

DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 751 // April 20, 2023

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

Minister expects China trade to return to normal

COVER STORY P 3

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.

Talk to our friendly team about:

- Training and upskilling your team
- Trainee and apprentice recruitment and placement
- Workplace health and safety
- Member savings and Accessing BTCA

 **NTHA**
NATIONAL TIMBER &
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

1800 822 621



Biosecurity achievements recognised

AFPA subcommittee awarded biosecurity commendation.

AT the recent Australian Biosecurity Awards, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) was recognised for excellence in biosecurity preparedness.

AFPA's Forest Health and Biosecurity Subcommittee (FHaB) was awarded a Biosecurity Commendation Certificate. Membership of the Subcommittee includes experts in forestry and science who, with their organisation's support, volunteer their time and expertise in service to the forest sector.

This is great recognition for the work of this group of talented individuals who in recent years have established a national surveillance program for pests of forests, in collaboration with state and federal governments.

"The commendation acknowledges the fantastic work undertaken by the FHaB to improve the sector's biosecurity over a long period of time," said AFPA CEO Joel Fitzgibbon. "I'd like to congratulate and thank everyone that is part of the

Subcommittee for their continuing contributions to protect the sector from pest and disease risks."

FHaB Chair Dr Phil Lacy said, "The advice and advocacy provided by the FHaB has seen real improvements in the sector's awareness of biosecurity issues and contributed to the sector's decision to increase levy funds in support of research and biosecurity initiatives."

Paco Tovar, AFPA's biosecurity manager noted: "Everyone at AFPA, and the sector more broadly, relies heavily on the

**"THIS WORK IS
CRUCIAL TO
MITIGATING THE
RISKS FROM NEW
PEST OUTBREAKS**



Bob Makinson was also recognised with an award in the Environmental Biosecurity category for his work on myrtle rust.

expertise provided by the FHaB subcommittee on matters of forest health and biosecurity. The implementation of initiatives such as the Plantation Forests Biosecurity Plan or the National Forest Pest Surveillance Program would not be possible without the FHaB's expert contributions."

Fitzgibbon added, "With the forestry industry at the forefront of carbon sequestration in Australia, the FHaB's work is crucial

to mitigating the risks from new pest outbreaks that could devastate our forestry industry and Australia's carbon sequestration ambitions."

The awards also recognised other contributors to forest biosecurity, including Robert Owen (Bob) Makinson, who received a 2022 Australian Biosecurity Award in the Environmental Biosecurity category. Makinson has galvanised attention and action for the introduced plant disease myrtle rust since it was first detected in Australia in 2010.

Dr Darryl Hardie received the 2022 Dr David Banks Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his significant contribution to national plant biosecurity during his 47-year career at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA. For more details, visit the awards page at this link.



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.**

KOPPERS
Performance
Chemicals

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.

Farrell expects China trade to return to normal

The Australian trade minister has talked up prospects of a quick return to healthier exports of timber, among other products.

ON the heels of last month's list of technical rules that must be met to resume log imports – sent to Australian agriculture officials by Chinese customs – Senator Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, has told *Guardian Australia* that he believes the trade relationship between the two countries will soon return to normal.

Farrell was speaking soon after the Australian government had stopped its official complaint to the World Trade Organization on the hefty barley tariffs that were imposed around the same time as the timber 'ban' (officially a rejection of Australian imports due to pest concerns.)

Although there was expectation of the barley challenge succeeding, the government decided against pursuing a probable years-long dispute in favour of resetting the relationship through direct negotiations between China and Australia.

Farrell told the *Guardian* he would travel to China within weeks to continue talks with his counterpart. "Our plan is: let's solve our problems with China, but also let's diversify our trading relationships," he said.

A new editorial in the state-run *China Daily* argued



that trade with Australia could "regain its former momentum as long as Canberra continues its pragmatic approach toward interactions with Beijing and sees China's development as an opportunity, rather than a threat".

Labor and the Coalition both regard the measures Beijing rolled out in 2020 – including tariffs or bans on barley, wine, seafood, coal and timber – as a campaign

Farrell also dismissed the idea of any policy shift. He said his counterpart, Wang Wentao, had told him in their virtual meeting in February: "The freeze is over and we're moving to a warm spring."

Farrell said Australia would resume the WTO process if the barley duties were not scrapped. He noted the Australian wine industry had been positive about the prospect of this template being used to solve other disputes.

The minister said while he wanted all affected Australian products to return to the Chinese market "quickly", he saw a need to avoid overreliance on one market.

Farrell cited trade agreements with the UK and India as part of the efforts to diversify trade. He said Australia and the European Union were due to hold another set of negotiations at the end of April "where we hope we're going to get very close to finalising a free trade agreement".

Sources: Guardian Australia and Reuters

1/ The halt on Australian timber exports to China may soon be lifted.

Photo: Shutterstock

2 Trade Minister Don Farrell

of economic "coercion" aimed at forcing Australia to shift policies.

A recent *China Daily* editorial linked the trade measures to the broader political environment. It said Australia's businesses had "suffered heavy losses in the past two years" because the previous government "had jumped on the US bandwagon to contain China and pumped hostility into bilateral ties".

Albanese met China's president, Xi Jinping, in Bali in November but has repeatedly said his Labor government has not made any policy concessions in talks with Australia's largest trading partner.

On the cover: Piles of logs at Zhangjiagang, Suzhou, Jiangsu. Traditionally, the market has been worth \$1.6 billion for Australian exporters.
Photo: Shutterstock

TERMITE
PROFESSIONAL™

Termite Professional Magazine
FREE Online Subscription

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



Vietnam's PM urges increase in forestry exports

ADDRESSING a working session with representatives of the Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association (VIFOREST) and the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh told those assembled that he required more efforts to develop forestry and fishery production effectively and sustainably. The Prime Minister stressed the need to ease difficulties and remove obstacles, especially in terms of market, institutions and credit capital, for the production, processing and export of forest and aquatic products.

He added that attention must also be paid to ensuring food safety, protecting the ecological environment, developing green, organic

and circular agriculture, and shift the way of thinking from agricultural production to agricultural economic development associated with market demand.

The export of Vietnamese timber and forest products was estimated at US\$17.1 billion in 2022, exceeding the yearly target by 3.8%. The industry is aiming at pushing the figure to US\$17.5 billion in 2023.

However, in the early months of 2023, growth has been slower. According to customs data, Vietnam's export of timber and timber products reached US\$2.88 billion in the first quarter of 2023, down 28.3% from the same period last year. The main reason for the drop in wood exports has been given



Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh urged leading forestry representatives to increase their exports at a recent meeting.

as lack of orders thanks to high inflation in traditional markets, especially the US and Europe.

The Prime Minister requested that VIFOREST representatives maintain the effective implementation of agreements between Vietnam and other countries to expand the market; negotiate and

facilitate the expansion and development of export markets for timber and forest products; strictly handle acts that damage the image and trademark of Vietnamese timber products; and publicise information and policies related to the market situation of forest products.

He directed the Ministry of Industry and Trade to review and amend legal regulations, mechanisms and policies related to trade, strictly address violations to prevent them from affecting the reputation of Vietnam's forestry-fishery sector, while perfecting mechanisms and policies to develop domestic and export markets and to step up trade promotion activities.

Source: Vietnam+ and WTO



NTHA
NATIONAL TIMBER &
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

25-26 MAY 2023
HUNTER VALLEY



1800 822 621
info@ntha.com.au
ntha.com.au/events/2023-conference

BOOK NOW

THE FOREST TREASURE CHEST

Delivering Opportunities for Everyone



Cairns, Australia 4-8 June 2023

The IUFRO-DIV 5 Conference focuses on all aspects of Forest Products (wood & non-wood). It will have a strong focus on sustainability and alternative and tropical plantation species.

Click on this ad to download program and find out more

<https://www.iufro-div5-2023.com/>

IUFRO INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF FOREST RESEARCH
ORGANIZATIONS

TOURISM
& EVENTS
Queensland

WA's forests at risk from mining, not forestry

A WA forestry stalwart has spoken up on the state government narrative that forestry is the greatest danger to native vegetation.

IN a passionate editorial in WoodCentral, Jack Bradshaw, a retired WA forester who participated in the development of the WA Regional Forestry Agreements, has come out swinging against the government narrative behind the closure of the state's native logging industry.

"Despite evidence to the contrary, the WA Minister for Forests Jackie Jarvis continues to argue the state's timber industry had to close because it has run out of wood, a result of reduced growth rate due to climate change," Bradshaw wrote.

The editorial goes on to point to a paucity of evidence given to back up this claim, contrasting past management plans, which included a wealth of transparently available evidence, with the new management plan, where evidence has been missing or unsupported by expert backing.

Bradshaw wrote: "A freedom of information request asking what



The current extent of Bauxite mining in the Jarrah Forests. Photo: from Mining the Jarrah Forest by Jack Bradshaw

information had been provided to the government on the impact of climate change on timber yields produced no information relating to changes in growth rate or yield over time and no information at all relating to the karri resource.

"Access to one-third of relevant documents were refused on the grounds that 'its disclosure would reveal any deliberation or decision made by an executive body', that is, the public are

not entitled to know what information the government uses to make its decisions. So much for open government."

He notes there was no review by an independent panel.

At the end of the piece,

“ABOUT 62% OF TALL AND MEDIUM FOREST DEFORESTATION WAS TO ALLOW FOR MINING BAUXITE.

Bradshaw contrasts the swift closure of native logging on environmental grounds with the impact of WA bauxite mining. 'A Thousand Cuts', a report by Project NJF (a WA forestry alliance collective), states that about 62% of the 18,000 hectares of tall and medium forests in WA deforested from 2010 to 2020 were to allow for mining bauxite,

noting that "bauxite miners Alcoa and South32 (Worsley) now seek approval to clear a further 11,109 hectares and fragment another 70,211 hectares. It has been estimated that eventually bauxite mining will clear up to 83,000 hectares and fragment 337,000 hectares."

Bradshaw's suggestion that WA has closed the wrong industry on environmental grounds has the data to back it up.

Enabling sustainability...
through world-class standards

responsiblewood.org.au



Responsible Wood
RW/1-10-1

Forestry Australia calls for scholarship applications

Five \$4000 scholarships are available for full-time forestry students who are enrolled in honours and post-grad courses.

ALL current members of Forestry Australia (including new members) who are studying for a forestry-related honours or post-graduate qualification are eligible to apply for one of five \$4000 cash grants.

The Forestry Scholarship Fund was established to provide support to students studying forestry and forest related programs including forest science, forest management, bushfire planning and forest research.

Forestry Australia is a leading professional association with over 1000



The scholarships are intended to support the future of Australian forestry.

members: forest scientists, professionals, managers and growers operating in all aspects of forest and natural resource management throughout Australia. Its

objectives include delivering best-practice forest management and, as part of this, the association has a strong educational and professional development component, backed up with practical assistance such as the scholarship fund.

Students are eligible for Forestry Australia Young Professional membership rates of only \$115 per annum while at their institution and for the first five years of their career after graduation. Membership provides access to a wide range of events and networking opportunities, as well as professional

development, webinars, information and training to enhance forestry knowledge and practice.

Scholarship applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. Applications close 9.00 am on Monday 15 May. They must be made using the official Scholarship Application Form and accompanied by:

- A short (300-word) word statement on your view of the future of forestry Australia and what contributions you would like to make to that future;
- 1 – 2-page curriculum vitae (CV), indicating academic performance;
- Proof of enrolment;
- Australian birth certificate, proof of permanent residency or citizenship and
- The name of a lecturer that Forestry Australia can speak to for a reference.

For more information, please contact Jodi Duiker on admin@forestry.org.au or visit the website and download the application form at this link.

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 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.timberoffsiteconstruction.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/>



Do you crosscut timber packs at $\pm 1\text{mm}$ accuracy
OR cut structural timber, panel products (MDF & LVL), paper rolls
OR produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths

Our Scope of Supply:

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

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



HOLTEC
 YOUR PARTNER FOR THE PERFECT CUT

Builder collapses drive calls for legislative and cultural change

The fallout from the Porter Davis collapse has galvanised experts calling for a better way to manage construction-related businesses.

THERE was good news last week for some of those left hanging by the collapse of Porter Davis as the liquidator reached an agreement to sell part of the business to Victorian construction firm Nostra Property Group. Nostra will take over the multiple dwelling part of the business. Liquidator Grant Thornton said that would allow up to 375 homes to be finished, including 126 townhouses that were already underway as well as another 169 developments that were yet to begin construction.

The remaining builds in the 1700 Porter Davis projects on the books at the time of the collapse remain in limbo.

This is of course just the most recent in a long series of building collapses that are most notable in Victoria but occurring around Australia, and it is unlikely to be the last. Under the HomeBuilder-fuelled boom of recent years, many builders were locked into fixed-term contracts for



large numbers of dwellings while materials costs soared and those who have been unable to manage the situation are left significantly out of pocket, as are many

would-be homeowners who have signed contracts with them. Insolvencies in the sector have hit levels not seen in over a decade.

While there is a larger discussion to be had on strengthening end-consumer protections in these situations (current models are insufficient and, in some cases, such as those who have paid deposits but not seen building start, offer little to no protection), there are a raft of businesses and trades up and down the supply chain

1/ The sudden collapse of Porter Davis has left many contractors and suppliers in the lurch, as well as would-be homeowners.

2/ Jaqi Rennie of Austbrokers Trade Credit shared tips for businesses to best protect themselves from builder collapses on the F&T Time podcast.

who are hit every time another builder goes under.

Master Builders Victoria interim chief executive Michaela Lihou said the current lack of flexibility in fixed-priced contracts was placing an unrealistic stranglehold on builders and has called for adjustments in those contracts to be allowed, based on genuine price increases.

"Our argument is simple," said Lihou. "A review of a contract, which may include some fair and reasonable price rises based on data, is better than an unrealistic fixed contract which drives a builder into a wall."

Professor Paula Gerber, Monash Faculty of Law,

Cont P 9

Investing in people ... advancing the industry

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



From P 8

agreed. "We are likely to see more builders go bust due to systemic problems in the industry i.e. escalating costs of labour and materials that can't be shared with the homeowners because of fixed price contracts," she said.

"Domestic Building Contracts Act 1995 (Vic) prohibits cost plus contracts, which is the form of contract most appropriate in these challenging times. This legislation is no longer fit for purpose and needs a complete re-think. As painful as these insolvencies are, they do present us with an opportunity for the wholesale reform of the regulation and culture of the industry."

Gerber went on to point out that one of the factors contributing to builder insolvencies has been a significant issue with labour in the sector, and the fact that construction has the second-worst gender inequality of any Australian sector after mining plays a strong part in this. Improving this statistic would also produce considerable side benefits for the industry as a whole.

"When the industry is struggling with labour shortages, we need to diversify the pool from which we are recruiting, which means not looking exclusively to only 50 per cent of the population i.e. men," Gerber said.

"Having a more gender-balanced workforce would be good for everyone. Currently, we lose a construction worker to suicide every other day. So the hyper-masculine work culture of the construction industry is not only hostile to women but also harmful to the men working in it."

FTMA's Kersten Gentle has talked about the effects



Master Builders Victoria interim chief executive Michaela Lihou has called for changes to Victorian construction law.

of recent collapses in the organisation's F&T Time podcast 'Unravelling the complexities of insolvencies with Jaqi Rennie' (download here). Jaqi Rennie, managing director of Austbrokers Trade Credit spoke with Gentle about the implications of builder insolvencies on stakeholders including F&T plants and timber suppliers. She talked about the different types of creditors that exist following a collapse and how this will affect liability.

Rennie pointed out that companies who receive letters of demand from liquidators may not necessarily need to make those payments as many have access to a range of defences, including that they entered the agreement in good faith with no reason to expect the company was insolvent, which was the case with a lot of the Porter Davis trades. She strongly recommends that unsecured creditors demand full details and, in many cases, seek legal advice before handing over payments.

Gentle noted that this a reminder of the importance of registering assets on the PPSR. Rennie agreed the idea that the register was only useful for getting product back was erroneous, the real advantage is that you become a secured creditor.

Renewable. Sustainable. Reliable.

P: 07 3147 8790
E. sales@vidawood.com


MADE IN SWEDEN


MADE IN CANADA

WA launches campaign to attract new forestry operators

WESTERN Australia's Forest Products Commission (FPC) has launched a campaign calling for forestry operators from around Australia who may be available to undertake commercial harvesting, ecological thinning, or log haulage linked to the FPC operations.

As the open call says, "These operations help the industry as it adapts and responds to significant changes, including the focus on thinning for ecological health within our native forests, increased utilisation of fibre from mining operations, and the harvesting of sharefarms.



WA is calling for more forestry contractor capacity

"These changes require new, innovative approaches and additional capacity which is above and beyond the existing contractor capacity."

The FPC is a Statutory Corporation of the WA State Government. Criteria for would-be contractors include:

- Ability to manage an operation of at least 10,000-20,000 tonne per annum of log product;

- Ability to readily access appropriate equipment and/or operators
- Comply with all requirements for a harvesting operation (insurance, safety management system etc.), and;
- Available to commence operations as soon as possible.

The additional capacity may also be required in the short term to manage the transition from operations under the current Forest Management Plan 2014-2023 (FMP) to the next ten-year FMP 2024-2033.

For more information including how to express an interest, click this link.

New NSW minister

THE new Minns Government in NSW has named the Hon. Courtney Houssos, MLC as Minister for Finance and Natural Resources, which includes responsibility for forest industries.

The Sydney-based Houssos was first elected to the Legislative Council in 2015 and has previously focused her agenda on issues including quality housing and better representation of and conditions for women in workplaces.

In her previous role as Shadow Minister for Better Regulation, Houssos used parliamentary privilege to speak out against agents selling units in developments that were under prohibition orders.



Designed & Manufactured in the USA Since 1985

- All Lasers have a 24 Month Warranty
- All Lasers are Fully Rebuildable.
- 24 Hour Service Turnaround.
- AC & DC Power Options Available.

Lasers Built for Industry:

- Primary & Secondary Wood Processing
- Portable Sawmills
- Bridge Saws
- Robotics



sales@lumberlinelaser.com

Red Lasers Available in:
5, 10, 15 & 30mW
Green Lasers Available in:
5, 10, 30 & 50mW

toll free 855-686-3077 | www.lumberlinelaser.com

FCNSW mapping errors bring EPA stop work

THE EPA has acted on community concerns about giant trees in Doubleduke State Forest on Bundjalung Country near Grafton, leading the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) to voluntarily suspend tree harvesting there.

On 11 April a complaint was lodged with the EPA alleging breaches in the forest. EPA officers conducted a site inspection in the forest on 13 April. The inspection identified that FCNSW had not mapped two giant trees in accordance with the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (CIFOA) and Protocols.

"A giant tree is defined as one whose diameter is greater than 140cm when measured at 30cm above ground height," EPA's director regulatory operations, Steve Orr said.

"Under the forestry laws all



Tree girths were measured to decide if they meet the giant tree criteria.

giant trees must be retained. While these two giant trees have not been harvested, they were not mapped.

"We're extremely concerned that there is a risk that other giant trees may not have been mapped in accordance with the CIFOA."

After the inspection the EPA asked FCNSW to immediately

suspend operations in the forest and remap the active harvest areas. FCNSW confirmed it had voluntarily stopped harvesting trees and will continue to maintain tracks and process timber already harvested.

The EPA says a number of other alleged breaches were not substantiated.

The site has been at the centre of actions by anti-logging protestors and the presence of giant trees has been the subject of 'citizen science' mapping in hopes of stopping harvest.

Lawyer acting for the North East Forest Alliance, Eddie Lloyd, welcomed the EPA stop work but was disappointed it took two complaints.

Lloyd said, "Our original complaint to the EPA on March 10 noted that giant trees had not been mapped properly, and that without correct mapping, these trees were vulnerable to being illegally or accidentally felled. The EPA dismissed our 10 March complaint because they claimed FCNSW was still to survey, map and mark up for harvesting."

Sources: EPA and echo.net.au

arxada

Always in demand

TRUST Ecowood®

TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS

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

Unlocking the secret of when the Nullarbor went from forest to desert

MINERALS extracted from the dry sands of the Nullarbor Plain may reveal when it became the parched, treeless landscape we know today.

Analysis published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* indicates the area dramatically dried up between 2.7 and 2.4 million years ago.

"Our study offers the first direct age constraint on the transition to aridity on the Nullarbor Plain," Dr Maximilian Dröllner said.

"We knew it must have been somewhere in this [time frame], but now we can use this as an anchor point to better understand evolution processes in Australia."

The saltbush plain, which stretches across 200,000km² of South and

Western Australia, is devoid of any surface water. But the Nullarbor wasn't always an arid area. Between 5 and 3.5 million years ago, it was wet enough to sustain lush forests, according to previous analysis of pollen trapped in stalagmites and stalactites from caves that lie beneath its surface.

Then the world went through a climate upheaval, moving from the humid conditions in the Pliocene to a more arid state at the beginning of the Pleistocene around 2.5 million years ago.

To pin down exactly when the Nullarbor dried during the Pliocene-Pleistocene transition, Dröllner and colleagues analysed an iron mineral called goethite, which



The Nullarbor Plain was once thriving forest.

is basically rust, that forms when iron-rich water comes into contact with oxygen.

"As the climate [dries], groundwater levels drop, bringing in oxygen from the air," Dröllner said. "Dissolved iron in [water] reacts with oxygen, forming ferric iron (Fe³⁺), which ... crystallises and forms goethite."

The amount of helium trapped inside these minerals

due to the decay of uranium and thorium tells us how old the deposits are.

"The more helium accumulated, the older the mineral," said Dröllner.

John Webb, an environmental geoscientist at La Trobe University, said the study's findings back up evidence from previous research.

"I think what they have said is pretty reasonable," Professor Webb said, but added more research from more sites was needed to confirm the dates across the Nullarbor.

Source: abc.net.au

INDUSTRY
DESIGNED

Commitment to
sustainable, safe
and environmental
business practices.



FORESTFIT
TRAINING AND
CERTIFICATION



AIQS and WoodSolutions timber pricing seminar

THE Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS) and WoodSolutions have come together to present Raising the Stakes: Timber in 2023 and beyond.

This in-person seminar is open to all in a bid to improve industry understanding of the topic. With sustainable construction methods on the rise and timber construction systems in the spotlight, it is now more important than ever to have a solid grasp on the dynamics of timber pricing.

The key speaker is Tim Woods, Managing Director of IndustryEdge – a timber industry data analysis, intelligence, and advisory consultancy specialising in the fibre resources and wood processing sectors.

IndustryEdge delivers Wood Market Edge online – a powerful database and visualisation platform with extensive data download capacity that supplies real trade data on the full range of Australian and New Zealand wood products, in conjunction with its global partner, Forest2Market.

Woods' specific expertise is in market analysis, primarily in the fibre supply chain, publishing regular analysis across Australia, and supporting clients across the industry. He is a widely syndicated speaker and writer on forestry, wood products and pulp and paper industry supply chains and markets.

His talk will focus on the dynamics of timber supply



The effect of timber supply on pricing will be a main focus. Photo: Shutterstock

for Australia's construction market, with special consideration on how this will impact pricing in the coming years.

Woods will later be joined by timber industry, design,

and construction stakeholders for a panel discussion and audience Q & A, after which attendees will have the opportunity to network and the WoodSolutions team will be available to offer support and advice.

The event will be held on 4 May, 5:30pm-7:30pm at 11th Space, Level 11, 580 Collins Street Melbourne. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members. To RSVP to the event, click here or email events@aiqs.com.au.

KENNEDY'S RECLAIMED AND SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURAL TIMBERS ARE AN INSPIRED CHOICE FOR UNIQUE BUILDING DESIGN.

“IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO HAVE A SOLID GRASP ON THE DYNAMICS OF TIMBER PRICING

STRIKING AND DURABLE

A natural alternative to conventional building products, we provide the full spectrum of timber design possibilities.

Photo: Christopher Frederick Jones
Grand Central Shopping Centre,
Toowoomba QLD



WWW.KENNEDYSTIMBERS.COM.AU

Brisbane | Sydney | Melbourne | Perth | New Zealand

[f kennedystimbers](#) [i kennedystimbers](#) [e sales@kennedystimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@kennedystimbers.com.au)

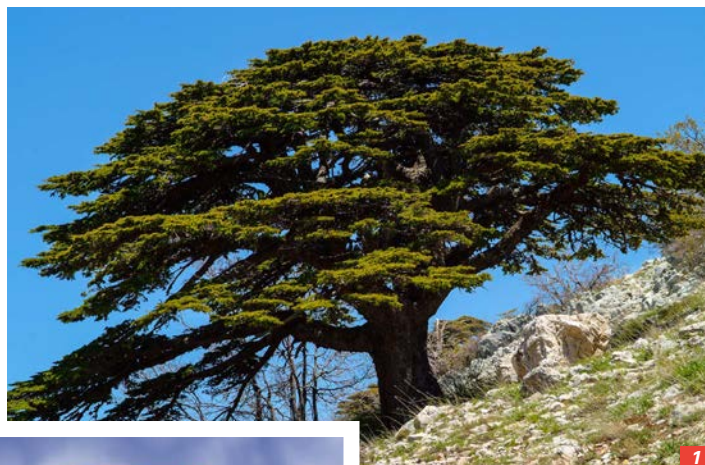
The tree that powered the development of civilisation

10,000 years ago, vast cedar forests stretched across the eastern Mediterranean towards Mesopotamia and what is now southwestern Iran.

The cedar of Lebanon or Lebanese cedar is a species of tree in the pine family, native to the mountains of the Eastern Mediterranean basin. It is a large evergreen conifer that has great religious and historical significance in the cultures of the Middle East, and is referenced many times in the literature of ancient civilisations.

It is no exaggeration to say that the magnificent cedar of Lebanon played a crucial role in the development of civilisation. We know that 10,000 years ago vast cedar forests stretched across the eastern Mediterranean towards Mesopotamia and what is now southwestern Iran.

In the ancient world, cedar was a valuable commodity. Cedar wood was used for temples and palaces in Assyria, Persia, Babylon and beyond. It was heavily traded by the Phoenicians, a maritime people who used the timber for ships, buildings and furniture. Cedar resin was used for embalming bodies by the ancient Egyptians, and its shavings have been found scattered in pharaohs' tombs alongside cedar wooden chests. Cedars are mentioned in the Bible and they were used for the roof of Solomon's Temple in



1/ The mature cedar of Lebanon is improbably graceful for such a substantial tree - it can be 35m high, with an imposing trunk up to 2.5m across.

2/ The cedar is an important symbol of Lebanon, featuring both on the flag and in the anthem.

Jerusalem in about 830 BC.

There are many ancient stories emphasising human dominance over nature that feature the cutting of cedars. The real-life over-exploitation gave rise to some very early conservation efforts. For example, in 118 AD the Roman emperor Hadrian created an imperial cedar forest. However, preservation since then has been patchy at best. Its native range is now confined

to isolated mountains in Lebanon, Syria and southern Turkey, although it is a popular ornamental tree in parks and larger gardens in Western Europe and parts of North America.

for a conifer that grows in snowy conditions, the branches are almost horizontal. Although cedar branches are solidly built, mature trees now and then shed a branch, sometimes weighing several tons, for no apparent reason. Bottle-green or blue-green densely packed cedar needles grow in tiers. The bark is dark grey and exudes a perfumed balsamic resin, which makes a walk through a cedar grove quite special. Oval cones, roughly the size of a large lemon, are produced only every other year and break up on ripening scattering numerous tiny seeds.

The tree is tolerant of freezing weather in winter and prolonged summer droughts, with wood that is durable, resistant to decay, gorgeously reddish, delightfully fragrant and available in conveniently large pieces.

In Lebanon itself, the cedar is culturally important. The national anthem refers to cedars as the nation's pride and a symbol of eternity, and it appears on the Lebanese flag. The authorities have tried to protect the last few magnificent stands from development but, despite the tree's common name, the best place to see the largest numbers of naturally occurring cedar in Lebanon is now in the Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey.

TALKING TREES



With **JOHN HALKETT**

Sponsored by
Forestry Corporation of NSW

The mature cedar of Lebanon is improbably graceful for such a substantial tree; it can be 35m high, with an imposing trunk up to 2.5m across. Unusually, especially

to isolated mountains in Lebanon, Syria and southern Turkey, although it is a popular ornamental tree in parks and larger gardens in Western Europe and parts of North America.



The largest manager of commercial plantations and native forests in NSW
Visit us at forestrycorporation.com.au

**MALAYSIAN
WOOD | EXPO**
www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

JOIN US!

A not-to-be-missed wood and
woodworking machinery expo



BUSINESS
MATCHING



EXHIBITION



POCKET
TALKS

Providing Advanced Solutions

**18-20
JUNE
2023**

**Malaysia International
Trade and
Exhibition Centre
(MITEC)**

Jointly organised by:



Supported by:



Scan here for more info:



Contact us: ☎ +603 9281 1999

✉ info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

Vekta merges with Framequip

FOR frame and truss fabricators and other wood-based manufacturers across Australia and beyond, Vekta and Framequip are both well-known names.

Vekta Automation is headquartered in Perth and a global technology solutions leader specialising in quality automation systems for the timber frame and truss industry. Framequip began in Sydney and boasts a 37-year reputation for providing its clients with innovative and dependable framing line manufacturing system solutions.

Both are family-owned businesses who work closely with their customers to deliver solutions specifically designed to increase production and improve workflows and safety. And now both have come together in the one business.



1/ **Ed and Shelena Serrano, who have grown Vekta into an international automation company.**
2/ **Rob Armour has been providing specialised machinery to his Oceania clients for since 1987.**



Ed Serrano, CEO of Vekta, said, "We are delighted to welcome Framequip to the Vekta family. Rob Armour and his team have built a proven Frameline solution business over the years, and their knowledge of manufacturing systems and technology automation offerings will support the growing demands in this sector, as we continue to strive to transform the frame

and truss industry with leading edge technology."

Framequip will continue to function under the leadership of founder Rob Armour while closely collaborating with Vekta's sales and operations teams. "Joining Vekta is a fantastic opportunity for Framequip," said Rob Armour. "I am thrilled to contribute to Vekta's mission to provide and deliver leading automation

solutions and services to support the timber frame and truss industry globally. Systems level disruption will continue to evolve as will Vekta to meet new industry challenges and market forces, while investing continually in research and workforce development programs."

For more info, visit www.framequip.com.au and www.vekta.com.au.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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



Australian
Forest
Products
Association

PREPARATION. OPPORTUNITY. SUCCESS.

DOING TIMBER BUSINESS IN QUEENSLAND



31 May - R&D Insights Tour & Drinks Evening
1 June - Symposium & Networking Function

POLICY & INVESTMENT

DATA & INNOVATION

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OLYMPIC OPPORTUNITY

REGISTER NOW www.doingtimberbusinessinql.com

ATTEND THE POST SYMPOSIUM NETWORKING EVENT
TO WIN UP TO \$50 000
\$25K for YOU & \$25K for the
FUTURE FORESTERS INITIATIVE

Gold Sponsor



Linda Planet launches, allowing near real-time forestry tracking

The new tool from Finland's CollectiveCrunch monitors and tracks forest biodiversity and carbon storages to bring transparency to forestry offsetting.

FORESTS have long performed multiple roles at once. The same trees that count as a resource for the forester are shelter for wildlife, stability for soil and lungs for the planet for a start. In recent years, they've also been counted as carbon banks. This last role has not come without questions regarding the accuracy and transparency of carbon storage claimed by some land users.

In response, CollectiveCrunch, creator of an AI-powered platform that enables sustainable forestry at scale, has launched Linda Planet, a new trustworthy tool that enables forestry professionals to assess the health of forests by monitoring and tracking changes in both forest biodiversity and carbon storages in near real-time.

"Our goal is to change the world's understanding of forests by providing the most accurate, scalable and timely forest analytics possible," said CollectiveCrunch Co-Founder Rolf Schmitz. "Through solutions like Linda Planet, we can enable sustainable forestry, assist in the mitigation of carbon losses, and bring transparency to forest carbon markets to spearhead the



1/ The tool helps forest managers see changes in near real-time, such as this damage after a major storm.

2 Rolf Schmitz, co-founder and co-CEO of CollectiveCrunch, the team behind Linda Planet.

fight against climate change."

The AI-based tools used by Linda Planet eliminate the uncertainty and subjectivity associated with forest carbon assessments. The tool set includes optical satellite, synthetic aperture radar (SAR), light detection and ranging (LiDAR) as well as geographic data from multiple sources, and the subsequent analyses of these data sets with sophisticated machine learning models.

All this allows for accurate monitoring of forest events



ranging from planned harvesting and illegal cutting to storm and pest damage and more. Linda Planet ties in to other CollectiveCrunch tools that focus on the health of the forest resource, delivering a full suite of precise and timely information on forest assets.

In terms of forest carbon management, Linda Planet helps to mitigate forest carbon value loss by tracking changes and potential damages in near real-time and assists in forecasting the growth and loss of forest carbon stocks.

It ensures the accountability of carbon assets behind an offset and provides the

transparency necessary for credible carbon development through the AI backbone of the Linda platform; a more economical, effective and transparent option than traditional manual auditing cycles both for establishing credible baselines and growth in carbon inventory. CollectiveCrunch's tools have been approved by Verra, a nonprofit organisation that operates standards in environmental and social markets, including the world's leading carbon crediting program, the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program.

Additionally, Linda Planet is a highly effective tool for tracking biodiversity, particularly in the follow-up to natural disasters such as storms and fires.

"The dramatic loss of biodiversity in the forestry ecosystem is a serious global challenge," said Schmitz. "Linda Planet provides continuous visibility into the forest status and timely assessment of disturbances. We're thrilled to launch this product to the market to fundamentally change how the forestry industry monitors forest health."

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 eNews 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.

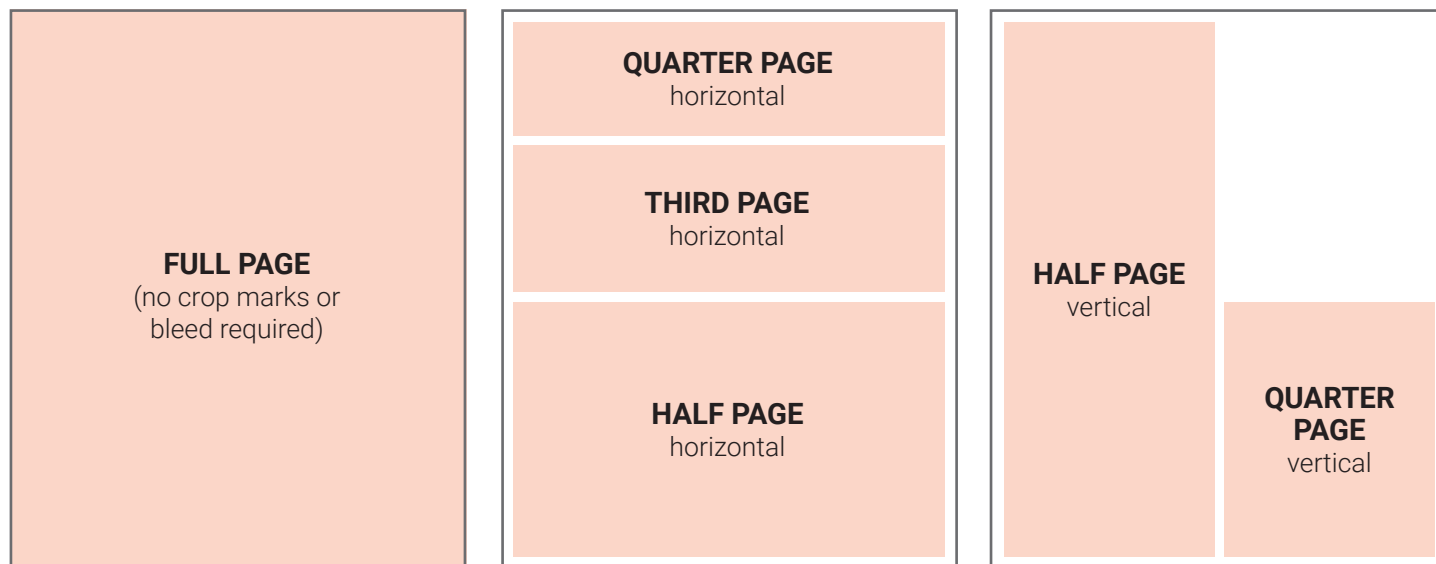
DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

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