emotion, forming an intimate connection between the observer and the constantly changing environment.

Over the course of the past year, a single tree has been transformed to represent the four seasons. The tree is situated on quiet field, 45 minutes' drive south of Stockholm, where the natural environment remains largely untouched by human intervention. The project is designed to provoke an emotional response from visitors, drawing their attention to the beauty of nature and the passage of time.

The project was split into four installations to

take advantage of the tree's different seasonal appearances. These installations encircle a single alder tree, which grows on a small hill surrounded by overgrown rocks.

The spring installation, completed in April 2022, featured dead branches collected from the surrounding forest that were interwoven to create a large nest around the tree. A circular opening in the structure allowed visitors to see a section of the tree and the floor, which was made of bent willow.



The first installation featured dead branches collected from the surrounding forest and were interwoven to create a large nest around the tree.

Photo: Antti Laitinen



The autumn installation uses artificial wind to move the leaves around the tree.

Photo: Antti Laitinen



A local string quartet performed a concert inside the structure of the tree during the summer installation.

Photo: Antti Laitinen



The winter plastic envelope retains heat and steam for its inside, while blending in with its landscape on the outside.

Photo: Antti Laitinen

The summer installation, which began in August, featured hay collected from the surrounding field, which was used to create a floor and seating inside the structure, with the tree's crown serving as the roof. The local string quartet Julikvartetten performed a concert inside

“THE LIVING ART PIECE BRINGS TOGETHER ARCHITECTURE, ECOLOGY AND HUMAN EMOTION

the structure as a tribute to the tree. The artists also added temporary hay bale stairs outside the entrance for the musicians.

The autumn installation, which started in late October, featured leaves collected from the tree and surrounding forest, which were placed inside the structure. Using an artificial wind, the leaves were made to move around and upward before falling back down. Many of the leaves escaped through the hole in the structure,

blending with the real wind outside.

Finally, the winter installation, which was completed in February this year, saw the tree transformed into a sauna by wrapping the external structure in plastic. The plastic retains the heat and steam inside the structure, while blending in with the snowy landscape outside. The sauna is heated with wood from the site and the smoke rising from it creates a white moving volume in the bare tree crown.

Source: WoodCentral

Tigercat introduces a new Niche Skidder

This specialty model is designed to operate in selective harvesting applications, extracting high value timber in steep or sensitive terrain conditions.

TIGERCAT'S comprehensive range of skidders deliver wood to the roadside in a wide range of forest conditions. The newest member of the family, the Tigercat 612 series skidder platform, was created to manage extraction in challenging terrain selective felling applications, while preserving the value and quality of the residual stand.

Able to move nimbly through areas that are to be conserved, the machine can be equipped with a dual winch, a movable back shield and fairlead system, as well as a crane, and front blade tongs.

The 612 is equipped with the Tigercat FPT N67 Stage V engine, delivering 155 kW (208 hp). Combined with Tigercat's



The new Tigercat 612 series skidder can get in and out of narrow trails without harming residual stands.

efficient drive system, the 612 impressively handles adverse terrain while minimising wheel spin.

A narrow stance allows easy navigation through tight trails and rough ground conditions. The movable shield can be used as an anchor while winching. The dual winch

and moving fairlead system allow the operator independent control over two separate cables when operating in tight stand conditions. The optional heavy-duty crane and blade tongs offer even more versatility for extracting, manoeuvring and sorting logs.

The operator's cab is spacious with generous-sized windows providing clear sightlines. Creature comforts include a climate-controlled cup holder and dedicated storage. Key to ergonomics and operating the machine effectively is the Turnaround seat. Turnaround provides increased comfort, clear sightlines, and easy entry and exit from either side of the machine. The operator enjoys full control of all machine functions in any position within the 220° range.

To learn more about Tigercat skidders or order from their range, visit www.tigercat.com or Australian supplier www.onetrak.com.au

arxada

Always
in demand



TREATED
TIMBER
PRODUCTS

Ecowood® is a registered trademark of Arxada or its subsidiaries. ©2022 Arxada

Builders and owners welcome HomeBuilder paperwork extension

Material and labour shortages have meant that many applicants would have missed out without the grant deadline change.

WHEN introduced by the previous Federal Government, HomeBuilder was envisioned as a short-term grants scheme that would keep Australia building during the pandemic.

Famously, the best laid plans often go astray and this one could have been laid a little better. Current Federal Minister for Housing Julie Collins has made the last in a long series of tweaks to the scheme to ensure that people who had hoped to benefit from HomeBuilder won't be left out of pocket through no fault of their own.

Contracts for builds and renovations under the original \$25,000 grant scheme had to be signed between 4 June and 31 December 2020, with a \$15,000 grant later made available for eligible contracts signed between 1 January and 31 March 2021. As part of both schemes, grants were paid on receipt of documentation: for many off-the-plan builds, this meant title documents, which are issued when construction is complete. The deadline for people to submit their paperwork for grant payment was originally 30 April 2023.

The grant initially required work to begin within three months of the contract being signed. In response to

“THIS DECISION WILL NOT COST THE BUDGET, BUT IT WILL EASE THE BURDEN ON FAMILIES



1/ Off-the-plan buyers were particularly at risk of missing out due to building delays and an unchanged paperwork deadline.
2/ Federal Minister for Housing Julie Collins.

representations from both builders and homeowners, this was extended first to six months and then to 18 months. The deadline to submit paperwork to receive the grant, however, did not change.

The past three years have been some of the most difficult on record for the construction sector. Materials shortages, builder collapses, labour shortages, financing problems, months of rain, floods and more have all combined to see many builds delayed by three to six months, some by up to 18 months. Build schedules have also increased from an average nine months for a detached home to 12 or more. At every stage of the process, difficulties and delays have compounded.

As a result, thousands of people who had acted in accordance with the rules but been held up by circumstances



outside their control faced missing out on \$15,000-25,000 because they would not have a completion certificate in time.

Happily, the new government has acknowledged the unfairness of the situation and the deadline for paperwork will now be pushed out to 30 June 2025, subject to the agreement of the States and Territories overseeing the grants, which is expected.

“Too many Australians stood to miss out on support they believed they would receive, through no fault of their own,” said Minister Collins.

“This decision will not cost the Budget, but it will ease the

burden on families right across the country who are relying on this grant.”

The news has received a warm welcome from Master Builders Australia. “The extension allows builders to ensure there’s adequate time to deliver on projects during a time that has seen a perfect storm of pressures in the industry,” said MBA CEO Denita Wawn.

“We thank Minister Collins for listening to the concerns of builders and the community so Australians are not missing out on the opportunity to have their home building dreams become a reality.

“HomeBuilder effectively saved businesses and jobs during the height of the pandemic and was an appropriate support measure. Families rightfully seized the opportunity to enter the home ownership market and it’s only fair that these projects can be followed through to completion.”

Need **creative** advertising solutions?



Contact // Zonya Bird
zonya@creativebirddesign.com.au

Two years in, Project Remediate is not moving fast enough

NSW scheme to remove potentially combustible cladding is being criticised for its lack of pace, with only two out of 227 buildings made safer so far.

KIRSTEN Craze in The Urban Developer recently reported that hundreds of residential buildings in NSW remain at risk from potentially combustible cladding.

Project Remediate, a state government scheme to replace the unsafe materials, has been under way since March 2021 but some industry insiders say the ball is not rolling fast enough.

Despite a purpose-built and state-funded taskforce unearthing almost 230 buildings deemed dangerous, just two properties have had their cladding removed and replaced with a safer alternative.

Sydney's Strata Embassy director Ben Cabello told Craze the speed of uptake appears to be impeded by a communication problem: "The biggest issue is the two tiers of government really don't seem to talk to each other. Councils don't talk to the NSW government and vice versa.

"Councils are usually all about fire safety, so if there is a risk then they're going to apply pressure to do works within a certain timeframe, regardless of any assistance

“COUNCILS DON'T TALK TO THE NSW GOVERNMENT AND VICE VERSA



Unsafe cladding is being removed, but too slowly in NSW. Photo: Shutterstock/Fred Duval

from Project Remediate," he said.

A voluntary program, Project Remediate's ultimate goal is to assess and replace flammable cladding for eligible residential buildings and offer owners corporations a 10-year interest-free loan.

According to the latest data from Project Remediate, 227 buildings in NSW were originally flagged as 'high risk' after the establishment of the Combustible Cladding Register.

Along with the two completed projects, 123 buildings have undergone comprehensive investigations: 35 are undergoing preliminary design development, 50 are in the design completion phase and 19 have designs fully completed with tenders for construction work either under way or completed.

A number of other buildings are being assessed for retrospective assistance.

The delays are causing

a range of problems aside from the safety risk, with

insurance being harder or more expensive to obtain and individual owners facing difficulties when selling or remortgaging their properties due to the effect of a high risk rating on values.

The reasons behind the delays are complex and include site access, difficulty of obtaining materials, issues over who bears the cost and the fact that new cladding materials have been shifted from the compliant to banned lists during the course of the program.

Source: The Urban Developer

The united voice for Australia's forest industries

0408 404 764
enquiries@ausfpa.com.au
www.ausfpa.com.au

Fork! We can't even make our own wooden cutlery

It won't come as a surprise to learn that wooden eating utensils are made in China.

I DON'T know whether to laugh or cry, or to just give up caring!

Great, I thought as the country moved to ban single use plastic items, an environmental step forward, clap, clap! Heading in the right direction by substituting plastic items like supermarket bags, containers, straws and knives, forks and spoons with wooden, cardboard and paper-made items

We thought we were doing a great turn by the environment. Now, I may be straying well beyond my remit here, but not happy, Jan!

Working as I do in the timber industry, I thought timber cutlery was a good thing and it gave me a slightly warm feeling. However, these wooden eating utensils are not made in Australia! I'll give you one guess as to where they come from – and I am certain you will get it. Yes, of course it's China.

Let me remind you that the Prime Minister has said on numerous occasions, and I quote, "We have to make things here." In Australia that is. That we are importing wooden knives, forks and spoons from China is, in my view, a disgrace! It is not that these items are all that sophisticated in terms



Wooden cutlery set ... manufactured from wood from who-knows-where.



Australia continues to increasingly import an expanding array of wood products, notably from China, that we should be making here.

competence. What do you reckon?

This goes to a fundamental, ongoing problem that I thought

we might finally have wised up to during the Covid pandemic. That is the critical need to make basic essentials – like face masks and pharmaceuticals – domestically and not be completely reliant on imports at times when international supply chains are in turbulence and increasingly unreliable. We all acknowledged the need to build in some self-reliance in relation to the supply of essential goods there. What happened to that piece of genius?

So now we've abandoned the use of disposable plastic

items and replaced them with wooden products imported from China.

Manufactured with wood from who-knows-where. Perhaps the Congo Basin or Amazon, but I really suspect Russia! Who knows? As far as I can see, product labelling doesn't disclose this

information, despite Federal government illegal logging legislation and do-good environmental policies. There seems to be no interest in seeking answers to questions that might prove to be embarrassing.

It's frustrating that, when we in the forest industry are talking about growing more trees, stepping up domestic manufacturing, supporting related regional development and employment, we continue to increasingly import an expanding array of wood products that we should be making here. I reckon we should be doing something about this – what do you think?

Catch up again next month.

Cheryl

TRUNK LINES



With **CHERYL FORREST**

of manufacturing, so even here in Australia we should be capable of making these products. We have the wood resource and I would have thought the design capacity and manufacturing

ForestFit

Industry developed training and certification for forest contracting businesses

www.forestfit.com.au

KOMATSU

Creating value together



Komatsu Forest's Unique Forest Combinations

The Komatsu PC270HW & PC300HW Extreme models have been developed by collaboration between Komatsu Forest & Komatsu Osaka Factory.

Komatsu Forest Pty Ltd
11/4 Avenue of Americas
Newington NSW 2127 Australia
T: +61 2 9647 3600
E: info.au@komatsuforest.com

CLT Toolbox simplifies designing with mass timber

ONE of the major sticking points in the take-up of mass timber by designers and builders has been a lack of confidence in their familiarity with the materials. Those who have invested in education have gone on to significantly incorporate CLT, glulam and other mass timber into their builds, especially mid-rise, and are reaping the rewards.

CLT Toolbox removes this hurdle with its new structural design software for timber buildings. Developed with and in response to research from the supply chain and structural engineers across Australia, CLT Toolbox automates complex structural design computations, making it easier and more cost-effective for engineers to design and

build with these sustainable materials.

The team behind CLT Toolbox includes structural engineers and software engineers, all dedicated to the mission of making timber design easier than concrete and steel and eliminating embodied carbon. Founder and CEO Adam Jones is an ex-technical manager for XLam Australia and the company is grounded in practical experience.

“During my journey as a timber specialist, I've encountered several obstacles for aspiring timber engineers,” said Jones. “Our goal is to lower the entry barrier for designing timber structures by addressing these challenges.”

CLT Toolbox means that



Adam Jones, founder and CEO of CLT Toolbox, is a mass-timber specialist.

engineers no longer have to create multiple spreadsheets for mass timber materials, eliminating inaccuracies and obsolescent information. It also brings together materials information, guides and codes from around the world, rather than making the user search

for information. The design software is built on a timber-based ecosystem, which informs all approaches and ties to real-time supply chain data.

“By removing these barriers, we hope to see more engineers adopt sustainable materials, contributing to the elimination of embodied carbon in the construction industry for the betterment of humanity,” Jones said.

CLT Toolbox has beta-user programs set up for all the Tier 1 engineering firms across Australia/New Zealand and is commencing an early access rollout.

You'll find more information and a range of videos demonstrating different calculations at the company's website: clttoolbox.com.au.



2023 DANA - GINGKO SINGAPORE CONFERENCE 23 - 25 OCTOBER 2023



85% of speakers confirmed

DANA
International Forest Industry Advisors
GINGKO CONSULTING

GLOBAL WOODCHIP AND BIOMASS TRADE CONFERENCE & NETWORKING EVENT

2 day conference extended over three days to maximise networking opportunities

- Global macroeconomic situation in late 2023 and outlook
- Global market pulp situation and outlook
- Four regional pulp presentations: China, Latin America, Iberian Peninsula and Nordic/Scandinavia
- Global woodchip trade: regional end user and supplier updates
- European and Asia Pacific biomass trade regional updates
- The woodchip and biomass shipping industry
- Asia Pacific woodchip supply and demand balance predictions, 2023-2027
- A 'New Projects, New Products' panel

FOR WEBSITE [CLICK HERE](#) OR TO CONTACT ORGANISER [CLICK HERE](#)

Delaneys Hut rises from the ashes once more

More than 100 years after a timber hut in the Snowy Mountains was built, a descendant of its original owner is working to resurrect the historic shelter.

DELANEYS Hut sits in a clearing of bushland just east of Eucumbene River in Kosciuszko National Park. It was one of several historic huts in the region that were destroyed by the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires.

South Australian Paul Delaney became connected to the hut in an unexpected manner. "I used to ride through from Adelaide on my motorbike to visit my mother in Sydney, and this was a good stopping off point," he said. "I was curious about the name Delaney so I asked my uncle who was born in nearby Adaminaby, along with my father and the rest of his family. He told me it was my grandfather's cousin who built it."

That conversation started a life-long connection to the two-room hut, first built in 1910 by James Delaney who had an 810-hectare grazing lease in the Snowy Mountains.

Paul Delaney eventually became a caretaker for the hut. On New Year's Eve in 2019 he completed his annual maintenance check as fire took a hold of nearby countryside.

"The whole sky was black and red and I was driving into that and it was an eerie sort



Delaneys Hut has been rebuilt with more fire protections and is the latest of that name to shelter hikers in the national park.

of feeling," he said. "As I drove past the hut all I could say was, 'Good luck!'"

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) ranger Megan Bowden said the bushfire's aftermath was confronting. "There was nothing left other than a few stumps," she said, noting a sense of *deja vu* because the hut had previously burnt down in the 2003 Canberra bushfires.

"We recorded what was left and then, using the plans we'd used in 2003, we developed plans for rebuilding this one," she said.

Delaney, who helped rebuild the hut after the 2003

bushfire, has returned with many of the same workers for the second rebuild. This includes NPWS field supervisor Roger Rosenboom.

"When we first saw it, it was very disappointing," Rosenboom said. "But now, you can see it's all back — new timber joists, the roof, chimney, floor. I didn't need a plan this time because I still had it in my head."

The hut is being rebuilt

**“THE TIMBERS
HAVE ALL BEEN
TREATED WITH A
FIRE RETARDANT**

using timber salvaged from trees burnt in the fire. This time it will also have a few new features.

"The timbers have all been treated with a [fire] retardant and also we've got a watering system," Bowden said.

"There are sprinklers going on top of the roof and a water tank here, so we can actually connect a pump and provide extra water protection to the place."

Delaneys is the second of 11 huts in the park to be rebuilt after the Black Summer bushfires. Bowden said it was a long-term project for NPWS but one they were committed to. "It's been quite emotional," she said.

"We've had people dropping in and talking to us about their connections, coming with their families and their stories. It's why we're rebuilding. It's keeping those social connections going."

Delaneys Hut is expected to be officially reopened during April.

Source: abc.net.au

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

HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry eNews
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,
Australia
Phone // +61 (0) 417 421 187

PUBLISHERS

John Halkett // +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Dennis Neilson // +64 (0)7 349 2764
dana@dana.co.nz

EDITORS

Nicky Ainley // +61 (0) 410 538 034
news@timberandforestryenews.com
Donyale Harrison // +61 (0) 417 487 497
edit@timberandforestryenews.com

ADVERTISING

Campbell McInnes // +61 (0) 406 223 007
campbellm@timberandforestryenews.com
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

The information contained in this publication has been obtained from sources assumed to be reliable. However, the publishers disclaim all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability or adequacy of the information displayed. Opinions expressed in Timber & Forestry e news are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or staff. We do not accept responsibility for any damage resulting from inaccuracies in editorial or advertising. The publishers are therefore indemnified against all actions, suits, claims or damages resulting from content in this enews.

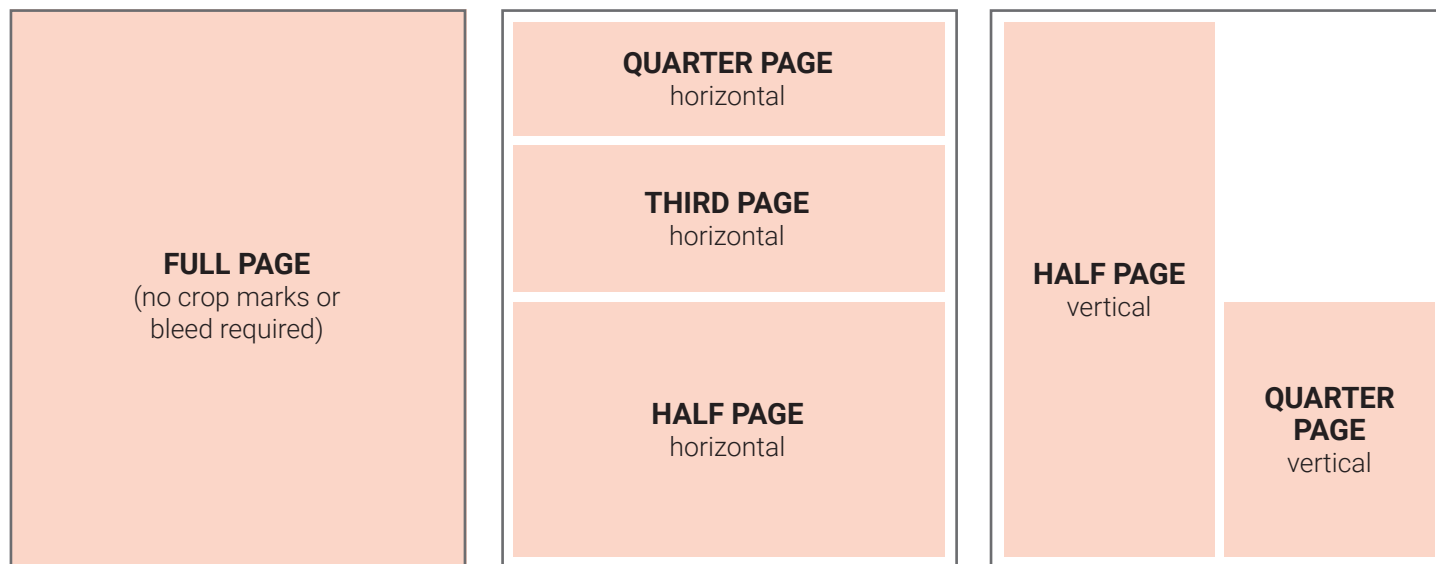
DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

ADVERTISING RATES

timber
& FORESTRY *e*NEWS

Now in its 15th year, Timber & Forestry eNews has grown to be the Number ONE online weekly news journal for the forest and forest products industries – across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

ADVERTISING SPECIFICATIONS



DISPLAY AD RATES

All pricing below is excluding GST and are based on a weekly booking. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

FULL PAGE: \$510

297mmH x 210 mmW

HALF PAGE: \$305

Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

QUARTER PAGE: \$195

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: \$225

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking
Horizontal • 32mmH x 200mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking
Horizontal • 45mmH x 50mmW

PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking
Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING JOB ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY

BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY
744pxH x 720pxW

TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5% 24 WEEKS: 10% 48 WEEKS: 15%

Timber & Forestry eNews is published by Timber Media Australasia
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision
makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK
and Europe.

DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 9am Tuesday prior to publication

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

Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETELY ONLINE.

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

BUY & SELL ADS ARE ONLINE AND IN THE PUBLICATION. Go to
www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/
to place an ad. **Book by 5.00pm Tuesday prior to publication.**

TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

WHO TO CONTACT

Media releases and editorial: Nicky Ainley e: news@timberandforestrynews.com and Donyale Harrison e: edit@timberandforestrynews.com

Display ad bookings: Campbell McInnes e: campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com // **Accounts:** Chris Parker e: cparker@ttnews.com.au