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COVER STORY P3



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Forestry crews still without work following Cyclone Gabrielle

TWO months on from Cyclone Gabrielle smashing the east coast of the North Island, some forestry crews are still without work and consistent wet weather is slowing down the recovery on farms Radio NZ reports.

There was huge damage to forestry estates in Tai Rāwhiti and Hawke's Bay - and while many crews are back to work, others are waiting.

Forest Industry Contractors Association chief executive Prue Younger said about 60 workers have in fact had no work for nearly four months and the contracting business owners are bleeding money.

"Some of those crews have actually had no work since Christmas due to export market demand and because of the infrastructure damage, they're not able to access skid sites, and I know contractor companies are paying out of their back pockets to keep their crews going.



1/ Forestry slash on the beach in Gisborne after Cyclone Gabrielle. Photo: Manu Caddie



2/ Wairoa from the air shows flood waters and mud throughout the town. Photo: Nathan McKinnon

"Unfortunately, funding from MBIE and MPI hasn't been able to cover those costs and I know that they're really struggling, but working with the wood council up there, there's certainly some traction and understanding that they need some extension on that funding."

When asked when crews would be back at work in Tai Rāwhiti, Younger said there were no clear indications of when that will happen.

But she said it was a different story in Hawke's Bay where logging contractors have found alternative work for crews such as civil roading recovery projects.

"Infrastructure-wise, it's still taking some time to get some roads open, especially to those

"SOME CREWS HAVE ACTUALLY HAD NO WORK"

high country plantations but all the contractors I've spoken to down there (say) they've found alternative work for their crews.

"And the export of logs has ramped back up. The port has been quite busy over the last couple of weeks, so there is plenty of harvesting happening."

Local farmers are suffering similar situations with wet weather holding up recovery.

Source RNZ

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Tallest full-scale building ever built on an earthquake simulator put to the test

A 10-STORY building made of cross-laminated timber will be tested on one of the world's two largest earthquake simulators at the University of California San Diego. Known as the Tallwood project, it is the tallest full-scale building ever to be constructed and tested on an earthquake simulator, or shake table.

The tests are scheduled to start in late April. The shake table will simulate earthquake motions recorded during prior earthquakes covering a range of earthquake magnitudes on the Richter scale, from magnitude 4 to magnitude 8, including various iterations of the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake which struck Los Angeles in 1994. This will be done by accelerating the table to at least 1g, which could accelerate the top of the building to as much as 3gs. For reference, on average, modern roller coasters produce 4g of peak acceleration.

The shake table can carry and shake structures weighing up to 2000 metric tons, or 4.5 million pounds—roughly the weight of 1300 sedan cars. This makes it the earthquake simulator capable of carrying the largest payload in the world. It's also the only large-scale earthquake table

On the cover: Keri Ryan, engineering professor at the University of Nevada with the TallWood project.

Photo: David Baillot/UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering



The Tallwood project will put to the test a 10-story, full-scale, cross-laminated timber building to assess seismic safety.

in the world located outdoors.

The table was recently upgraded thanks to USD17 million in National Science Foundation (NFS) funding and is now able to reproduce the full 3D ground motions that occur during earthquakes when the ground is moving in all six degrees of freedom — longitudinal, lateral, vertical, roll, pitch and yaw. It is part of NSF's Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure network eight

experimental facilities support innovative research for mitigating damage caused by hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, wind storms, storm surge, and flooding.

"The combination of the largest payload capacity in the world, an outdoor setting, and the newly added six-degrees-of-freedom shaking capability make the UC San Diego shake table a powerful and unique facility," said Joel

Conte, principal investigator of the NSF funded UC San Diego NHERI shake table upgrade as well as operation and maintenance projects and a professor in the Department of Structural Engineering at the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering. "It's the only place where the Tallwood tests could happen."

The Tallwood building was built at full-scale, meaning that it is indeed 10 stories tall, topping off at 35.5 metres—roughly one-fifth of the height of the National Monument in Washington, D.C.

Fire blazes at Canadian paper mill

A FIRE has been extinguished in a Canadian paper mill over the Easter weekend.

Fire crews from Quesnel Fire Department were dispatched on Monday (April 10) at about 12:35 pm to West Fraser's pulp mill. They had multiple sites to douse with water. QFD announced their completion of the incident at 2:30 p.m. Initial indication is, the fire spread via ductwork. The potential cause of the fire is not yet disclosed, thankfully there were no reported injuries to QFD personnel.

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Timber demand and supply – the challenge for 2023

Hardwood supply even more challenging.

The third instalment in a four-part series on supply and demand in the timber industry as a background to the critical timber supply summit to be held in Melbourne on 29 and 30 November, 2023, in Australia. JOHN HALKETT

IN relation to high-quality hardwoods, the situation is much more catastrophic. While noting that hardwoods are not now universally used, as they were in the past for structural applications, with engineered wood products now supplying these applications, it is clear that politically



Continuing high demand by Australian consumers is placing increasing pressure on developing countries in Southeast Asia to plug the supply gap that could and should be filled from domestic sustainably managed hardwood forests.

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motivated pledges by Labor state governments in Victoria and Western Australia to shut down sustainable native forest-based hardwood production will have a dramatic impact on the supply side.

In a not an unsurprising demonstration of political cynicism aimed at inner-city green-leaning voters that Labor state governments in Victoria and Western Australia are happy to sacrifice regional communities to prop up their support in inner-city electorates. Labor knows that regional businesses and community folks don't, as a rule, vote for Labor anyway so they are considered acceptable collateral damage.

Of course, shutting down regional businesses reliant on forestry and the timber industry is bad news for wider regional biodiversity and forestry practice. Continuing high demand by affluent Australian consumers places increasing pressure on developing countries in Southeast Asia to plug the supply gap that could and should be filled from domestic sustainably managed hardwood forest resources.

Because of the ongoing lack of investment in softwood plantation development an increasing dependence on imported timber products has become routine for the Australian building and construction industry. This has resulted in a notable increase in reliance on Northern Hemisphere softwoods, particularly

“THE HARDWOOD SITUATION IS MORE CATASTROPHIC

From P 4

for house construction and other structural applications. This was a strategy that was working until the Russian invasion of Ukraine which has severely impacted softwood supplies across Europe. Timber importers are now scrambling to identify and develop alternative sources of softwood supply, including from South America and Africa.



A lack of investment in softwood plantation development an increasing dependence on imported timber has become routine for the Australian building and construction industry.

and African prospective hardwood suppliers are yet to be tested.

Clearly in the interests of regional Southeast Asian biodiversity and Australian regional businesses and employment, reversing Victorian and Western Australian decisions to abandon sustainable forest management practices and

continue to supply hardwood timber products from native forests seems compellingly rational. Logically as a responsible regional partner Australia should not be in the business of exploiting our near neighbours, but should aim at being at least self-sufficient, including increasing domestic manufacturing capability.

With demand likely to accelerate from about the middle of 2023, unless importers pull several rabbits out of their hats supply will tighten markedly and prices are likely to continue the upward trend seen in 2022.

In relation to hardwoods, in the medium term, beyond the closure of domestic hardwood production

in Victoria and Western Australia, hardwood supplies will be even more problematic with doubts about the capacity of Southeast Asian suppliers, notably Indonesia and Malaysia to ramp up their production to plug Australia's demand gap. Further, illegal logging regulations, certification and other compliance requirements mean that South American

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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.



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Mass timber has arrived!

Report by Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, for Woodcentral.



Over 3,000 attendees gather for largest-ever mass timber conference.



Mass timber displays, axe throwing, interactive research stations – showcasing the latest in mass timber research.

WOW! Who would have thought so many people would be interested in mass timber?

More than 3000 delegates from 35 countries flocked to the Mass Timber Conference

in Portland, Oregon.

This is unbelievable ... mass timber has arrived.

The conference in its 7th year has grown from its humble beginnings of around 250 attending.

The topics this year were diverse, covering the entry of minority groups into mass timber design to developers' perspective on mass timber.

Even this old timber engineer learnt something.

The exhibition was also fantastic. So many mass timber suppliers and associated businesses offered services and products to make mass timber use easy. There was even a demonstration of mass timber being installed and because it was mass timber it went up quickly.

A highlight of the conference was an axe-throwing demonstration that

started open when the beer was being served. Nothing could go wrong with that mix.

FRERES MASS PLYWOOD PANELS

One of the finds of the trip was Mass Plywood Panels (MPP). This is a veneer based cross-laminated timber (CLT). Maybe if CLT was developed in north America, CLT would have looked like MPP.

Anyhow, MPP is a 25mm lamella used to construct the panels. Each lamella is constructed of 9 layers of 3.7mm veneer. These thin layers are engineered and oriented to enhance

Cont P 10



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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 News 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

SEPTEMBER

11-12: Timber Off-Site Construction Conference – Crown Promenade Melbourne. The theme for 2023 is "Timber & Technology – The Zero Carbon Future". For more information visit www.timberoffsitestructure.com

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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Forestry slash – solutions need to be acceptable to local communities

THE ministerial inquiry into past and current land use practices in the Tairāwhiti/Gisborne (East Coast) and Wairoa districts is currently underway – with the report due to be delivered to ministers no later than 30 April. Timber & Forestry enews took the opportunity to ask Dr Tim Payn (principal scientist, Scion) about the historical context and possible solutions to slash and silt erosion problems.

Dr Payn says that Cyclone Bola in 1988 caused huge amounts of erosion from the steep and highly erodible fine-textured soils in the region.

“Tree cover was seen as a key mitigation and significant areas were planted for protection purposes” – often under the auspices of incentive schemes.

“Cutting rights to the forests were sold to investors when the New Zealand Forest Service was disestablished, and since then forests have been managed for production. Subsequent storms in 2018 and this year have highlighted issues with both forestry [slash] and



1/ **Woody debris being collected before chipping.** Photo: Eastland Wood Council

2/ **Dr Tim Payn: “There is a need to investigate different harvesting approaches from both an environmental and economic perspective.”**



farming [erosion, silt].”

He notes that under the Resilient Forests Research Programme, Scion is seeking “to ensure the long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability of forestry by creating forests that are more resilient to future uncertainty”.



As part of the Integrated Bioenergy Portfolio, the organisation is assessing volumes and potential uses of in-forest post-harvest residues as large industries look for sustainable

alternative energy sources to coal and gas.

“Combining small-scale distributed technologies to overcome the transport cost challenge is an immediate opportunity.” This could come in the form of portable ‘mini-factories’ to process forestry waste on-site – to create new, high-value products like energy fuels, materials, and chemicals.

Julian Elder, Scion’s chief executive officer, says that to date the technology has not been considered financially viable.

“But when you factor in downstream impacts [of woody debris], then it might change the economics.”

Dr Payn notes that a number of practices to mitigate slash events have been ramped up since 2018 – including retiring

Cont P 9

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The Panel for the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use visiting some of the vulnerable landscapes on the East Coast. Photo: Eastland Wood Council

From P 8

high-risk areas, the use of wider riparian reserves, and installing natural slash catchers.

“One technology I’m aware of is a new slash grapple rake to help with management of slash [placing the debris precisely in designated areas].”

Meantime, Forest Growers Research has been looking at a number of issues related to slash management.

“These include using a helicopter and grapple to extract slash from deep gullies; and operating fixed head versus dangle head feller bunchers, which will reduce felling breakage.

“The use of tethered feller bunchers on steep slopes [replacing manual felling] should be having an impact on felling breakage.”

Dr Payn says that, despite recent issues, this is not necessarily the end of clearfelling on the East Coast. “There is, however, a need to investigate different harvesting approaches from both an environmental and economic perspective. Options such as continuous cover and small coupe extraction are possible. But more information is needed on these methods, and what they require in terms of infrastructure.

“The potential for managed

retreat will be informed by the results of the ministerial inquiry. Any approaches will need to be socially acceptable to the local communities.”

Mark Bloomberg (School of Forestry, University of Canterbury) notes that erosion-susceptible land that is immediately planted after clear-felling still faces a six-year window of vulnerability to high-intensity rainfall events.

“Does the industry have the will to find self-imposed solutions? I think part of the problem is that what should be protection forests are owned and managed as commercial forests,” Bloomberg said.

“It’s a pretty big ask for commercial foresters, reporting to investors, to cut their profits down by a factor of 2-4 in order to manage these forests as they should be managed. But, based on my experience, that’s what needs to happen.

“Foresters typically seek a 6-10 percent annual return on investment. For stepland protection forests, with some careful harvesting and some areas in the permanent forest, my guess is that you’d be lucky to make a 1-2 percent annual return. If foresters were paid a fair price for avoided erosion, that would be a different story ... but I don’t see this happening,” he said.

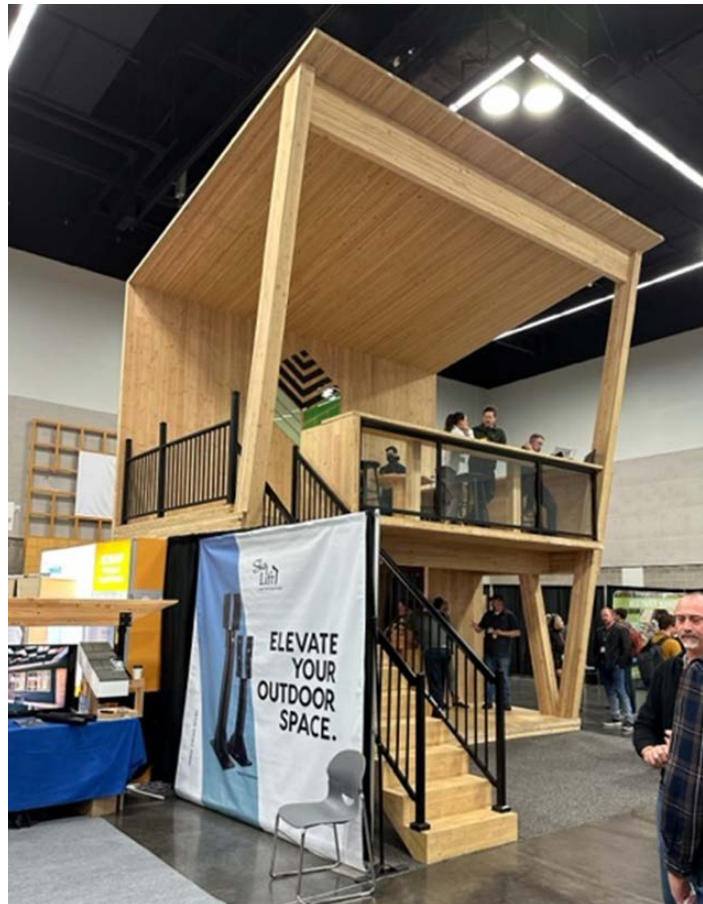
From P 6

the natural strength and dimensional stability of the wood. Floor, roof and wall panels can be manufactured as large as 3.6m wide and 14.6m long. Panels thicknesses are available in 25 mm increments from 50mm to 300mm.

A GLOBAL MASS TIMBER COMMUNITY

As a guest of the American Plywood Association and the American Agricultural Service, the highlight of the event for me was networking. Meeting colleagues from around the world and some from home. Colleagues talked about sharing experiences and resources.

Amanda Sturgeon CEO from the Build by Nature summed it up. Amanda said that different regions of the world were at different stages of their mass timber



The two-storey mass plywood lounge was popular with presenters, exhibitors and delegate alike.

journey and facing different challenges at different times.

Cooperation between the regions can help mass timber grow even further.

The Timber Off-Site Construction conference, which will be hosted in Melbourne, Australia 11 and 12 September 2023, provides an ideal opportunity for the community to build on the momentum from Portland.

The theme for 2023 is “Timber & Technology – The Zero Carbon Future” and will build on the themes discussed in a number of the conferences keynote presentations.

The conference is now accepting partnership, sponsorship and exhibition proposals and before registrations open up for delegates.

Visit <https://timberoffsiteconstruction.com> for more information.

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Future of sawmills remain unknown

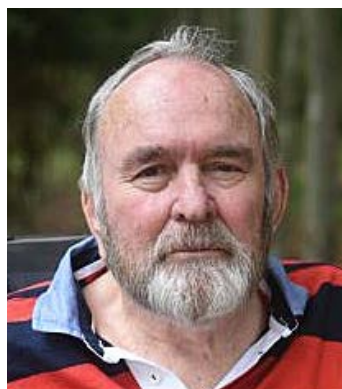
TWO family-owned sawmills remain in the dark as they wait for official tenders to be opened.

It comes following the licences between the sawmills and OneFortyOne come to an end on June 30 this year with the forest plantation owners reiterating it will not automatically renew the contracts.

After reviewing its resources, OneFortyOne plantations advised sawmill owners there was a potential end to licences with an official document being sent out stating any contracts which expired prior to June 2025 would not be automatically renewed.

These licences include the two sawmills in Mount Gambier/Berrin which employs a total of 130 personnel and processes 165,000 tonnes of material per annum.

OneFortyOne executive



South Australian Timber Processors Association chief executive officer David Quill says the main concern was that the sawmills had been advised there would be a reduction in June this year.

general manager Cameron MacDonald said in October 2021, the plantation communicated its Green Triangle Forest Resource outlook to customers and stakeholders.

"In that communication we committed to run a market tender for any surplus volumes that might become available during the period to June 30,



OneFortyOne Executive General Manager Cameron MacDonald said the plantation communicated its Green Triangle Forest Resource outlook to customers and stakeholders.

2025," Mr MacDonald said.

"In line with this commitment, we have already informed customers that we will be running a market tender shortly for medium-large diameter sawlog for one year of volume through to June 30, 2024."

Mr MacDonald said there were several other forest growers in the Green Triangle

region and OneFortyOne "understood a competitive market tender for significant volumes" was recently completed for the "near to medium" term while noting a number of processors were successful in securing fibre.

South Australian Timber Processors Association chief executive officer David Quill said the main concern was the sawmills had been advised there would be a reduction in June this year with uncertainty as to what alternative there would be.

"The reason behind the reduction is essentially with ongoing inventory of the plantations and previous sales, whether they went to domestic or overseas markets, previous sales have diminished the availability," Mr Quill said.

He stated exportation of sawlog had also "played a huge part" in the issue with it being

Cont P 14



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Architects "debunk" four mass timber myths

US-BASED LEVER Architecture has published a new report in collaboration with engineering firm Atelier Ten addressing what the authors call "common myths about mass timber construction."

The report, in which the firms describe and debunk four myths related to mass timber, hopes to "promote a more nuanced discussion in the industry to truly capture the potential wood has to offer."

The first myth addressed by the report is that "mass timber buildings are carbon neutral." The team note that while mass timber construction can be an important pathway toward carbon neutrality, other critical factors need to be considered. In particular, the team warns that many aspects of a building's life cycle are often not captured in analyses on carbon neutrality giving an "incomplete picture of the carbon footprint."

For design teams seeking to achieve a carbon-neutral building, the report suggests pushing for more transparency from manufacturers on the carbon footprint of interior products and mechanical equipment through initiatives such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

The report's second myth is that "wood is always more sustainable than concrete." The authors note that solely utilizing wood products "does not automatically make buildings more sustainable" and that it is important to take into account material sourcing and other emission sources such as transportation.

"From a pragmatic standpoint, there is a major flaw in the assumption that wood is always more sustainable than concrete and steel," the report reads. "All wood buildings literally



1/ A mass timber design from LEVER wins the Portland Museum of Art expansion competition.



2/ A new CTBUH study on tall mass timber gives us a look at the impacts of the material industry-wide.

rely heavily on their concrete (and steel) components for foundations, cores, or as toppings on mass timber floor systems." The report instead suggests that design teams capitalize on strategies for optimizing both wood and concrete technologies when evaluating a project's carbon impact and take advantage of the unique properties of each material.

The third myth addressed by the report is that "mass timber buildings absorb carbon emissions." The team instead notes that "trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere" and that "timber buildings hold carbon absorbed by trees, but timber buildings do not actively absorb carbon."

While the report notes that mass timber is growing in popularity due to its ability to store carbon sequestered from trees before their harvesting, the authors recommend that design teams source timber that is FSC certified to ensure that forest carbon stocks are not depleted. The authors also suggest that consideration is given to the end-of-life treatment of the timber to ensure as much carbon as possible remains sequestered following a building's dismantling or demolition.

The report's final myth is that "all wood is good wood."

Echoing similar sentiments from the previous myth,

the team notes that "wood products are only as good as the forestry practices associated with those products" and that "unless we ask how forests are being managed, we have no way of knowing if a wood product is helping or hindering progress."

Addressing the final myth, the team also suggests that design teams use their material choices to inform what types of forests are

supported and expanded and design buildings that utilize FSC-certified wood from those forests.

"We should support forests that are managed for longer harvest rotations, with multi-age class stands that are proven to be more ecologically valuable, wildfire resilient, and better able to store carbon in the long term," the team concludes.

Source: Archinect

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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From P 11

the material needed by local sawmills.

OneFortyOne ceased exporting sawlog in 2017 and claimed it would not until 2025.

“The growers here have ceased exporting but there are other growers who may not have ceased,” Mr Quill said.

Mr Quill and parties involved have also protested against the 2017 decision made by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) supporting OneFortyOne’s purchase of the Jubilee Highway Sawmill.

The ACCC announced it would not oppose OneFortyOne’s purchase of the sawmill despite concerns expressed by industry participants about the proposed transaction.

The ACCC concluded it would be “unlikely to substantially lessen competition”, it stated.

Mr Quill said the ACCC was contacted because the parties involved felt OneFortyOne was affecting the competition with the two sawmills at risk and asked the ACCC to revisit the situation.

He said the State Government could also assist in securing the future of the sawmills by revisiting the lease agreement with OneFortyOne which was signed in 2012.

“I agree the government is limited with their intervention but limited intervention is better than no intervention,” Mr Quill said.

“I believe the government could revisit the lease agreement of the forest and look at potential clauses which could give the forest owners flexibility because it is not set in stone and there is still hope for the two sawmills.”

He said the important thing people needed to realise at the moment was trees continued to grow all the time and as the housing market eased, the supply of trees did also.

“This could give the potential for the release of more sawlog,” Mr Quill said.

“I do believe one of the sad things was the Legislative Council inquiry into the timber industry wasn’t published before the government went into caretaker mode as well, because I believe had it been published then, things would have been looked at more favourably.”

He said parties involved had spoken to previous and current state governments with the discussions indicating there was an opportunity for some relief from the situation.

“This is something which can be avoided, should be avoided and I believe it could be avoided,” he said.

“I also believe there is enough time and all parties concerned have the authority and the ability to keep this situation at bay.”

Mr Quill said the various parties needed to review the overall situation and “forget about any political or business focuses” and predominantly think about the region and its continued sustainability for the future.

“These sawmills hadn’t been built up out of nothing,” he said.

“They are here for future generations and this isn’t something we should just ignore.

“The trees were planted and the forests were grown to benefit South Australia.”

Minister for Forestry Clare Scriven said there was a huge demand for timber nationally and internationally following the 2019-2020 bushfires in New South Wales and Victoria which increased the pressure on timber supply.

“This has led to intense competition for timber resources,” Ms Scriven said.

“OneFortyOne’s lease with the South Australian government has extensive

conditions and requirements designed to ensure the plantation resources continue to generate benefits for the South Australian economy.”

She said this included the plantation’s match to Forestry SA’s level of planned viable domestic supply, processes for uncontracted sawlog sales where local sawmills were able to compete with exporters on price, no restrictions on the length of contracts for local sawmills or sawlog contracts not to exceed two years and annual reports to the government on how conditions are met.

“OneFortyOne’s compliance with its contract conditions is monitored closely by the State Government with investigations and reviews undertaken regularly,” she said.

“I have sought advice from the ACCC about any potential parameters which could be put in place to boost timber access for local processors and met with the SATPA...as the State Government is keen to look at ways to improve accessibility of log supply for small scale timber processors.

“The aim is to increase timber supply in the region, diversify farm incomes, drive further regional investment by the forest industry and provide additional economic stimulus for regional communities.”

Source: Borderwatch

“THE AIM IS TO INCREASE TIMBER SUPPLY IN THE REGION



Economy, forest sector jobs, sustainable forest management

THE Biden-Harris Administration has announced that \$33.7 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will fund projects to strengthen the wood products economy and promote sustainable forest management in the United States.

This investment supports a crucial link between resilient, healthy forests and strong rural economies and jobs in the forestry sector, especially in communities that depend on national forests and grasslands to grow and thrive.

"Healthy forests depend on a healthy forest products industry and as the nation faces an ongoing wildfire crisis, it is more important than ever to invest in sustainable forest management across all lands," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "These investments will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, support existing jobs, and create new economic opportunities

“HEALTHY FORESTS
DEPEND ON A
HEALTHY FOREST
PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY

in tribal and economically disadvantaged communities.”

Forest restoration creates byproducts like small diameter timber and woody biomass, which has historically been of little market value. Thanks in part to USDA Forest Service investments in innovative wood products, this material which may have been discarded, can be made into many types of wood products.

Today's announcement provides \$29 million to establish, reopen, or improve businesses that purchase and process these byproducts from projects on federally managed lands or tribal lands at risk of wildfire, insects and disease. More than two thirds of the funded businesses will use byproducts from forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction on landscapes identified in the Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

These businesses are also vital employers in disadvantaged communities and tribal communities. Two



\$33.7 million has been secured to fund projects to strengthen the wood products industry.

thirds of all funded proposals will be implemented in disadvantaged communities as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Funding will also directly support tribal communities that are expanding manufacturing capacity.

In addition to supporting wood processing facilities, \$4.7 million will fund temporary water crossing for skidders and other heavy forestry equipment. These bridges protect streams, creeks and wetlands during forestry operations. The funding will assist in implementing a rental or cost-share program that promotes the use of temporary water crossings across all lands.

Visit the Forest Service website for more information on funding for innovative uses of wood, detailed information on funding to wood processing facilities, and the Forest Service's temporary bridges program.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each

day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.



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US lab's tools and know-how key to detecting illegal timber imports

ASHLAND, Oregon in the United States, is the unexpected home of the country's only full-service forensic laboratory devoted to tracking illegally transported animals and plants.

In a report to Erik Neumann (Jefferson Public Radio) Scientist Ed Espinoza discussed how the lab is employing a new strategy to get forensic tools to US ports to stop the illegal timber trade.

Mr Espinoza stood inside a 9-metre-long trailer next to a whirring machine about the size of a commercial photocopier. The device is known as a DART time-of-flight mass spectrometer.

"This is the Ferrari of mass spectrometers," Espinoza said. "It gives us very accurate data."



Forensic scientist Ed Espinoza stands outside a modified horse trailer-turned forensic lab at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland.

Photo: Erik Neumann/JPR

The trailer – a horse trailer-turned mobile lab – was parked outside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland. Staff here help the Fish and Wildlife

Service solve crimes by doing DNA analysis on illegally sold plants and animals.

Espinoza said the mobile lab was a new attempt by forensic scientists like him to help get scientific instruments to the places where they're most needed.

The Ashland lab is well known for its collection of taxidermied animals. A tall warehouse on site is filled with everything from scaly pangolins to tiger pelts. Over the years, Espinoza has seen trends in the illegal animal trade, including elephant ivory, bear bile used in traditional Chinese medicine and beluga sturgeon caviar from Russia. The latest trend, he said, has been timber from places like Southeast Asia, Africa and Amazonia.

Forensic scientist Ed Espinoza stands outside a modified horse trailer-turned forensic lab at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland.

IDENTIFYING THE 'CHEMICAL FINGERPRINTS' OF TREES

Nearby, in one of the lab's libraries, drawers are filled with samples of ebony and purple heart. Espinoza held up a small slab of bulnesia from Argentina, one of the world's hardest woods.

"These samples specifically came from a very large container leaving Madagascar," he said, showing off the contents of a long metal drawer filled with slices of rosewood.

Forensic specialists use collections like the Ashland lab's as DNA comparisons against samples of potential illegal timber.

In the past, there's been a gap in this sort of reference material, according to Marigold Norman, director of research at World Forest ID, an organization creating a geolocated database of wood commodities.

"It's very difficult to say this timber came from this specific place unless you can compare it to something that actually came from there," Norman said.

Espinoza stands in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory where wood samples have been collected from around the world as references to test for potential illegally transported timber.

Cady Lancaster co-founded the Wood Identification and Screening Center at the Ashland lab, where she previously worked as a wildlife forensic scientist. She said forensic science helps enforce current laws by identifying illegal logging operations.

"We know it's making it into the U.S. But unless you can prove it, you can't catch the

Cont P 17

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Safeguard Mechanism an opportunity to fight climate change and boost sustainable timber and fibre supply

THE passage of changes to the Safeguard Mechanism in the Parliament today presents an opportunity for the Albanese Government to boost the role of new timber trees in the carbon offset market to help Australia achieve Net Zero by 2050, chief executive officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Joel Fitzgibbon said.

“Decarbonising the economy will require a mix of emissions reductions and offsets, and the planting of new timber production trees should be strongly considered on the path to net zero. Timber trees will not only absorb carbon and fight climate change as they grow, they will also produce much-needed timber and wood fibre to

boost Australia’s domestic supply,” Joel Fitzgibbon said.

AFPA-Master Builders Australia modelling predicts a major timber supply cliff next decade if we don’t urgently get more timber trees in the ground. Australia will be 250,000 houseframes short of demand by 2035, cites the size of Geelong and Newcastle combined if we don’t achieve the Government’s plan of one billion new trees planted by 2030.

“The implementation of the Safeguard Mechanism is



Chief executive officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Joel Fitzgibbon

a significant opportunity for emissions-intensive industries to help Australia fight climate change and address our looming future timber and wood fibre supply gaps,” Joel Fitzgibbon said.

“The Safeguard Mechanism

is also an opportunity to better recognise the climate change benefits of timber and wood fibre stored in buildings and other products, through the development of new carbon offset methods under the Emissions Reduction Fund that will incentivise more timber and engineered wood in the built environment. I look forward to working with the Government on developing these opportunities further.

“The Safeguard Mechanism is a chance for policymakers and industry to elevate thinking on how Australia’s sustainable forest industries can help drive down emissions. I firmly believe Australia cannot achieve the national targets without us,” Joel Fitzgibbon concluded.

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bad guys,” Lancaster said.

Illegal logging contributes to deforestation and biodiversity loss. It funds organized crime, according to Espinoza. And cheaper illegal logging undercuts prices for sustainably managed timber, Lancaster said.

She helped develop a method of analyzing what she described as the “chemical fingerprints” for the more

than 60,000 species of trees in the world. Using a mass spectrometer allows scientists to weigh the molecules of an unknown material, which can then be matched to the lab’s database.

“We just hold a wood sliver with tweezers and let a 660-degree Fahrenheit helium ion stream blaze over the wood,” Lancaster said.

“That’s going to burn the wood away, release all of the molecules into the air so

they can get sucked into the mass spec. It happens nearly instantaneously.”

Laws such as the Lacey Act and an international agreement known as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora) are meant to prevent protected tree species from being sold in the U.S. But customs authorities at ports of entry can’t easily tell if something is illegal or not without the right testing tools.

The mobile lab also contains a digital microscope so forensic scientists can study the anatomy of wood samples as well as import permits to see if they’ve been forged. The equipment and modification cost about \$600,000, Espinoza said.

Both Norman and Lancaster agreed that being able to deploy the trailer from Ashland to ports of entry will be helpful for customs agents.

Source: OPB/ Jefferson Public Radio

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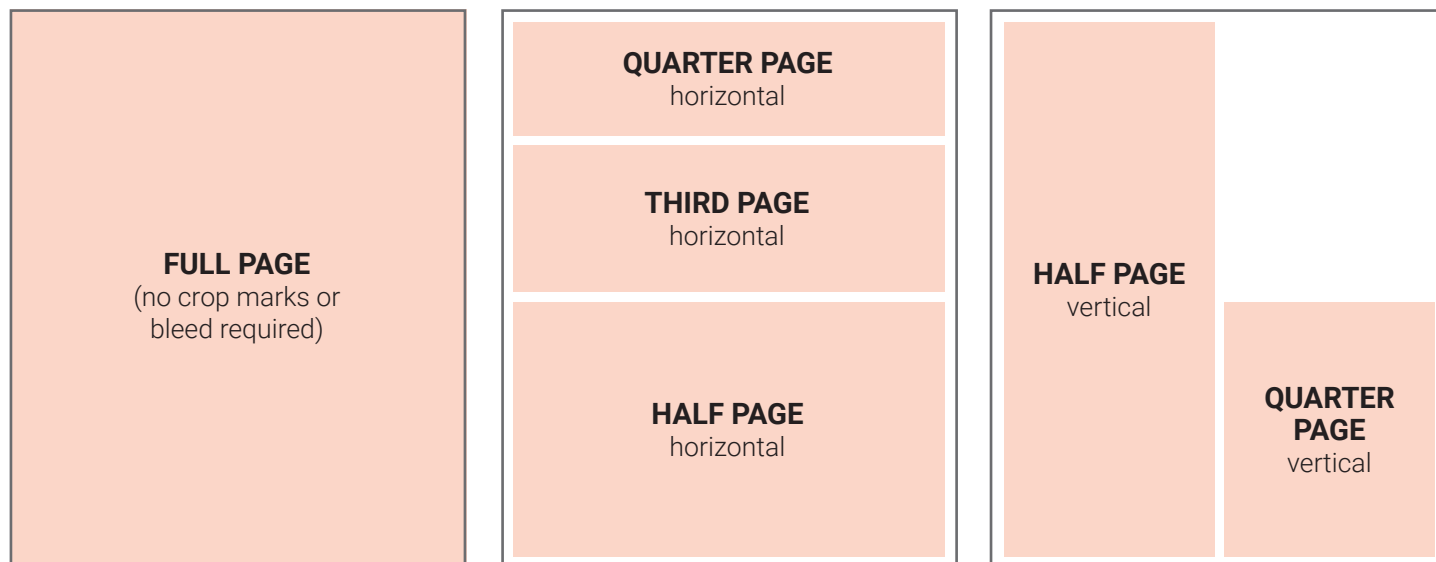
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