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COVER STORY P3



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New way Gippsland plantation will power the community



The go-ahead has been given for a wind farm to be constructed at HVP Plantations Gippsland.

THE first wind farm to be built on a plantation has been given a green light from the Victorian Government.

Following a Supreme Court challenge from a community alliance over the proposal, Justice Richards has ruled the Victorian Planning Minister's permit at the Delburn Wind Farm in the Strzelecki Ranges.

OSMI Australia Executive Director of Development, Peter Marriott said he was pleased with the Supreme Court outcome.

"This provides certainty for the Delburn Wind Farm to proceed, and we are actively working to bring the project into construction in early 2024. We are excited to be able to invest in the region and

create local jobs.

"We are now focused on getting on with building the wind farm and contributing to a much-needed transition to renewable energy for Latrobe Valley and Gippsland.

"The Delburn Wind Farm will produce renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and create local employment."

Overlooking the site of the dismantled Hazelwood Power Station, the Delburn wind farm project will be on plantation land in the Delburn area covering the HVP Plantations' Thorpdale tree farm.

The Delburn Wind Farm is expected to provide more than 186 full-time jobs during construction and 24 ongoing

jobs during the 30-year operational life of the wind farm.

With a commitment to hiring locals, the wind farm will deliver economic benefits for local suppliers, contractors, businesses and accommodation providers.

Mr Marriott said the Delburn Wind Farm would work with the community to ensure it delivers long-term benefits to the surrounding communities.

"We invite community members to join our Community Consultative Committee to help shape the generous neighbourhood profit-sharing scheme and community development fund.

"We want the local community to determine how the neighbourhood profit share scheme should be shared. This includes delivering approximately \$500,000 per annum directly to the neighbourhood area near the wind farm, on top of the committed \$150,000 community fund per annum.

Information updates are an important part of the Delburn Wind Farm community engagement program and will increase in frequency as the wind farm project develops.

The Delburn Wind Farm will work with local neighbours and surrounding communities to ensure they are informed of all activities in the delivery of the wind farm.



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Sarawak forest company ready to support Australia's future hardwood

WITH the closure of native forest-based operations in Victoria and Western Australia supplies of domestic high-quality hardwood timber products look like falling off a cliff.

Now the industry is having to look further afield for potential well-credentialed suppliers of hardwood timber products with the capacity to meet at least part of the likely future domestic demand.

In this regard, the Malaysian state of Sarawak would seem to be a strong contender to supply quality, compliant hardwood-based products, which in addition to solid hardwood, products also manufacture LVL and other engineered wood products, plywood, and particleboard.

A recent visit to standout Malaysian company Subur Tiasa Holdings Berhad (STH) in Sarawak provided a better understanding of the company's potential to assist Australia to meet its future hardwood-based timber product building and manufacturing needs.

Australian Timber Importers Federation general

“INDUSTRY HAS TO LOOK FURTHER FOR POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF HARDWOOD TIMBER PRODUCTS

manager John Halkett confirmed that STH produces high-quality plywood, particleboard and sawn timber built around its credibility as the leading wood-based production group with a commitment to quality.

“The company has earned a reputation as the preferred supplier to the construction and furniture industries in global markets with an impressive range of award-winning products.”

In 1988, Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King founded Subur Tiasa Plywood in Sibul, Sarawak. After weathering storms sparked by its modest beginnings, two decades later, Subur Tiasa has successfully established itself as Malaysia's leading manufacturer and exporter of a wide range of forest products that has since received global awards.

The period from 1995 to 2000 was an era of accelerated growth for STH with its particleboard business and upstream log harvesting activities



Australia business leader Hezi Refael inspect high-quality hardwood-based particleboard at a company manufacturing plant at Sibul, Sarawak with Daniel Tai, general manager Subur Tiasa Holdings Berhad.

accelerating, and a major milestone when STH was listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad in 1997.

First appointed to the Board in July 2001 and subsequently appointed as the managing director in October 2003, YBhg. Dato' Tiong Ing has more than 40 years hands-on experience, in-depth knowledge and an extensive network in the timber industry. She has also

been an Industry Advisory Council member of University College Technology Sarawak since April 2016.

Mr Halkett stated that STH had an extensive operational network consisting of fully vertically integrated activities, including reforestation projects.

“The company's hardwood-related manufacturing activities include plywood, particleboard, sawn timber, and charcoal. Reforestation efforts encompasses tree planting on areas under Malaysian licences for

planted forests,” he said.

STH reforestation activities are ongoing with a further 1,400 hectares established in 2021. Tree planting of both indigenous and introduced species including Acacia mangium, Eucalyptus pellita, teak, and bamboo continues.

On the cover: John Halkett, general manager, Australian Timber Importers Federation meets YBhg. Dato' Tiong Ing managing director, Subur Tiasa Holdings Berhad.

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Additional expert speakers announced for the 2023 industry conference

SEVERAL guest speakers have been added to the line up for National Timber and Hardware Association National Conference in May.

Tom Devitt, Senior Economist from the Housing Industry Association (HIA) will be a keynote speaker on The Economy & The Housing Industry.

Tom joined HIA in 2018 assisting in the research and analysis of housing market trends and manages the assumptions and statistical modelling behind HIA's residential building forecasts.

“INSIGHTS WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE TAKEAWAYS

He has authored many of HIA's wide range of economics publications. This provides him with the insight and expertise to advocate to all levels of government and media on behalf of the housing industry, for the purpose of informing policy debate.

During his presentation, Tom will be discussing the latest trends in the housing market and providing insights into how these trends are likely to effect the housing and construction industry.

“This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for anyone impacted by the housing market and the economic trends that shape it,” a spokesperson said. “Tom's



Tom Devitt, Senior Economist from the Housing Industry Association (HIA) will be a keynote speaker on The Economy & The Housing Industry.

expertise and insights are sure to provide valuable takeaways for understanding the sector, supporting your timber and hardware businesses and staying ahead of the curve in this rapidly evolving space.

“We look forward to welcoming Tom to our event and learning from his wealth of knowledge and experience to understand more about housing market trends.”

This year, the Conference will also feature a 45-minute presentation on Industrial Manslaughter, with a slight drift into Cat 1 offences hosted by the highly experienced Lawyer, Alan Girle.

Alan is an enrolled Solicitor and Barrister on the High Court roll, the Supreme Court rolls in Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the High Court roll in New Zealand.

He practises throughout Australia under a Queensland Practising Certificate. Alan has been in practice since

1991 and more recently has been recognised consecutively from 2014-2023 in the Doyle's Guide as a 'Leading Workplace Health & Safety Lawyer – Queensland'.

He has also been selected by his peers in consecutive years for inclusion in the 2014-2023, Editions of The Best Lawyers in Australia in the 'Occupational Health & Safety

Law' category.

“We are honoured to have Alan attend and present at the Conference,” a spokesperson said.

On top of this, there will be a Q&A session with Naomi Kemp, the Managing Director of Safe Expectations. Naomi will be giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion on the topic of industrial manslaughter.

The 2023 National Timber and Hardware Industry Conference will be held May 25-26 in the Hunter Valley, NSW. Tickets are now available.

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South Australia's FireKing tankers undergo upgrades

MAJOR upgrades to specialist firefighting equipment will underpin ForestrySA's commitment to community fire prevention, preparedness and response in the Adelaide Hills for many years to come.

ForestrySA's state-of-the-art FireKing fire tankers have undergone complete refurbishment after almost 20 years on the frontline protecting South Australian forests and communities.

The custom-built fleet was commissioned back in 2005 to meet the niche requirements of forest firefighting.

Built on the same tough chassis as the Australian Army's Bushmaster vehicles most recently deployed to the war in Ukraine, the appliances provide unrivaled crew protection and frontline fire access in plantations and steep terrain.

And now, after substantial investment in four ForestrySA FireKings, upgraded running gear, engine, electrics, fire equipment and additional crew safety features will see the appliances fit for duty for decades to come.

ForestrySA Chief Executive



ForestrySA's commitment to fire safety has been strengthened with the FireKing upgrades.

Julian Speed said the rebuild was an integral part of ForestrySA's broadscale commitment to community bushfire protection.

"As the South Australian Government's forest manager for almost 150 years, we take our role in regional fire protection very seriously", he said.

"We dedicate far more resources, time and effort than required just to protect our own commercial assets. At ForestrySA, we feel a responsibility to go above and beyond for the sake of our neighbours and our regional communities.

"Our newly fitted-out FireKings are now expected to provide at least 20 years of additional service.

"We have also worked proactively to provide five new 215,000L community water tanks across the Mounty Lofty Ranges, appliance upgrades for better compatibility with Country Fire Service (CFS) systems, and ongoing access to airstrips and storage facilities to support CFS operations."

Mr Speed said ForestrySA's long and at times devastating firefighting history had shaped current day decision-making.

"The tragedy of eight lives lost in the 1958 Wandilo forest fire, the devastation and destruction of the Ash Wednesday bushfires 40 years ago and more recently, at Cudlee Creek in 2019, will never be forgotten," he said.

"These events are poignant

lessons in resilience, innovation and forest firefighting, and have led to major improvements in fire equipment, training, communication, inter-agency cooperation and safety benchmarks."

Mr Speed said lessons from modern-day fire events, including findings from a review of the 2019-20 fire danger season in South Australia, had led to further change.

"We have further strengthened our collaboration with the CFS, aiming to offer specific plantation forestry firefighting expertise through increased involvement in Incident Management Teams," he said.

CFS Chief Officer Brett Loughlin said ForestrySA's contribution as a registered CFS fire brigade was invaluable to the state's fire protection efforts.

"The strong history of collaboration and mutual respect among our brigades and emergency service agencies means we are working efficiently towards the same goal – community safety and protection," he said.

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\$4.8 million for Victorian organisations to reuse and repair

SUSTAINABILITY Victoria is calling on businesses, industry groups, research institutions and charities interested in supporting the reuse and repair economy to apply for \$4.8 million in funding through the Victorian Government's Circular Economy Business Support Fund and the Circular Economy Innovation Fund.

The funding is available to those Victorian organisations looking to explore opportunities to design out

waste and extend the useful life of products.

These funds have so far fostered 36 projects with grants of more than \$7.1 million, including a zero-waste hub for olive growers, a circular economy action plan for Australia's clothing, a sustainable business model

for retired electric vehicle batteries and the transformation of surplus vegetables into healthy snacks.

Sustainability Victoria's interim CEO Matt Genever



Sustainability Victoria

Successful funding recipients can benefit from Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre.

said these grants are fostering business innovation, commercialisation and collaboration across supply chains to prevent waste, increase reuse and repair and generate new streams of revenue for businesses.

"This funding will stimulate innovation and commercialisation of circular solutions that create new jobs and improve environmental and economic outcomes for Victoria."

Successful funding recipients can benefit from Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre (CEBIC) which offers the chance to engage with past grantees, attendance at networking events, opportunities to collaborate and connect with other CEBIC stakeholders and promotion of the project and organisation.

Mr Genever said lessons learned from funded projects are shared with Victorian businesses to inspire more market creation and accelerate the

state towards a sustainable, thriving circular economy.

"We encourage business to explore the many opportunities and benefits the circular economy has to offer."

The Circular Economy Innovation Fund and Circular Economy Business Support Fund are part of the Victorian Government's \$380 million Circular Economy plan, Recycling Victoria: a new economy, whose targets include reducing total waste generation by 15% per capita by 2030.

For more information on these funding opportunities for business and industry visit: <https://www.cebic.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/grants-and-funding>

“STIMULATION OF INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION OF CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS”



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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/>



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NZ eucalypts: significant progress with seedlings and sustainability

PAUL Millen, project manager of the New Zealand Dryland Forests Innovation (previously 'Initiative') spoke to Timber & Forestry enews about some recent developments in the organisation's journey to develop a multi-regional hardwood industry based on planting durable eucalypts.

Mr Millen says beginning the year with an organisational name change "acknowledges that our project initiative has been successful. We have started commercial sales of our first generation of improved seedlings [brand name Xylogene] so growers can now establish new durable eucalypt forests with confidence that they are planting the best genetics available."

He notes that much was achieved via the Specialty Wood Products Research Partnership (2015-22) – a government/industry-funded R&D program that aimed to develop the supply chain and international markets for a number of alternative timbers to pine.

"There has been significant

progress with our tree breeding program, which resulted in the production of improved *E. bosistoana* and *E. globoidea* seed by 2020.

"There's also been important work right along the future supply chain – including the development of growth and heartwood modelling; site and species matching; wide-ranging wood processing/product research; and economic case studies to support our proposal for the planting of 12 regional wood supply catchments."

Additionally, Mr Millen is enthusiastic about a new Marlborough regional case study funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries (via its Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change fund).

"The aim is to evaluate how



Puketapu Forest, Marlborough: biosampling of 17-year-old E. globoidea.

new investment in planting naturally durable hardwood forests could contribute to sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Marlborough's wine industry through a sustainable supply of naturally durable posts, timber and biomass for bioenergy.

"Research is focusing on field measurement, LiDAR capture, and destructive sampling of trees in seven of NZDFI's Marlborough trials

in order to research total tree biomass production.

"The students and staff of the University of Canterbury's School of Forestry worked with local contractors who felled some 99 trees in various local NZDFI trials over the summer break – supported by the farm/forestry/vineyard landowners on whose

Cont P 9

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Professor Euan Mason and team measuring a felled eucalypt.

From P 8

properties the trials are located.

“This new data will provide the basis for Professor Euan Mason at the School of Forestry to extend his existing growth models for *E. bosistoana* and *E. globoidea* to include total biomass.

“Next steps include developing new models of tree growth utilising field data, and working with the landowners concerned to evaluate how durable eucalypts could contribute to their economic and environmental objectives. The project will largely be completed by the end of 2023.”

Mr Millen believes the possibility of converting durable eucalypts into

biomass is also showing promise elsewhere in New Zealand.

“We have identified Huntly [just south of Auckland] as a possible location to establish a hardwood supply catchment producing timber for the Auckland and Hamilton markets – as well as producing biomass for potential use by Genesis [at its coal- and gas-fired power station in Huntly].

“Recent work by Genesis to successfully test the use of black pellets has given them confidence that the pellets can be an excellent alternative to coal. It is still early days, but we think this warrants a full feasibility study and we’ve started to discuss options with Genesis.”

New sponsors announced for timber summit.

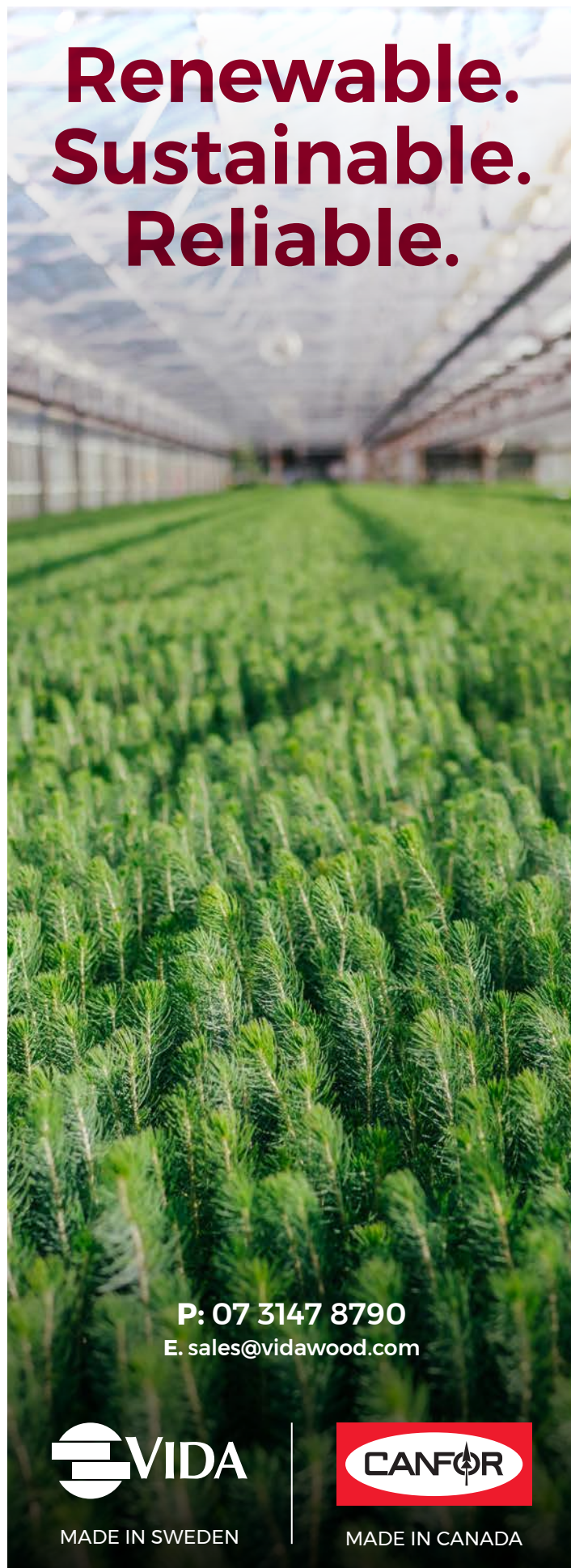
WE are pleased to announce two early sponsors for the Australian Timber Supply Summit to be held in Melbourne on 29-30 August 2023.



Please contact sponsorship@corpcomm.com.au for information on sponsoring this event.

The third installment of a four-part series on supply and demand in the timber industry as background to the summit will be published in next week’s edition.

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1/ Lumberline Laser was founded by Larry Clark in 1985.



2/ Lumberline founder Larry Clark puts in time on the electronics bench.

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WA pine fire management and recovery efforts

FOREST Products Commission is collaborating with firefighters from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA); and community volunteer brigades to manage bushfire on Western Australia's pine plantations.

During the bushfire season, Forest Products Commission (FPC) fire response crews are on call at all hours to work with firefighters from the DFES, DBCA, and community volunteer brigades to protect the State's valuable softwood timber assets from bushfires.

Western Australia's pine plantations are a long-term, State-owned investment, taking approximately 30 years



Viable timber is salvaged after the fire.

to reach maturity before being processed to supply 70% of the pine products used in the local housing and construction industry.

The loss of younger plantations before they reach maturity has an impact on future timber supplies, so bushfire management, planning, and response

are vital.

The FPC crews shift from response to recovery and salvage operations after the bushfire-affected sites are declared to be safe.

Following the fires in and around the pine plantations during this fire season, the FPC teams have been busy completing initial safety and

hazard assessments and working on how to salvage the damaged timber for maximum value.

For mature plantations, not all is lost because commercial timber products are often recoverable, even if they are burnt, for processing soon after the fire.

Clearing and replanting of sites are part of the regular life cycle for sustainable pine plantations.

If there is fire damage in plantations, the timing of clearing and replanting is brought forward.

The relevant teams adjust their scheduling to prepare any salvageable areas for the optimal planting season in July and August.

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Russian Segezha Group sells its European paper packaging plants

RUSSIAN Segezha Group closed a deal to sell its paper packaging plants in Europe, according to Mikhail Shamolin, the president of Segezha. He did not disclose the price of the transaction and the new owner of the plants.

The president of Segezha explained that the assets were sold due to the fact that against the backdrop of anti-Russian sanctions, the company could not support its operations.

CUSTOMERS REFUSED TO BUY THE PRODUCTS



The Russian company could not supply plants due to sanctions.

Segezha could not supply European plants with sack paper due to sanctions restrictions.

"On the other hand, these enterprises could not buy paper on the European

market, because the manufacturers refused to supply them with it, and customers refused to buy products, due to the fact that the assets are owned by a Russian company."

Segezha Packaging owned seven paper packaging plants located in Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Romania.

Segezhsy packaging mill (later became part of Segezha Group) acquired Korsnas Packaging for Euro 73.5 million in 2005. At that time, Korsnas was Europe's second-largest manufacturer of industrial paper sacks. It produced about 850 million paper sacks annually in nine countries. Korsnas Packaging had an annual turnover of approximately SEK 1,200 million (Euro 127.3 million).

Source: Esprom

Insects on the decline in German forests

THE number of insects has been declining for years. This has already been well documented for agricultural areas. In forests, however, temporal trends are mostly studied for insect species that are considered pests.

Forests in Central Europe have recently come to the public's attention due to their importance for climate mitigation and due to the omnipresent forest damage as a result of hot and dry summers. In addition to humans, many animal species depend on forest ecosystems, most of which are insects.

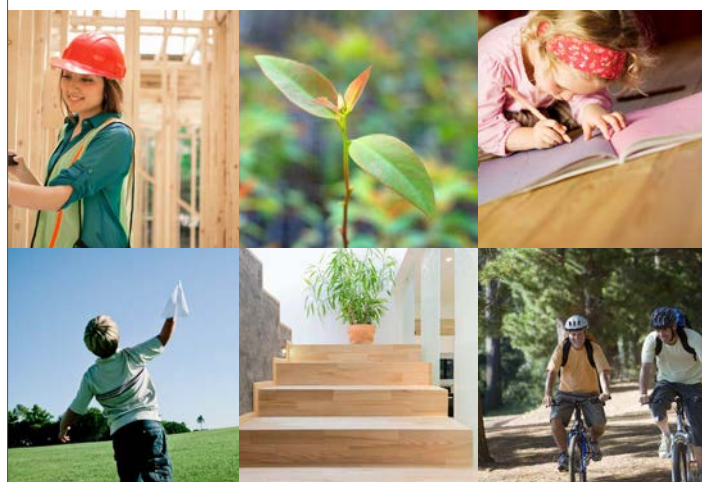
Insects are often considered only as pests in the forest, as is shown, for example, by reports on bark beetles or cockchafers.

While temporal changes in populations of potential insect pests are well studied, little is known about the status and trend of the many other fascinating insect species in forests.

Recently, a research team led by the Technical University Darmstadt have studied the trends of very many insect species in German forests.

A clear decline in forest species was demonstrated, with larger and more abundant species declining particularly. While slightly more species increased than decreased in herbivorous insects, significantly more species decreased in all other feeding types such as predators or deadwood decomposers.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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Australian Forest Products Association

Tassie forests in great shape report reveals

THE 2022 Tasmanian State of the Forests report, released last week, backs the forest industry's management of the state's forest assets and recognises the good work of the industry in protecting the environment.

Released every five years, the State of the Forest Report presents a quantifiable snapshot of the state of Tasmanian forest assets, both public and private, native and plantation.

The new snapshot shows the forest industry continues to manage the estate effectively and continues to be environmentally sound, according to Tasmanian Forest Products Association (TFPA) chief executive officer, Nick Steel.

"The Tasmanian forestry industry can be rightfully proud following the release of this report," Mr Steel said.

"This snapshot shows Tasmania's forests remain in great shape and backs the management of Tasmanian forests by the forestry

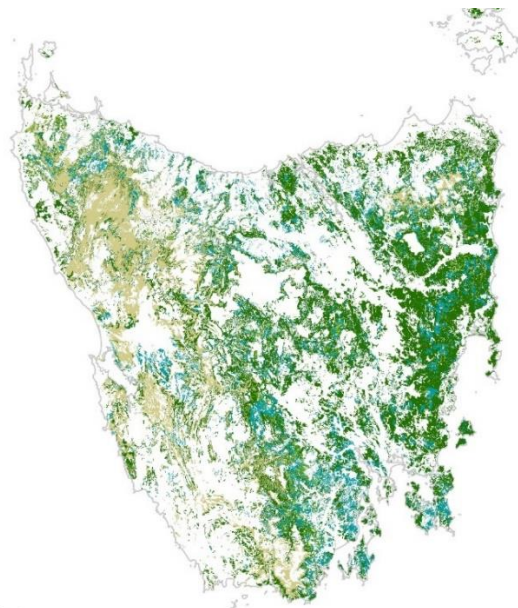
industry.

"It shows more pristine wilderness has been permanently protected across the state, and that our management of productive lands continues to protect Tasmania's unique flora and fauna.

"In fact, the report shows that 59% of our native forests, 99% of high-quality wilderness and 88% of old-growth forests are protected in the reserve network."

Mr Steel also said the report shows that Tasmanian forestry is key in the state's commitment to carbon neutrality.

"The report actually shows that the carbon sequestration has fallen, as more land is protected and matures," Mr Steel said.



■ Mature forest
■ Regrowth forest
■ Regeneration forest
■ Unknown

Latest report supports the good work of the forest industry

"By carefully managing forestry in appropriate areas it means we can increase our state's carbon storage credentials.

"On productive land, every tree is replanted or regenerated and will sequester carbon as it grows.

"That carbon then remains in the wood for the life of its use, proving once again that forestry really is the ultimate renewable.

"This is because mature forests don't capture carbon at the same rate of growing forests.

TFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

"Forestry is a key component in the economic and environmental success story of Tasmania, and the industry is pleased its work has been recognised by this report."

REPORT BACKS MANAGEMENT BY FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Housing supply worsens as demand increases

"THE Government is set to fall well short of their goal of building one million homes over five years according to today's report from their peak housing advisory body (NHFIC)," stated Tim Reardon, HIA's chief economist Tim Reardon said this week.

It follows the release of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation's 'State of the Nation Housing 2022-23'. The report highlights that the under supply of housing is set to worsen

as demand continues to outpace supply.

"Every state and territory need to take action to attract more investment in the housing sector to improve the supply of new homes," Mr Reardon said.

"The NHFIC Report expects around 180,000 new households to form each year, but less than 150,000 new homes to commence construction each year for the next two years.

"Over the decade, this



Tim Reardon,
chief
economist
for HIA.

will see an expected 79,300 shortfall in the supply of new homes," he continued.

"This will see the acute rental shortage worsening and unnecessarily high increases in home prices.

"The Report also highlights

that to meet the accelerated demand for new homes, there needs to be an increase in the number of apartments commencing construction.

"At the same time, the cost of new apartments is set to increase in 2023 with new regulatory costs imposed through building regulations.

"These regulatory costs are in addition to the increased cost of labour and materials that increased rapidly over the last two years," Mr Reardon said.

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Everland names Space Intelligence in data partnership

EVERLAND, a company representing the biggest portfolio of high-quality REDD+ forest conservation projects in the world, has named Space Intelligence as its main data partner. Everland will use state-of-the-art technology and data from Space Intelligence to build a comprehensive view of changes in land cover across three continents covering a portfolio of site-based REDD+ projects and their surrounding regions.

"Working with Space Intelligence will help us extend our capabilities and further our goal of using data to promote REDD+ as a scalable mechanism to deliver conservation returns and benefits to communities whose livelihoods depend on healthy forests and the ecosystem services they safeguard," said Everland president Josh Tosteson.

"Through this multi-year partnership, we will mutually pursue an ambitious evidence-based research agenda focused on assessing the effectiveness of the REDD+ mechanism in realising measurable forest conservation outcomes."

Space Intelligence is currently providing mapping services for a portfolio of



projects across Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

"We've worked with the Everland team on individual projects for a number of years. We're excited to be moving forward to work with Everland to accelerate our global impact in a long-term partnership," said chief executive Dr Murray Collins.

"Our team has a very strong scientific heritage in the field of forest monitoring, publishing over 100 scientific papers in this domain. We offer best-in-class digital Monitoring, Reporting and Verification products to support forest conservation and restoration projects globally. We're very proud that our products are delivering value to Everland,



and thereby making a real difference to the greatest challenges of our time - climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty alleviation."

Everland represents the world's largest portfolio of high-impact forest conservation (REDD+) projects in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Everland brings forest communities and corporations together in a common cause to protect some of the world's most important and vulnerable forests. Visit: www.everland.earth.

1/ The partnership will better support communities reliant on healthy forests.
2/ Everland provides high-quality REDD+ forest conservation projects in the world

Space Intelligence is the leading provider of nature data and digital monitoring systems for nature-based solutions (NBS). They work with project developers and NGOs to identify and develop new NBS projects, and monitor them over time. They also work with large corporates and asset managers to offer due diligence and digital MRV for portfolios of NBS projects designed to achieve Net Zero/ESG commitments. Their technologies are created using advanced multi-sensor satellite data fusion and analytics in a machine-learning framework, and are informed by deep expertise in tropical ecology.

Timber Industry faces changes to staffing ahead of Easter

A DECISION from the Federal Court on 28 March 2023 has overturned the conventional approach to rostering employees on public holidays causing some chaos for businesses. The impact of the decision on employers rostering employees to work public

holidays is immediate and significant.

The decision follows a review by the Federal Court where they considered a roster issued by OS MCAP that required 85 employees to work Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The employees worked at a mine that

operates 24 hours per day and 365 days per year.

As a result of the decision, employers must "request" employees work a public holiday before they are required to work the holiday (including by way of a roster). A failure to request that the public holiday be

worked (in advance of any direction/requirement to work the holiday) will render the working of the holiday unlawful and in breach of the Fair Work Act.

The principles apply immediately, which means they will affect work over the Easter long weekend.

Career boost for Queensland forest and industry with "Canopy"

EARLIER this week, the Queensland Government announced that Timber Queensland has been successful in a one-year \$980,000 funding application to establish "Canopy", a forest and timber industry training and career hub.

Timber Queensland's Strategic Relations & Communications Manager Clarissa Brandt said the hub will bring together industry, employers, training providers and employment agencies to deliver training and career education programs and work experience opportunities for school leavers, unemployed and existing staff looking to upskill or retrain.

"Global trends in technology, sustainable development and a movement towards the circular economy are driving increased demand for timber manufactured and waste products. These developments mean new job opportunities in all segments of the supply chain, supplementing the more traditional roles that will continue to underpin our growing industry," said Clarissa Brandt.

Mrs Brandt said despite growing demand the sector is facing substantial challenges to recruiting, training and



From little things big things grow. Hervey Bay SHS students on the Grow, Harvest & Process Industry Schools Tours the Canopy Training & Career Hub will expand in 2023.

retaining suitably skilled and qualified workers.

"Current skill shortages and lack of a pipeline of future workforce entrants is a major constraint on the growth of an efficient and effective forest and timber industry across Queensland," said Clarissa Brandt.

"Canopy – a first for Queensland's industry - will provide co-ordinated state-wide industry attraction, retention and training programs, trial new information technology platforms to deliver micro-credentials and drive gains in productivity and efficiency," she said.

"Timber Queensland is pleased to be able to implement this significant project over the next twelve

months as we start to address some of the long-term workforce development needs of the industry. This exciting project will provide services to the full industry supply chain across the Wide Bay, Moreton Bay, Central Queensland, and Far North Queensland regions."

Canopy will focus on ensuring a good match of knowledge and practical skills of trainees and graduates with qualifications with current industry requirements.

"We are partnering with

“ IT WILL ASSIST LONG-TERM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

experienced operators to deliver two Master Tree Grower Programs, conduct a trial of a Digital Microcredentials System with relevant training for the harvest and haulage sector and implement Pre-Employment Training for wood processors in targeted regions."

Mrs Brandt said Canopy staff will visit schools and job expos across the state promoting career awareness and showcasing the wide variety of opportunities available within the industry.

"The hub will work with schools and training providers to deliver high-quality career education opportunities such as the Introduction to the Forest & Timber Industry: Grow, Harvest & Process Industry Schools Tours which have already been provided in the Hervey Bay, Gympie and Maryborough regions.

"These tours have been very successful in engaging student interest in our industry, Canopy will expand these tours plus develop an associated Grow, Harvest & Process Work Experience Program."

This project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Workforce Connect Fund.

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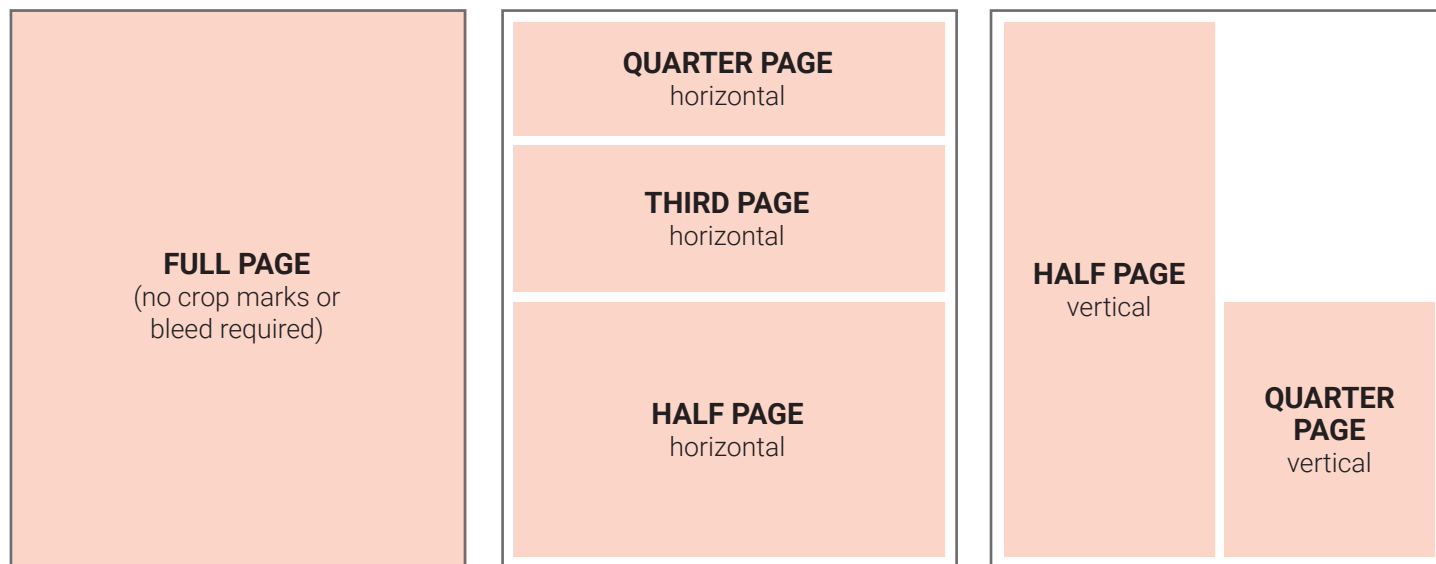
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