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COVER STORY P 5



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# Chalmers lays out the Budget table

Almost everyone has a nibble in this year's Federal Budget, though some aren't satisfied.

TREASURER Jim Chalmers' 2023-24 Federal Budget is a cautious one but includes multiple items that are significant to the timber industry. Here are some of its key points, with a sample of industry reaction.

## HOUSING

In addition to practical assistance for renters, new spending worth \$2 billion (bn) will be unlocked for spending on social and affordable housing. Additionally, the First Home Guarantee will be expanded to any two eligible borrowers, rather than only spouses or de facto partners, making it easier for siblings and friends to get into home ownership together.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said, "Master Builders supports the expansion of the first-home buyer guarantee and the regional first home buyer guarantee which is good news for people finding it difficult to enter the housing market."

However, she cautioned: "The housing crisis continues to be a major issue around



Treasurer Jim Chalmers rises after presenting his budget to the parliament.

the country and tonight we have not seen enough to start increasing housing supply."

Community Housing Industry Association chief executive officer Wendy Hayhurst said: "Rising rents

are hitting household budgets hard. While the federal budget doesn't tackle the crisis completely, it does pave a path forward to fix it. We commend the Budget initiative to make build-to-rent projects

easier and more attractive through increased incentives for the industry. This also provides an opportunity to leverage this initiative to create more affordable housing. We also welcome the partnerships and programs to build and fix more remote Indigenous housing."

## BUSINESS

Unlike recent budgets, business was not the centrepiece. That said, there are some highlights including \$290 million (m) in cash flow support through the \$20,000 instant asset write off; providing approximately 2.1 million eligible small businesses with cashflow relief by halving the increase in their quarterly tax instalments for GST and income tax in 2023 24; a new \$392.4 m Industry Growth Program to help support small to medium sized businesses and startups develop new products and services to grow their operations; as well as an extended Buy Australian Plan.



Treasurer Jim Chalmers addressing the National Press Club on 10 May, 2023.

Cont P 3



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From P 2

## CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Albanese government has funded its promised National Construction Industry Forum (NCIF) in this Budget, as part of its planned construction industry reforms. There will also be a \$200 m Thriving Suburbs Program to hand out “merit-based and locally driven grants that address shortfalls in priority community infrastructure”; \$200 m for the Major Projects Business Case to work on the development of future transport projects and up to \$1 bn in additional funding for the Brisbane Olympics as well as \$240 million for a contentious new Hobart stadium.

Australian Constructors Association CEO Jon Davies said, “The NCIF marks a significant step forward for the construction industry, enabling greater collaboration and cooperation amongst industry stakeholders to drive positive change.”

## ENERGY

The budget attacks rising business energy costs in multiple ways. The first is its Energy Price Relief Plan, which intervenes to limit Australia’s exposure to



**The 2023/24 Budget was a cautious one that delivers a surplus but remains modest in spending goals.**

international energy price shocks and provides around 1 million small businesses with direct bill relief.

The Small Business Energy Incentive will provide \$310 m in tax relief and support up to 3.8 million businesses to make investments like electrifying their heating and cooling systems, installing batteries and upgrading to high efficiency electrical goods.

Businesses with annual turnover of less than \$50 m will have access to a bonus 20% tax deduction for eligible assets supporting electrification and more efficient use of energy in eth 23/24 financial year. Up to \$100,000 of total expenditure will be eligible for the incentive, with the maximum bonus tax deduction being \$20,000 per business.

There will also be a legislated national Net Zero Authority and Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap among other initiatives aimed at decarbonising the sector, particularly the \$2 bn

Hydrogen Headstart program, however R&D investment – including in energy – remains low compared to similar nations.

**“ AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IS CRUCIAL IN AUSTRALIA'S BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

Kylie Walker, CEO of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, said: “Australian research is in crisis and our potential to lead the world in renewable energy is being left largely untapped ... In next year’s budget, we hope to see a commitment to lifting research funding to international competitive levels.”

## FORESTRY

The Budget continues the rollout of key forestry initiatives including the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI)

and plantation establishment and innovation grants. The Budget also includes \$1 billion over four years to strengthen biosecurity.

Australian Forest Products Association’s CEO Joel Fitzgibbon welcomed the move, saying, “Australia’s forest products sector is crucial in Australia’s battle against climate change and for the country to meet national emissions reduction targets. The sector also provides employment for tens of thousands of Australians and creates essential and sustainable everyday products we cannot live without. We welcome the Government’s recognition and support for the sector.”

## EDUCATION

Vocational training is again at the centre of government support with a further 300,000 TAFE and vocational education training places to become fee-free and practical improvements to the Australian Apprenticeship Support Services aimed at lifting completions. Access to training will be expanded and a focus on cultural and gender diversity will help remove barriers to work for traditionally under-represented groups.

Engineers Australia have said: “It is pleasing to see the Government’s commitment to skills and increasing the number of women in male-dominated industries.

“Reforming the migration program and easing migration pressures to increase the numbers of skilled migrant engineers arriving in Australia is also a positive step.”

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# Building approvals slump, worrying forecasters

As building approvals hit the lowest levels in a decade, both the industry and economists are worried.

THE housing crisis is at the front of mind for most of us and yet building approvals have dropped across most of Australia again, reaching their lowest level in NSW for a decade according to the March ABS data.

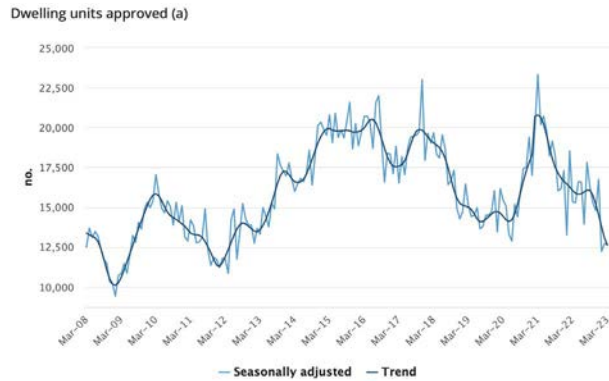
In NSW, total approvals fell by 34% compared to the same quarter in 2022, but hardest hit were townhouses, units and high-rises which dropped 50%.

Senior economist with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) Tom Devitt said the "really weak" figures for this sector had been a surprise. "We've been expecting that to strengthen this year and beyond because there's a lot of demand for high-density living from overseas migrants

and students who are coming back into Australia in really big numbers," he said.

"The first quarter of 2023 saw the lowest number of total building approvals since 2012 in NSW and nationally. And Australia's rental markets are really, really tight at the moment."

Master Builders Australia (MBA) CEO Denita Wawn agreed that the figures were headed very much in the wrong direction. "We can see the impact of rising interest rates in the homebuilding



The ABS data for Total Dwelling Units Approved shows a drop to rates not seen since there were 2 million fewer Australians.

market, and without appropriate fiscal measures at a federal and state level, we will continue to see further softening in the housing pipeline," she said.

Wawn urged politicians who have been holding

out for better housing support to compromise, saying, "We hope the Senate reviews [this] data as they debate the Housing Australia Future Fund this week. Parliament has an opportunity to send the right signal and kick-start a vital

piece of housing reform. We know some members of the crossbench are looking for more funding, and while that would be welcome, it cannot come at the expense of doing nothing at all."

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# Tradie mental health funding boost

Leading Australian home builder, Henley Properties Group, extends its support of tradies' mental health.

LEADING Australian home builder, Henley Properties Group, has extended its partnership with TIACS and TradeMutt (the socially responsible workwear company owned by TIACS' founders) to grow the provision of mental health support across the nation for tradies and other blue-collar workers.

Henley Properties Group will contribute over \$120,000 in financial support to TIACS, funding an additional 1300 hours of conversations and counselling. TIACS stands for This Is A Conversation Starter; the group is an industry-funded not-for-profit organisation that provides mental health counselling to Australia's truckies, tradies, rural and blue-collar workers and those who care about them via confidential chats, texts and callbacks. The service is free, confidential



1



2

- 1/ Trademutt designs socially responsible workwear to spark conversations about mental health.  
2/ Henley Properties Group has increased support for the mental health support services offered by TIACS and Trademutt.

and delivered by highly trained counsellors who are matched up to callers individually.

Head of Partnerships for TIACS, Jason Banks said the donation is one of the largest contributions to be made to TIACS since its inception.

"Henley Properties Group is a wonderful supporter of our work at TIACS and TradeMutt, helping to share awareness of the free confidential mental

health counselling services we provide to workers across the building and construction industry," Banks said.

"Henley Properties Group's contribution will not only help us to continue to provide our vital services, but it will also enable us to increase the level of services we offer to help more people in need, during a time when they need it most."

Henley Properties Group

CEO, Antony Blackshaw said the building and construction industry has faced unprecedented issues in recent years.

"There has never been a more important and critical time to help our tradies and team," Blackshaw said.

"We are absolutely committed to supporting our team, network of tradies and suppliers and our colleagues across the industry and we are proud that our contribution to TIACS

will help bring even more support to our industry."

TIACS offers phone and text services from 8am to 10pm, Monday to Friday, nationwide. Contact via [www.tiacs.org](http://www.tiacs.org) of phone or text 0488 846 988.

**On the cover: Proceeds from Trademutt clothes support TIACS, a not-for-profit mental health care service.**

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# Huge investment in US firefighting

## Biden-Harris administration invests US\$63m for fuel breaks to protect communities and increase firefighter safety.

United States Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is investing US\$63 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act to expand wildfire fuel breaks, to protect communities and firefighters.

This new round of investments will support projects in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota and Wyoming to improve firefighter response, protect critical infrastructure and natural resources, ensure clean drinking water, support local timber industries, enhance rural economies and create jobs.



**US to invest US\$63 million to expand wildfire fuel breaks to protect communities and firefighters.**

“For nearly a decade, scientists at the USDA Forest Service and risk management experts have tested and refined building these

defensible spaces before a wildfire starts,” said Secretary Vilsack.

“With climate change fuelling the wildfire crisis, we are investing in this work through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda on an even larger scale as one of the many actions we are taking to protect the people and communities we serve.”

These opportunities were identified through a cross-boundary process that brings together tribes, local wildland fire managers, business owners, elected officials and scientists to plan for future

fires, in addition to using the best available science about fire operations and risks to communities, ecosystems and responders.

Through this planning process, the Forest Service works with local communities to identify fire barriers such as roads, rivers and other landscape features that can prevent wildfires from spreading. In 2015, scientists at the Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station began work with research universities, federal agencies, states, and independent land and resource management partners to identify these fire barriers in the development of wildfire strategies.

This announcement is part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to grow the American economy from the bottom up and the middle out by rebuilding the nation’s infrastructure, driving over US\$435 billion in private sector manufacturing investments, creating well paid jobs, and building a clean energy economy to tackle the climate crisis and make communities more resilient.

  
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**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. For more information see: <https://www.ligna.de/en/>

**16-17: International Conference on Engineered Wood 2023, Sarawak Timber Development Corporation – Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching, Malaysia.** The conference will focus on efforts and awareness of stakeholders and industrial players regarding engineered wood's potential in Sarawak. The conference will offer a platform for participants to gain and share knowledge and potential from local and international experts. For further information see: <https://apps.sarawaktimber.gov.my/seminar/>

**18: WoodSolutions Walking Tour & Networking Event – Barangaroo Reserve, Hickson Road, Sydney.** Join your fellow timber design professionals, 1.00 pm to 7.00pm, for a walking tour of some of Sydney's timber buildings, followed by WoodSolutions networking. Starting in Walsh Bay, visit some of Sydney's recent dynamic projects showcasing various applications of timber, followed by a WoodSolutions

Networking Event at Northrop's CBD offices. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/woodsolutions-walking-tour-networking-event-tickets-618826254987>

**18-19: The Forest Industry Engineering Association – Melbourne.** Woodtech would be showcasing new innovations, new products and new equipment to improve local sawmilling, wood manufacturing and wood panel company's operating efficiencies - and profitability. For bookings: <https://www.eventalways.com/woodtech>

**25-26: TABMA National Conference and Awards – Crowne Plaza - Hunter Valley, NSW.** TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be joining forces and hosting a national conference and awards program in 2023. TABMA and Hardware Australia are proud to announce the 2023 Timber & Hardware National Conference to be held in the Hunter Valley. Offering members and industry representatives an opportunity to connect as industry leaders and come away with information and tools to take back to your business to help you today and succeed in the future. As part of the National Conference, TABMA Australia and Hardware Australia will be hosting the National Awards program for the industry to participate in. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in delivering or producing high quality

products and services. For any queries contact [events@tamba.com.au](mailto:events@tamba.com.au). For bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/993638>

**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](http://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](mailto:admin@timberqueensland.com.au)

**JUNE**

**11-17: WoodSolutions 2023 six-day Study Tour – Falkenberg, Sweden, to Oslo, Norway (by luxury coach).** WoodSolutions will be hosting a select group of architects, engineers, developers and building professionals on Timber Construction Study Tour to Sweden and Norway.

The tour is scheduled to take place ahead of the World Conference of Timber. Get ready for six days and six nights of outstanding inspiration, information and fun as you travel from Falkenberg, Sweden to Oslo, Norway. Your tour leaders are Andrew Dunn, timber engineer and CEO of the Timber Development Association and Eileen Newbury, Head of the WoodSolutions Program. For more information visit <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/events/woodsolutions-2023-study-tour-sweden-and-norway>

**18-20: Malaysian Wood Expo – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** Malaysian Timber Council, International Wood & Woodworking Expo. For further information see: [www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](http://www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my) or email: [info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my](mailto:info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my)

**AUGUST**

**29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Summit – Melbourne.** Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact CORP COMM. Email: [info@corp-comm.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.timberoffsitestructure.com)

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# JK retires from Hyne, new CEO steps in

## Jon Kleinschmidt retires after 28 years with the Hyne Group.

JON Kleinschmidt, known fondly throughout the industry as 'JK', spent 28 years, six months and one week at Hyne. Starting in the business as the mill engineer at the Tuan Softwood Mill near Maryborough Qld in 1994, JK moved through the ranks as division engineer, then operations manager, divisional manager and general manager development and technical services, before being asked by the then Chair to take on the role of general manager finance & administration to fill the role with "someone who knew the business". From there, Kleinschmidt went on to become a joint CEO for about 12 months before being solely appointed to the CEO role, which he held for 11 years, ultimately for both Hyne



Jon Kleinschmidt hands over the CEO reins to Jim Bindon.

"Innovation was key and the word 'can't' didn't exist in the Hyne vocabulary. The 'let's have a go' attitude was typified by the Hyne family. As a young, inquisitive engineer, I was inspired and encouraged from the onset.

"They said you can't 'ultra-high temperature' dry radiata wood. We did. You can't convert the market to termite treated timber. We did. Years later, we established the first CLT plant in Australia, and I am proud of the men and women in our business who continue to drive innovation with creativity and passion."

In his time at Hyne, Kleinschmidt managed both the Tuan Mill

Timber and XLam.

On his retirement, Kleinschmidt released a thank you to the company that was filled with reminiscence and insights.

"The fact that Hyne is

a family business is what attracted me in the first place," Kleinschmidt said. "The late Warren Hyne was managing director at that time and he was a legendary industry and business leader.

Cont P 9

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**The Black Summer fires threatened the refurbished Tumbarumba Mill, but it was saved by RFS and Fire and Rescue crews.**

From P 8

and Tumbarumba Mill redevelopments, increasing the company's processing capacity more than eightfold. He also oversaw significant growth in the use and application of technology in the business including the step change from visual grading to automated machine grading of the structural framing products produced at both mills.

Kleinschmidt's time in the top job coincided with some of the most difficult years in recent history.

"Despite the stress and challenge, I look back on the GFC as a high point for me," said Kleinschmidt. "There were many who thought that the company couldn't survive. I made it my mission to ensure that wasn't the case. Never accept the word 'can't!' Let's have a go!

"We had to completely restructure, sell assets, strip the business back. It wasn't easy but we came out the other side. Last year, we celebrated our 140th year with

**“ I WANTED TO LEAVE THE BUSINESS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN WHEN I TOOK ON THE CEO ROLE**

exciting announcements of growth and expansion with new partners, James Jones and Sons. And with the further expansion announcement this year with Rocky Point."

While managing the redevelopment of the old Tumbarumba Mill after Hyne bought it in 2001, Kleinschmidt FIFO-ed from Maryborough using his pilot's licence and a charter plane for less than a commercial airfare.

After that enormous effort and a \$180 million investment in the Tumbarumba Mill, Kleinschmidt received a call on New Year's Eve, 2019, from Nick Roberts, the then CEO of Forest Corporation NSW, saying "Jon, I think we might lose it all."

He had been on recreation leave with his family, outside of news coverage and not knowing the full cost of Black Summer at that point. As soon as it was safe and possible to do so, Kleinschmidt was on the ground at an eerie, empty sawmill, met only by the Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue crews who were tirelessly battling to protect the mill and town.

"That visit to Tumbarumba will stay with me forever albeit not as a negative, but as a positive; an incredible

Cont P 16





# Tigercat releases two new forestry machines

These new models are designed to fill gaps in reforestation and harvesting needs.

TIGERCAT is celebrating May with the addition of two new machines to their forestry suite. The first is the new 630H Silviculture Carrier, which replaces modified agricultural tractors with a purpose-built carrier to pull mounding and plough implements in preparation for replanting operations.

Many forestry companies struggle to prepare post-harvest sites for replanting with modified ag tractors that are usually not up to the task, having insufficient power, cooling capacity and structural durability.

Based on Tigercat's skidder platform, the 630H Silviculture Carrier is equipped with hydraulic connectors and several drawbar receiver variations to adapt to a variety of plough or mounding



**1** The new 612 Skidder with Grapple is ideal for selective harvesting.



**2** The 630H Silviculture Carrier is purpose-built for the tough conditions of reforestation.

implement connection points. In addition, the carrier can be equipped with an optional winch and bolt-on fairlead system.

The second new release is the new 612 Skidder with Grapple, designed to excel in tight selective harvesting applications. The grapple skidder is the second variation to be built on the 612 platform after the release of the European-focused 612 dual winch skidder earlier this year.

Key design aspects include the oscillating centre section and the optional blade tongs. The oscillating centre section narrows the stance of the machine, allowing easier navigation through tight stands. The optional blade tongs offer additional versatility for decking wood and other secondary duties.

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

efficient drive system, the 612 is powerful and fuel efficient.

The operator's cab is spacious with clear sightlines. The heavy-duty air ride suspension seat is climate controlled and fully adjustable. Turnaround provides increased comfort and easy entry and exit from either side of the machine. The operator enjoys full control of all machine functions in any position within the 220° range. For more details, visit [www.tigercat.com](http://www.tigercat.com).



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# Tasmanian Government delivers tech to support forestry

THE Tasmanian Government has launched a new tool that is designed to encourage landowners to learn how they can estimate their carbon impact and immediately see the future impact of tree offset opportunities. Additionally, the government is also launching a new portal to assist with forestry workers.

Minister for Resources, Felix Ellis, said the Farm Forestry Carbon Tool and Workforce Development Portal are supporting the future growth of forestry. "The Tasmanian Government has invested \$300,000 to support the development of a range of tools as part of the Forest Industry Workforce Development and Implementation Plan which

aims to ensure a skilled forest and wood processing workforce into the future," he said.

"Developed collaboratively by the Tasmania Forestry Hub and Private Forests Tasmania, the Carbon Farm Forestry Tool enables farmers to estimate their carbon impact and potential tree offset opportunities, with the hope that it will encourage landowners to plant more trees on their properties.

"The tool supports the Tasmanian Government's vision to mitigate long-term climate change impacts nationally and internally



**Farm forestry is a major opportunity to increase plantation fibre resource.**

and is designed to provide estimates to support farmers as they start conversations and planning about carbon neutrality on their farms."

The tool is a world first and was developed by Tasmanian tech company Indicium Dynamics, and is now available online on the Private Forestry Tasmania website, [click here](#) to view.

The Workforce Development Portal will allow employers in the forest industry to easily access information on employment, training, and apprenticeships to support career development. The

Portal will also be available to members of the public who are interested in understanding training requirements and career pathways and provide information about the state's forest industry.

The project will be rolled out over the next two years and is supported by the Tasmanian Training and Skills Development Service.

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# OneFortyOne announces Wendy Norris as CEO

With an impressive track record on forestry investment, Norris is well positioned to lead the company to further growth.

WENDY Norris, a well-respected institutional funds management specialist, has been announced as the new CEO by the Board of Directors and Shareholders of OneFortyOne, effective from mid-June 2023.

Norris was part of the Future Fund team that established OneFortyOne, investing in Australian and New Zealand forest estates as well as timber manufacturing businesses in Mt Gambier, South Australia and Marlborough, New Zealand South Island. She has also served on the Board of OneFortyOne.

OneFortyOne Chairman John Gilleland said Norris was chosen after an extensive

selection process. "Wendy is an outstanding choice, and she brings with her a deep understanding of OneFortyOne and the forest and timber processing sectors," he said.

At the Future Fund, Norris has been responsible for over \$60 billion of direct investments that include forest/timberlands, private equity, and infrastructure, including airports and ports. Wendy has also focused on Change and Innovation, which covered the entire \$250 billion Future Fund portfolio. With this expansion, she focused on strategic evolution, preparedness for external environment conditions, talent development, and driving the data and technology needs of



After 13 years at the Future Fund, Wendy Norris is taking up the role of CEO at OneFortyOne.

the business.

Gilleland said, "Wendy has a proven record and extensive background ranging from water resources in her early career, to banking, investments and investment management. Her experience in forestland and infrastructure investments places her in a unique position within our industry. Her experience with stakeholders, including shareholders, boards, government and

finance across ours and many sectors is key for the evolving business environment we are in. Importantly, Wendy's relationships will serve all stakeholders well in assuring OneFortyOne continues as a trusted partner.

"Wendy is a leader with a personal approach to those she works with. We are confident in Wendy and the entire Leadership Team in making OneFortyOne even more successful in the years to come. As Wendy steps in, the Board recognises the outstanding work by Interim CEO Peter Brydon on his leadership and working with the OneFortyOne Lead Team in moving the business forward."

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# FWPA constitution amendments pass EGM

The raft of changes are designed for modernised and streamlined function.

FOREST & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has reported that the recent Special Resolution presented at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on Monday 1 May has been accepted and adopted to bring about amendments to the FWPA Constitution. These changes have been made to modernise and streamline the functioning of FWPA, in line with current trends and governance standards.

The special resolution, passed unanimously by all voting members and proxies held by the meeting Chair, was to accept all the changes to the marked-up constitution which were published on the FWPA website and provided in the notice of meeting.

One group of changes

relates to the modernisation and removal of outdated terminology. A change has also been made to the constitution relating to the use of virtual meetings and voting processes. Some of these changes were minor edits and rewordings to improve clarity, consistency and best practice arrangements.

Another change relates to FWPA's designation as a not-for-profit and public charity. In simple terms, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) requires charities to show that they are responsible to their members, and that members can express concerns about how the charity is being managed. To comply with this requirement, FWPA holds an annual general meeting and informs members



**FWPA board chair Craig Taylor has overseen the updating of the FWPA constitution.**

about the company's activities and finances.

Most significantly, changes have also been made to the service terms of directors and the electoral process by which FWPA directors will be appointed in the future. The changes were made in response to feedback from

previous Director Selection Committees and means that directors will now be appointed for a maximum of two four-year terms with elections occurring every second year.

The new constitution has been uploaded to the FWPA website ([download here](#)) and submitted to the ACNC.

"The Board believes these changes will help FWPA function more efficiently and effectively. We would like to thank all FWPA Members and stakeholders for their support and contributions towards these changes and for their trust in the board to manage the constitution and especially the many members who lodged proxies in advance of the meeting to ensure the smooth running of the EGM," said board chair, Craig Taylor.

## Builder collapses emphasise the PPSR's vital role

MELBOURNE-BASED Interface Constructions Victoria Pty Ltd has joined the concerning long list of builders pushed into administration over the past two years. Specialising in childcare, education, hospitality, commercial and residential builds, the

company had delivered on a number of impressive projects in recent years.

However, since the collapse, complaints about non-payment of contractors and subcontractors have emerged. It's a timely reminder that suppliers and contractors are generally

considered unsecured creditors, however they can retain an interest in their personal property if it is registered on the Personal Properties Security Register (PPSR). This is a legally effective measure that is binding, unlike a retention of title clause in your contract.

Retentions on construction contracts can also be secured under PPSR. [Click here](#) to visit the construction section on the PPSR website for more information or view their short guide 'Hey Tradies... don't get ripped off' by [clicking here](#).



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# Engineered wood under the spotlight in Borneo

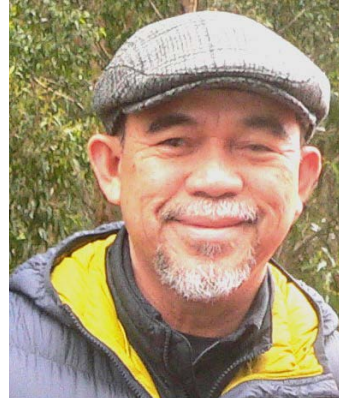
## Sustainable building is the focus for the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation conference.

ENGINEERED wood will be in the spotlight in Borneo next week. The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation will be hosting an international conference on the future of sustainable building with engineered wood.

International Conference on Engineered Wood 2023 will be held at the Borneo Convention Centre in Kuching, Malaysia from 16-17 May. The event will be directed at efforts and awareness of stakeholders

and industrial players related to the potential of engineered wood in Sarawak. The conference will offer a platform for all participants to gain and share knowledge and potential from local and international experts.

Gain insights into policies legislation and standards shaping the industry and explore exciting opportunities in this rapidly growing field and to learn about the limitless potential of engineered wood. Don't miss



**YBhg. Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet to deliver keynote presentation on Sarawak's efforts to drive sustainability in the timber industry.**

out on this opportunity to explore the possibilities of engineered wood.

General manager of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation YBhg. Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet will be delivering a keynote presentation on Sarawak's efforts to drive sustainability in the timber industry. For further information visit: <https://apps.sarawaktimber.gov.my/semnar/>

From P 9

show of community fight, resilience and what humanity can achieve when working together," Kleinschmidt said

"I was asked to speak and provide reassurance at the community hall where residents could collect emergency, donated supplies. Residents, including some of our own team members, had lost a great deal including property and livestock and we were there with them, helping where we could. Thanks to the bravery, huge effort, and collaboration of many, we didn't 'lose it all', but we lost 40% of our plantation log resource for the Mill. But we didn't accept 'can't'. We found a way to secure feedstock."

Kleinschmidt thanked many of the people who had contributed to the success



**The yard at Tumberumba was stacked high with salvage timber rescued from plantations after the fire, guaranteeing local incomes.**

of Hyne over his time, including politicians, decision makers and influencers; the many customers and key stakeholders "who appreciate the quality of our products and services" and the Hyne family, "for their support, the opportunities they have

given me and faith they have instilled in me to steer their 141-year-old business for the last 11 years

"I wanted to retire leaving the business in a better position than when I took on the CEO role and that is something I can confidently

take with me.

"Finally, and most of all, there are not enough words to thank and recognise the incredible team members I have been mentored by, worked alongside, supported by, inspired by and had my 'batteries recharged by' over the years. A tough week is always made good by a visit to a site and seeing the incredible, creative wins being achieved all around me. Keep up the incredible work you do. Always have a go!"

With typical generosity, Kleinschmidt signed off, saying "I wish incoming CEO, Jim Bindon, all the best as I officially hand over and sign off for the last time! For all those wondering, next week I will be fishing off the shores of Hervey Bay, the paradise my family and I call home."

## 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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# Moynihan Connector joins the High Line

A massive timber bridge has been installed in NYC over a single weekend.

A MASSIVE timber bridge stretching nearly 100m or the length of a typical NYC block, was installed at the High Line, New York over the weekend (6–7 May). Dubbed the Moynihan Connector, this new addition made of sustainably sourced glulam will extend the elevated park's reach from its current endpoint at West 30th Street and 10th Avenue to a public plaza within the Manhattan West development.

The seamless pedestrian pathway will create a convenient link between the transit hubs of Penn Station and Moynihan Train Hall in Midtown and the West Village.

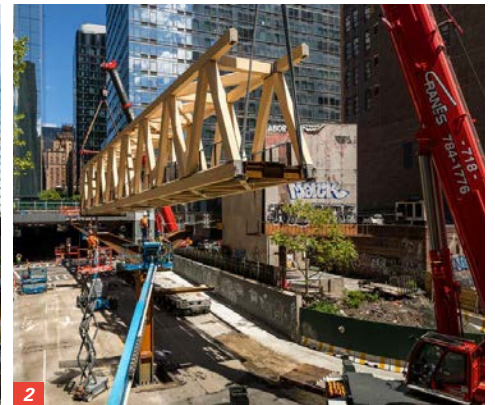
The project, proposed in September 2022, commenced construction in February 2023, with its completion slated for June 2023. The wooden

“THIS IS GOING TO BE A MUCH MORE PLEASANT WAY TO GET TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WEST SIDE



1/ The wooden truss will create a convenient link between the transit hubs of Penn Station and Moynihan Train Hall in Midtown and the West Village.

2/ Two cranes working in tandem lifted the sections into place. Photo credit: Andrew Frasz, courtesy of the High Line



truss bridge, weighing 128 tons, comprises 163 Alaskan Yellow Cedar beams. Patrick Hazari supervised the construction and said they were “assembled like an Erector set”. The bridge was put together on the ground before two cranes hoisted it 7.6m above Dyer Avenue.

The New York Times reported that two cranes working in tandem gradually lifted the first section of the bridge, while hard-hat workers secured one end to Y-shaped steel supports. Several hours later, the second portion of the bridge was positioned into place.

The Moynihan Connector traces West 30th toward West 31st Street before making a 90° turn at Dyer Avenue, near the entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel. The bridge

extends northward into the public plaza at Manhattan West. Along 30th Street, the Woodland Bridge, another segment of the Moynihan Connector, will house 1.5m-deep soil containers for lush plantings along the pathway. Corten steel decking and bronze handrails will visually connect the two bridges.

A collaborative effort between James Corner Field Operations, who contributed to the High Line's original design, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the connector's design is set to enhance the area's aesthetic. This US \$50 million project, which extends the park by an additional 400m, is a public-private partnership involving Friends of the High Line, Empire State Development, and

Brookfield Properties.

Upon its opening in late June, the connector promises to be a “green, safe, accessible, and inspiring” alternative to the busy streets below, according to Alan van Capelle, the High Line's executive director. “This is going to be a much more pleasant and exciting way to get to different parts of our city on the West Side,” he added. The Moynihan Connector is poised to become a significant milestone in New York City's development and infrastructure enhancement, transforming pedestrian connectivity and revitalising urban spaces.

Watch the installation timelapse by clicking here.

**Source: WoodCentral**

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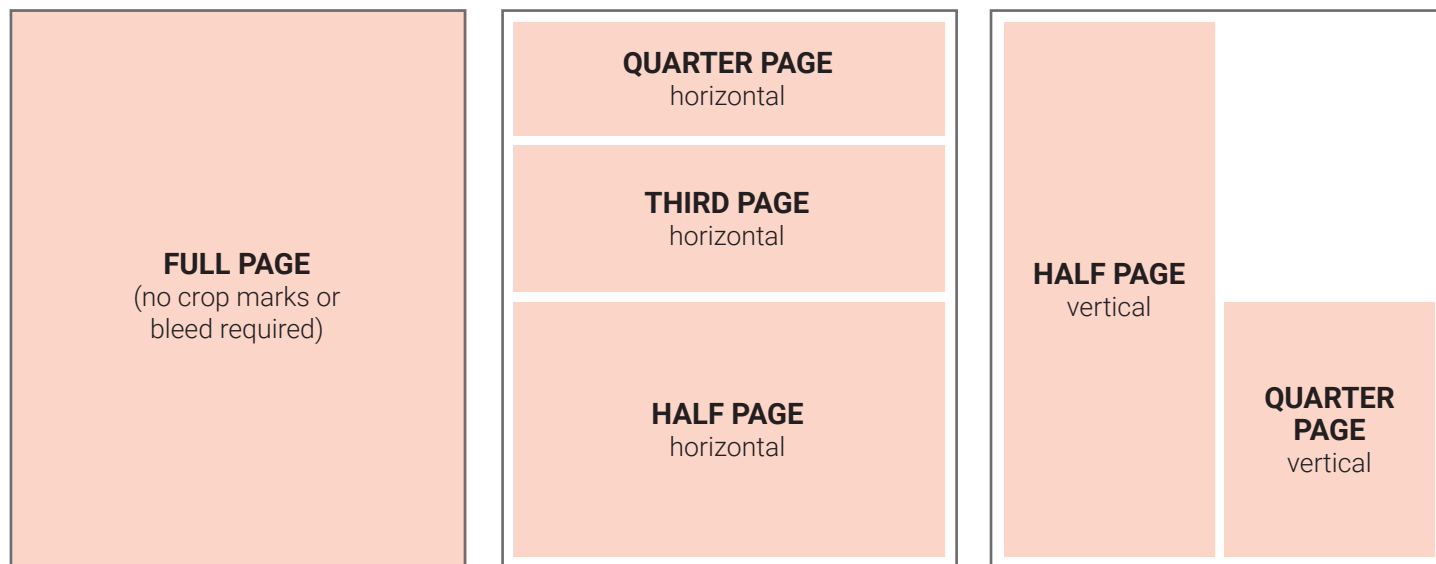
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