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Mass timber on the rise in New Zealand

COVER STORY P 5



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Industry closures are sounding alarm bells

THE Australian Forests Products Association (AFPA) says the Federal Cabinet must discuss Australia's increasing reliance on overseas timber and wood fibre imports along with our shrinking locally based forest plantation estate – as an issue which reduces our sovereign capability as a nation.

In a statement, the AFPA calls follow Victoria's decision to bring forward the closure of the state's native forestry industry by the end of 2023, which will only further tighten much-needed timber and wood fibre supply, Acting Chief Executive Officer of AFPA Natasa Sikman said today.

"As the world seeks to decarbonise and phase out plastics, the demand for timber products in Australia and internationally is growing rapidly. Australia is among the world's best when it comes to sustainable management of the forest sector, including native and plantation forestry. Alarmingly, at a time when the state governments in Victoria and Western Australia are shutting down sustainable native timber industries, imports of hardwood



AFPA says the demand for timber products in Australia and internationally is growing rapidly

products are skyrocketing. It's unconscionable that we are closing down our world-leading sustainable industries here while we import products, often from places with lesser environmental controls than Australia," Natasa Sikman said.

Recent Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) statistics show:

The volume of hardwood imports into Victoria has increased by nearly 40 per cent since 2019, when the Andrews Government announced the 2030 closure of native forestry

By volume the majority of Australia's hardwood imports are coming from Brazil

Indonesia, Malaysia, China and the USA

86 per cent of imports are coming from countries with a worse environmental index than Australia (the Yale Environmental Index)

Sawnwood and mouldings make up the vast majority of the increasing hardwood imports

"It makes no sense that we are closing down our own sustainably managed

state-based native forestry industries while imports of the products they produce are growing steeply. Furthermore, our national forestry plantation estate is also declining when we know national and global demand for the products they produce is growing sharply," Natasa Sikman said.

"We need to keep our sustainable native forestry sector open and get more new plantation trees planted to meet the future national and global demand for timber and wood fibre products. Doing this also helps Australia fight climate change, because more trees mean more carbon out of the atmosphere locked away in the products those trees create, and the fact is properly managed sustainable native forests store more carbon, as identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"Australia's forest sector is good for the climate, good for jobs and good for Australia's sovereign capability in essential products, like timber house frames, cardboard boxes and paper products that Australians love," Natasa Sikman concluded.

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'Dismay' continues following Victorian Governments' decision

RESPONSIBLE Wood (RW) is the latest industry body to voice its dismay at the Victorian Government's announcement to bring forward the end of sustainable native forest management.

In a statement, RW said the following:

Sustainable native forest management provides a broad range of benefits to Victorian communities, including well-paid employment in regional areas, economic development, recreation facilities and opportunities, all while protecting environmental values for future generations.

Responsible Wood-certified forests, such as those managed by VicForests, are underpinned



The industry body is the latest to share its dismay following the government announcement.

by the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, which ensure world-class best practice management and are based on science not ideologies. Importantly Responsible Wood certification ensures that forests remain forests, for generations to come and biodiversity values are protected and, in many cases, enhanced. As the demand for high-quality hardwood timber continues to increase, these products will now need to be imported from overseas

“ WE FAIL TO COMPREHEND THE MOTIVATION ”

Expansion for Florida Mill

WEST Fraser lumber and sawmill in McDavid, Florida has plans for a multi-million dollar expansion that will also create dozens of new jobs.

The company wants to expand its operation in Escambia County and pour about \$62 million in construction and new equipment at the McDavid sawmill. The Canadian

company has 34 sawmills across British Columbia, Alberta and the Southern United States. The expansion would also create 30 new jobs.

The McDavid sawmill processes southern yellow pine and has several lumber drying kilns. Moreno says the company plans to add at least one more mill.

forests, with most likely less rigorous forest management standards.

Responsible Wood is dismayed at this unexpected and backward decision, which counter to the intent of the previously announced Victorian Forestry Plan, and it fails to comprehend the motivation of the Victorian Government in making such a decision. This

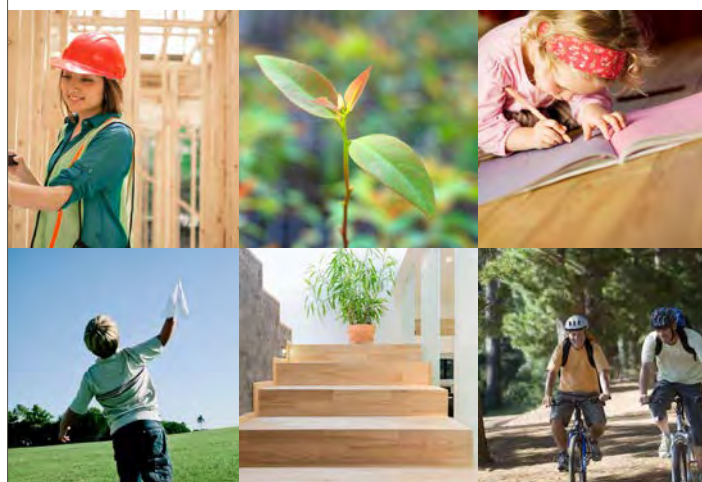
decision has significant implications for a number of

Responsible Wood's member companies and their workers.

Responsible Wood wishes to pass on our concerns and condolences to the thousands of workers and their communities who are greatly impacted by this decision and the businesses and supply chains that rely on a sustainable hardwood timber supply for their continued operation.

Most of all Responsible Wood wishes to recognise the dedication of forest managers and forest scientists that have dedicated their lives to improving Victoria's forest management system and delivering world class sustainable, environmental benefits that Victoria has every right to be proud of.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



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Olympic focus at Qld timber symposium

OVER 100 industry professionals attended the 'Doing Timber Business in Queensland Symposium' at Brisbane's Victoria Park Golf Course recently.

Timber Queensland's fourth biennial conference strongly focused on the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, set to be the first 'climate-positive' games in history, presenting a once-in-generation opportunity for the Queensland timber and forest product industry.

Hon. Mark Furner, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural



Mick Stephens, CEO of Timber Queensland (centre), with Jason Wilson, CEO of HQPlantations, the Hon. Mark Furner, Ian Haines, Chair of Timber Queensland, and John McNamara, Director of Timber Queensland.
Photo: Timber Queensland

Communities, formally opened the symposium.

In July 2021, Furner established the Native Timber Advisory Panel to provide the state government with policy options and implications for the future of Queensland's native forest industry.

Mick Stephens, CEO of

Timber Queensland, sits on the panel, with the importance of resource security discussed during his presentation on 'State Policies and Opportunities.'

Stephens emphasised the importance of forest resource security to allow sawmillers and private native forest owners to invest in the hardwood industry and the role agroforestry can play in boosting timber supply and related productivity benefits on grazing land.

Bart Mellish, the Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs and the Public Sector, spoke of the important role timber – specifically engineered wood products – can play in achieving Olympic commitments.

"The Queensland government supports efforts to demonstrate engineered wood products and to invest in the future of timber," Mr Mellish said.

"We can see timber as a building material has great potential in achieving the government's commitment to a climate-positive Games."

In particular, Mr Mellish identified the potential of timber in constructing the athletes' village, achieving a dual legacy as a sustainable venue and as lasting affordable accommodation.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens welcomed the comments: "As an industry, we all understand the opportunity for timber to play a pivotal role in delivering a climate-positive Olympics."

Source: WoodCentral

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Mass timber in use for wide range of construction in New Zealand

BY MICHAEL SMITH

MINDFUL of reducing their carbon footprint, large private companies, government entities and state-owned enterprises across New Zealand are giving increasing consideration to building in engineered wood. That's due in no small part to improved hard data on mass timber construction times and costings, and favourable comparisons with steel and concrete.

Because of the historical dominance of 'traditional materials' in the non-residential building sector, costings for similar or better structures in mass timber had been infrequent.

But that information has been gradually forthcoming as an increasing variety of timber buildings become part of mainstream construction – notably Auckland City Mission's



Auckland social housing project features CLT walls/mid-floors, resulting in reduced construction time.

Photo: Damien Nikora

HomeGround (the country's tallest CLT building), libraries, social housing and educational institutions.

Given that large components can be prefabricated and screwed into place on-site, it's estimated that timber projects are, on average, 30 per cent quicker to build.

According to Mid-Rise Wood Construction (a Crown/commercial partnership that encourages the use of NZ-grown timber in the

construction of mid-rise buildings), the flow-on effects can be significant. Most notably, site overheads (scaffolding, crane time, labour, etc.) and design/consent fees are carried for a shorter period; while sale or tenancing can be achieved earlier.

“MASS TIMBER IS BECOMING PART OF MAINSTREAM CONSTRUCTION”

The partnership adds that mass timber material costs have typically been slightly higher than traditional materials – but are normally outweighed by time savings.

It also notes that steel prices have increased by over 40 per cent in recent times – while “availability and lead times for steel and concrete

have pushed out to as much as six months”.

John Stulen (Innovatek Limited and WoodWorks NZ Director) says that currently the supply of engineered wood products for mass timber construction projects is tight, but increased capacity is coming on stream soon. “Recently, Red Stag TimberLab confirmed two upgrades to extend its CLT panel processing capability.

Cont P 6

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From P 5

The company has finalised a second CNC, including an upgrade to process panels faster; and plans to add a third CNC unit."

PROCUREMENT GUIDE

Given that government agencies have a significant role to play in achieving net zero carbon by 2050, central government released the 'Procurement guide to reducing carbon emissions in building and construction' in June 2021.

Around 130 agencies must use the guide for decisions about new building construction where the estimated capital value of a building project is \$9 million or more (effective from April 2022).

The guide is not intended to provide advice on product selection (referred to as 'materials agnostic'). However, given the carbon sequestration



Motueka Public Library features locally sourced and fabricated timber elements. Photo: Jason Mann

capacity of timber as a building material, it's not difficult to deduce that its consideration is encouraged through this process.

Mr Stulen says funding has been forthcoming for several new projects at universities and polytechnics using mass timber to reduce their carbon footprint. "A high proportion of these projects have been delivered with the goal of meeting the Living Building Challenge [a measurement of sustainability in the built environment across seven

areas of performance].

"And since 2020, state-owned housing developer Kainga Ora has been building a range of affordable housing solutions with mass timber as one of the key options – including three-level walk-up apartments on what used to be single state house sections.

"Currently the agency is extending its use of offsite manufacturing as a construction method, and making increasing use of modular design and high-tech building materials such as

cross-laminated timber.

"And because mass timber is now more widely accepted, it is being promoted as a solution for warehouses and similar buildings where there may be limitations with ground-bearing capabilities on certain building sites. More and more, by combining materials, mass timber can offer wider clear span widths – as it always has done for swimming pool complexes."

Mass timber structure for CLT plant at Red Stag Timberlab site, Waipa. Photo: Innovatek

Hazard reduction burns continue near Merimbula

FORESTRY Corporation of NSW is starting hazard reduction burning near Merimbula on Sunday, June 4, to help protect forests and neighbouring private property against wildfires.

Smoke may be visible in Yurramie State Forest and from surrounding areas, including the Princes Highway, Mt Darragh Road, Chalkhills

Road and the towns of Merimbula and Pambula.

The burn is happening approximately three kilometres west of Merimbula and plans to treat 950 hectares of bushland.

Autumn and Winter are the key seasons to reduce the forest's fuel load and help protect communities and the

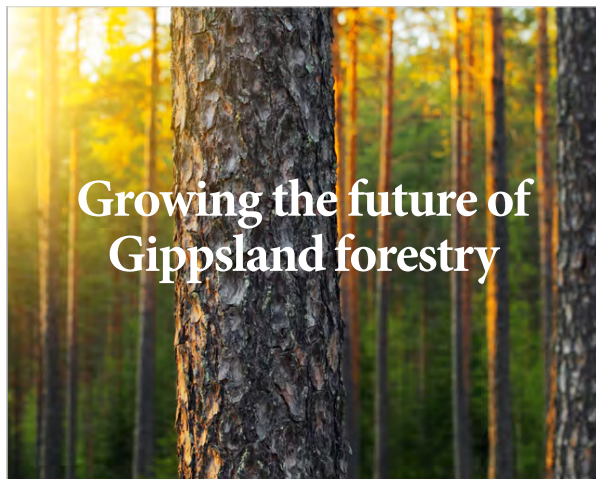
environment against bushfires, said Forestry Corporation Protection Supervisor, Peter Carstairs.

"We had a very mild fire season, so it's now time to start preparing for next summer," Mr Carstairs said.

The hazard reduction burns are visible on the "Fires Near Me" app as a planned event.

Forestry Corporation firefighters will carefully monitor all controlled burns to ensure the weather is suitable and the burns stay within containment lines.

Forestry Corporation is responsible for more than 2.2 million hectares of native and planted forests and has been formally involved in firefighting in NSW for 100 years.



Growing the future of Gippsland forestry

\$400,000 research funding investment to boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits in partnership with industry

With the support of the Australian and Victorian governments, the Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has up to \$400,000 available for research grants to grow the future of forestry.

Research projects could include: developing new and improved products in relation to composites, extractives and bioenergy; improving workplace and supply chain innovation, safety and efficiency; enhancing tree growing including forest health and genetic gain; maximising precision management and applying new technologies; development of new non-timber forest products and services; improving forest industry social licence; and identifying opportunities with robotics, automation and artificial intelligence. Priority will be given to projects that are Gippsland-based and supported and have emphasis on building research and educational capacity in the Gippsland region.

Individual research grants will range from \$50,000 – \$400,000 and will be for a period of up to one year in duration. Funding proposals close on Tuesday 18 July 2023 and should be lodged via email to funding.vic@nifpi.org.au. For further information, including a proposal template and briefing document, see www.nifpi.org.au

About us The Gippsland Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is a joint venture between the Australian Government, the Victorian Government and the forest and wood products industry with the goal of growing forestry into the future.



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 or email: info@malaysianwoodexpo.com.my

JULY

16-21: Understanding Forest Course, Gottstein Trust – Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW. A week-long forest science course that

provides an understanding of sustainable Australian forest management, the economics of growing trees for wood production and other forest services. The course covers both planted and natural forests and provides an appreciation of environmental issues and international strategic trends in the forestry industry. For further information see: <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-forest-science-course>

AUGUST

29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Summit – Melbourne. Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact

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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.>

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Australian Timber Supply Summit</h2>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: normal;">Discuss, network and understand the Australian Timber Supply Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CROWN PROMENADE MELBOURNE • 29 - 30 AUGUST, 2023 • CLICK OR SCAN CODE TO REGISTER 	
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Have you registered for the “Australian Timber Supply Summit?”

THANK YOU to our sponsors and supporting partners of the Australian Timber Supply Summit to be held in Melbourne on 29-30 August 2023.

This event will be a fantastic opportunity to discuss, network and understand this essential component of the supply industry.



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Tasmanian MP steps up to defend forestry

TASMANIAN MP Felix Ellis has stepped up in Parliament to defend the forestry industry saying “We’ll always protect and promote our industry over actors, activists or Dan Andrews.”

Concerns are mounting for the industry in the Southern state after a campaign was launched urging the Government to end native forest logging.

It follows the recent decision by the Victorian Government which has shocked and caused outcry within the timber and forestry sectors.



1/ Felix Ellis MP says the future is bright as he visits Mechlog.
2/ Minister for Resources Felix Ellis has defended the forestry industry.

A number of Federal MPs, Olympic champion Ian Thorpe and several acclaimed authors are among dozens of high-profile names urging the Tasmanian government to



“Australians want to see native forests protected and are calling on the Tasmanian government to put a stop to this unsustainable industry. This can be done by supporting forestry workers to move into sustainable jobs that help, not harm, the environment,” The Australia Institute’s Tasmania Director, Eloise Carr, said.

In his parliamentary speech, Minister for Resources Felix Ellis said the government would be ramping up native forest logging in Tasmania – not shutting it down.

“The earlier-than-expected shutdown of native forestry in Victoria is also a huge opportunity for Tasmania,” he said.

“It means, sadly, for those workers in Victoria, they have been displaced, but there are massive opportunities here in Tasmania.

“In Tasmania, our millers have more jobs than people available to them, and we are looking forward to bringing those people down here to bolster our capability and supply.

“We are committed to ensuring Tasmanian timbers support Tasmanian jobs, and we will continue our work with the local industry to ensure supply and to ensure certainty.

“We can guarantee ... that we will not be doing is shutting down the native forest industry like Labor have done in Victoria and Western Australia.”

make a similar move.

There were 67 signatories in an open letter, published in *The Mercury* and *The Examiner* last Thursday, that says successive state governments have provided more than \$1 billion in subsidies to the forestry industry over 20 years, money better spent on building new homes and supporting essential services such as nursing and teaching.

“ WE WILL NOT BE SHUTTING DOWN THE NATIVE FOREST INDUSTRY ”

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Field trip to visit award-winning timber manufacturer

THE Timber and Forestry enews conference-related field trip on 30 August 2023 is a privileged to be able to visit the Big River Group MB Prefab plant at Geelong, Victoria.



The company was awarded the county's best frame and truss operation at the inaugural National Timber and Hardware Awards held in the Hunter Valley, NSW on 26 May 2023.



The Big River Group MB Prefab plant at Geelong, Victoria was awarded the county's best frame and truss operation at the inaugural National Timber and Hardware Awards held in the Hunter Valley, NSW on 26 May 2023.

MB Prefab Geelong is a multi-award-winning roof truss and wall frame manufacturer providing quality timber roof trusses, wall frames, floor trusses, and associated building materials to commercial builders, home builders, and owner builders.

The business started in

“VISITING THE AWARD-WINNING MANUFACTURER ON AGENDA”

1977, and its first employee started in 1978. 45 years on the same employee is among 65 currently working at the Geelong site.

MB Prefab is an industry leader and will continue to prioritise exceptional customer service products, quality, and sustainability initiatives. They have already reduced their landfill impact by 95% by partnering with strategic recycling partners.

Timber serpentine shelter revealed

THE latest Serpentine Pavilion in London has been revealed with timber the star as designed by French-Lebanese architect Lina Ghotmeh.

Set to open to the public on June 9, the pavilion in London's Kensington Garden is a circular timber structure that shelters a "concentric table". Named À

table, the pavilion was designed as a space for exchange and celebration.

"The pavilion emerges around this concentric table that allows people to get together," said Ghotmeh in an exclusive video published by Dezeen recently.

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Timber demand and supply – the challenge for 2023

Heading towards a timber supply crisis summit in August

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

AS detailed in the three earlier instalments of this series building and construction industries recognise that the current strong demand for timber products has to a large degree been driven by Federal Government initiatives aimed at improving housing affordability, providing incentives for building activity directed at maintaining employment, funding to enhance the prospects of apprentice employment, and various related measures.

As previously outlined, these measures have collectively increased residential and commercial construction activity that has



Beyond the closure of domestic hardwood production in Victoria and Western Australia, hardwood supplies will be even more problematic with doubts about the capacity of Southeast Asian suppliers to ramp up their production.

placed substantial pressures on supply chains for building products, but timber products in particular given that timber is high bulk and low value relative to other building products.

On 25 October 2022 Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced a national housing accord between governments, investors and industry to build affordable homes.

The housing accord's aim is to build a million new houses over five years with the Federal Government to provide an extra \$350 million to build 10,000 houses on top of existing commitments.

The accord flagged the intention of State and territory governments to also build 10,000 homes on top of a string of affordable housing initiatives for low-income earners, including the Housing Australia Future Fund to build up to 30,000 social and affordable houses in five years.

Back in instalment two

Cont P 11



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From P 10

of this series reference was made to a Forest and Wood Products Australia report that by no later than 2050 Australia will have:

- A population between 33.6 and 40.0 million people.
- New housing demand around 259,000 dwellings per year.
- Sawn softwood demand of 6.5 million cubic metres per annum – almost 2.0 million cubic metres per year higher than 2021.
- A gap between demand and domestic production of 2.6 million cubic metres per year, equivalent to 40.5 per cent of total demand.

In relation to hardwoods, beyond the closure of domestic hardwood production in Victoria and Western Australia, hardwood supplies will be even more problematic with doubts

about the capacity of Southeast Asian suppliers to ramp up their production to satisfy Australia's demand gap. Further, illegal logging regulations, certification and other compliance requirements mean that South American and African prospective hardwood suppliers are yet to be tested.

During this four instalment series, we have sought to demonstrate that building and construction demand has been significantly 'pumped up' by Federal and state government initiatives aimed at improving the prospects for house ownership, affordability and maintaining employment across building and construction industries. This was done without sufficient regard to the supply side of the equation.

So, demand has climbed and supply capacity has declined as a result of a flat-lining domestic



Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced a national housing accord between governments, investors and industry to build affordable homes.

timber production and the uncertainties associated with softwood timber imports from the Northern Hemisphere. In relation to hardwood timber, supply has been seriously diminished by domestic politically-motivated decisions to shut down sustainable native forest-based operations.

Governments across Australia now need to do much more on the supply

side. Certainly, longer term by encouraging plantation establishment and domestic manufacturing of timber products, but immediately to work with the industry to identify and develop future supplies of both imported softwood and hardwood timber products.

The planned timber supply summit in Melbourne on 29 and 30 August will be an important event for the timber industry supply chain. The summit will examine the issues this four-part series covers in much more detail.

Work is well advanced to ensure that presentations will include a line-up of leading international and Australian experts who will be able to provide details about future demand and supply trends and sources. The summit will be an important occasion for the industry and you are welcome to register to attend.

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Michaela Lihou appointed CEO of MBV

THE Master Builders Victoria Board has announced the appointment of Michaela Lihou as our new Chief Executive Officer after a thorough executive search.

“Michaela is an experienced executive, with an extensive background in the building and construction industry, and a strong skillset in strategy development, stakeholder engagement, industrial relations,

communications, and people & culture,” they shared in a statement.

“Since commencing at MBV in 2020, Michaela has also lent her experience to policy and advocacy, member services, operations, projects, and finance, developing key relationships whilst driving our strategic imperatives to the benefit of our members and the industry.

“Michaela is a member of the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) and has been an integral advocate as MBV and the industry have navigated



Michaela led the MBV as the interim CEO before the official appointment.

Interim CEO, over this time Michaela has demonstrated the ability to develop and lead the organisation through its next phase with a focus on members first and empowering people to build a better future.

“This appointment marks an exciting new chapter for MBV, and the Board is looking forward to continuing its working relationship with Michaela, ensuring we deliver on our vision to lead a future-ready industry that builds a better world.”

through unprecedented challenges,” the statement continued.

“Having led MBV since December 2022 as its

“IT'S AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER

McMunn and Yates Building Supplies purchases Canadian Lumber locations

MCMUNN & Yates Building Supplies Ltd. and Canadian Lumber have announced they have signed a purchase agreement whereby McMunn & Yates will acquire the business assets of Canadian Lumber in Winkler, Morden and Altona. The transaction was effective May 29th.

“We are excited to have this opportunity to expand into the communities of Winkler, Morden and Altona,” said Jason Yates, President

of McMunn & Yates. “As a family owned business, with a similar customer focused culture, we are confident the stores will be a great fit within our existing operations. We have great respect for the operations of Canadian Lumber and its dedicated and skilled staff.”

Established in 1987, Canadian Lumber has a long history of serving builders, home owners and industry in southern Manitoba. Canadian

Lumber owners Henry and Brenda Friesen have decided to sell their interests in Canadian Lumber. Henry and Brenda stated: “Together with our staff we would like to thank southern Manitoba for their support over the last 36 years. We will cherish the relationships we have made for the rest of our lives. Thank you for the trust you put in us, it has been a privilege to serve you. We believe by joining the team at

Canadian Lumber together with the team at McMunn & Yates southern Manitoba will continue to receive excellent advice, service and value moving forward.”

“We are looking forward to continuing the Canadian Lumber tradition of successfully working with customers on their building supply needs and projects,” added Jason Yates.



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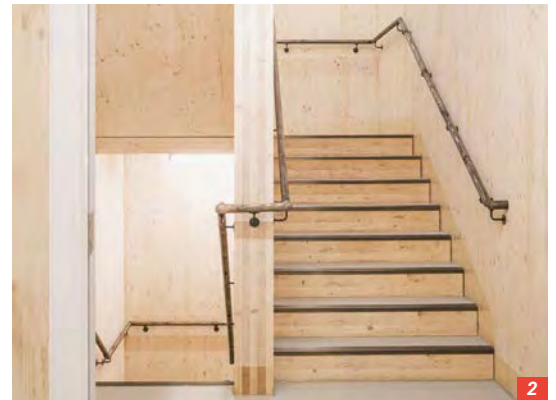
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Timber the star feature in new creative centre

TIMBER is in the spotlight thanks to architects Paddy Dillon with Reed Watts who have completed Roundhouse Works, a new creative centre for young people at the heart of the Roundhouse's creative campus in Camden, London.



1/ The striking London building features reclaimed timber and sleepers.



2/ The internal structure also has a focus on timber.

Roundhouse Works provides space and state-of-the-art facilities to support young people to turn their creativity into a career, doubling the number of 11–30-year-olds the Roundhouse currently works with each year to 15,000. The new building houses a bespoke

large music studio, a triple height studio for circus and performance, a large multi-use studio for workshops, and a dedicated podcast studio run by Transmission Roundhouse.

The new building will also include the Inflexion Workspace, an affordable workspace for creative

entrepreneurs and freelancers. Members of Roundhouse Works will be provided with one-to-one mentorship with industry experts and have access to a series of networking events and workshops that have been piloted over the past three years with partners including international law firm Taylor Wessing.

Roundhouse Works is designed by Paddy Dillon architect, with Reed Watts Architects and Allies and Morrison with particular emphasis on reducing the building's impact on the environment.

In particular, the sustainably sourced trees used for the cross-laminated timber structure sequester over 250 tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere while the recycled railway sleepers used on the facade save 8 tonnes of CO2 compared to other forms of cladding.

As a result, and following the integration of solar panels on the roofs, electric vehicle charging points, LED lighting, automatic lighting controls, and other energy efficiency elements, Roundhouse Works has achieved the highly sought-after BREEAM 'Excellent' sustainability

accreditation. This will put its environmental performance in the top 10 percent of all new non-domestic buildings in the UK. It is also fully accessible and includes a Space for Change facility.

Roundhouse Works has been funded by private trusts, individuals and corporate donations with principal support from the Inflexion Foundation and Simon Turner with the generous donation of the land from the Norman Trust.

"Roundhouse Works comes out of hours of conversations to identify exactly what young people need," Paddy Dillon, Roundhouse Works architect, said.

"It's a response to the Roundhouse site – but more importantly, it tries to stay as close as possible to the spirit of the Roundhouse, and the young people who work there. It's been a complete pleasure to work on this project, knowing this space will benefit tens of thousands of young people in the years to come.

"This new building represents the culmination of an intense and rewarding collaboration with an incredible group of individuals," Matt Watts, director, Reed Watts Architects, said.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Keynote Address: David Gardner – Chief Investment Officer, Forestry of London, UK based Fund Manager, Gresham House –**
Climate Change and The Role of Forestry in Global Decarbonisation
- **Housing Industry Chief Economist –**
Are the Australian Construction & Building Industries Increasingly Reliant on Timber Imports?
- **Statistics & Economics Manager of Forest Wood Products Association, Kevin Peachy –**
Future Market Dynamics & Supply Chain Implications
- **Chair of Timber Merchants Australia, Peter Alexander –**
The Role of Timber Merchants Australia, it's Position and Concerns on Supply
- **Managing Director of SFM Agribusiness, Andrew Morgan –**
Australian Historical Present & Predicted Domestic Softwood Supply
- **Director of Indufor Australia, Andrew Morton –**
Australian Historical Present & Predicted Domestic Softwood Supply
- **CEO of Engineered Wood Products Association Australasia, Gavin Matthew –**
The Need for EWP's Supporting the Supply Gap
- **Communications Director of Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Joe Prevedello –**
AFPA's role in Boosting the Forestry Estate, Timber & Wood Fibre Supply
- **Global Timber Supply Experts and International Speakers from Europe, UK, New Zealand, China, & Malaysia –**
Opportunities to supply the Australian Solidwood Sector and the Future of the Timber Supply Chain

FIELD TRIP

On day two of the conference, we invite guests to join the Timber & Truss Field Trip to Geelong to visit frame & roof truss manufacturing plant **Big River Group**, who recently won the best frame and truss operation in the country! The second stop is to the woodchip processing & export facility **Midway**, a pioneer and major woodchip exporter to North Asia from Geelong and several other Australian ports.

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Queensland moves further out of drought

FOR the first time since 2013, less than 10% of Queensland is drought-declared.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner has accepted the recommendations of Local Drought Committees to revoke the full or partial drought declarations from nine local council shires including Whitsunday and Longreach Shire Councils.

It's the first time since 2013 the LGAs of Barcaldine, Boulia, Longreach, McKinlay, Richmond, Winton, and Isaac Shires have been drought-free.

The Whitsunday Shire had been part-drought-declared since 2015, while Livingstone Shire Council was drought-declared in 2019.

Only the Diamantina and Bulloo Shire Councils remain drought-declared.

Local Drought Committees made recommendations to the Minister after considering local conditions as well as scientific information, with the assistance of the new combined drought indicator.

Following the Palaszczuk Government's drought reforms in 2021, primary producers no longer need to be in a drought-declared area to access assistance.

While much of the state is enjoying green conditions, primary producers are being advised to bolster drought resilience now.

Drought preparedness grants of up to \$50,000 are available as a co-contribution to help producers undertake on-farm capital improvements that improve the drought preparedness of their property.

The drought declaration



In recent years more than 60% of the state was in drought with crop production affected.

map can be viewed at www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au

For further information on drought assistance visit daf.qld.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.

"Some of our primary producers have done it tough during a long drought, so the widespread improvement in seasonal conditions has been a welcome relief," Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said.

"Consecutive La Niñas and high rainfall have resulted in this fantastic outcome for our primary producers.

"Primary producers in recently drought-revoked areas can access freight subsidies for restocking and returning from agistment under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) for up to two years.

"DRAS is being phased out as areas come out of drought, but thanks to our government's ground-breaking reforms, primary producers no longer need to be in a drought-declared area to access assistance.

"Drought assistance



Queensland Drought Situation map as of 1 June 2023. Only the Diamantina and Bulloo Shire Council areas remain in drought.

in Queensland has been broadened and is for the first time open to eligible primary producers across all agricultural sectors with a focus on resilience and preparedness for the next drought.

"More than 270 primary producers have already applied for drought preparedness assistance under the new programs, and I hope many more farmers join them.

"We have the Farm Business Resilience Program that provides free information and training sessions to improve drought preparedness, including help with a farm business plan.

"We offer Farm Management Grants providing a rebate of up to 50 per cent to a maximum of \$2,500 to primary producers for the cost of professional assistance to develop a plan.

"The Farm Business

Resilience Program and Farm Management Grants are jointly funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

"Additionally, the Palaszczuk Government is delivering Drought Preparedness Grants of up to \$50,000 and Drought Ready and Recovery concessional loans up to \$250,000

that are available in any year, regardless of drought status," he continued.

"For any producer who believes they are droughted, in addition to the Drought Preparedness Grant and Drought Ready and Recovery Loans, the Palaszczuk Government offers both interest-free and concessional interest loans to assist with the broad range of drought-related costs compared with the limitations of the old fodder and water freight subsidy program.

"If a producer in these newly revoked council areas believes they are still experiencing difficult conditions, they could immediately apply for an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration.

"If approved, an IDP will continue to give them the same access to DRAS as the recent area declaration," Mr Furner concluded.

Fire risk increases as country braces for El Niño

THE Bureau of Meteorology has moved from El Niño WATCH to El Niño ALERT this week meaning that there is around a 70% chance of an El Niño developing this year.

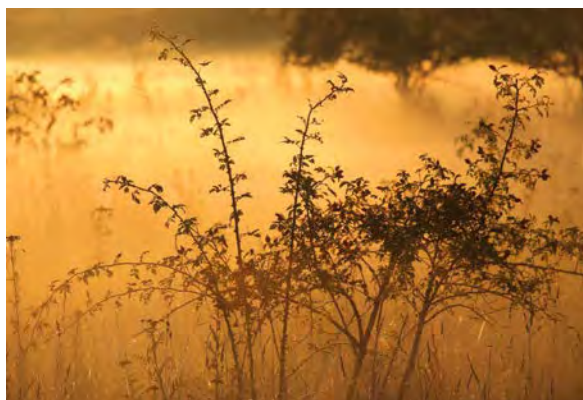
Bureau of Meteorology senior climatologist Catherine Ganter said climate models and indicators now meet the Bureau's El Niño ALERT criteria.

"While the models show it's very likely the tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures will reach El Niño levels during winter, we have seen some movement in the atmosphere towards El Niño conditions," Ms Ganter said.

"While our El Niño ALERT criteria have been met, these changes will need to strengthen and sustain themselves over a longer period for us to consider an El Niño event," she said.

The Bureau's criteria for the definition of El Niño ALERT have been developed as part of a staged system to alert Australians on the increased likelihood of El Niño

El Niño describes changes in the tropical Pacific Ocean that affect global weather and



the El Niño season poses a greater risk of drought and bushfires

it occurs on average every 3 to 5 years.

During El Niño, there is a higher chance of drier weather in eastern Australia and it's more likely to be warmer than usual for the southern two-thirds of Australia.

"The Bureau's long-range winter forecast is for drier and warmer conditions across almost all of Australia and the climate conditions in the Pacific Ocean are already factored into our forecasts," Ms Ganter said.

"The long-range forecast for winter also shows an increased chance of below-average rainfall for almost all of Australia and the move to El Niño ALERT does not change this forecast.

"The Bureau currently forecasts Australia's rainfall and temperature up to 3 months ahead. We use a

climate version of our weather model to make these long-range forecasts and this model uses information about ocean and land temperatures, wind patterns and more.

"This model already takes into account the likely conditions in the Pacific Ocean, but also conditions elsewhere across

the globe, such as the tropical Indian Ocean and how they are also likely to influence Australian weather and climate," Ms Ganter said.

El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), where the climate is often drier than usual in eastern Australia during winter and spring.

ENSO describes a naturally occurring cycle in the climate system, including the location of warmer or cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and its connection with the trade winds and patterns in the atmosphere.

HIGHER CHANCE OF DRIER WEATHER

Ms Ganter said even if an El Niño develops, its impact can vary depending on where you are, as well as from event to event.

In Australia, changes during El Niño could include:

- Reduced rainfall for eastern Australia.
- Warmer daytime temperatures for the southern two-third of Australia.
- Increased risk of extreme heat.
- Increased bushfire danger in south-eastern Australia.
- Increased frost risk linked to clear skies at night.
- Decreased alpine snow depths.
- A later start to the northern wet season.
- Reduced tropical cyclone numbers.

The warning comes as Canada battles raging wildfires with authorities warning this could be the worst fire season on record. 566 firefighters have been on site working to contain the blaze. 10 times the average amount of terrain has been scorched, compared with the past decade, which has renewed calls in the country for a federal solution to supplement provincial and international firefighting resources.

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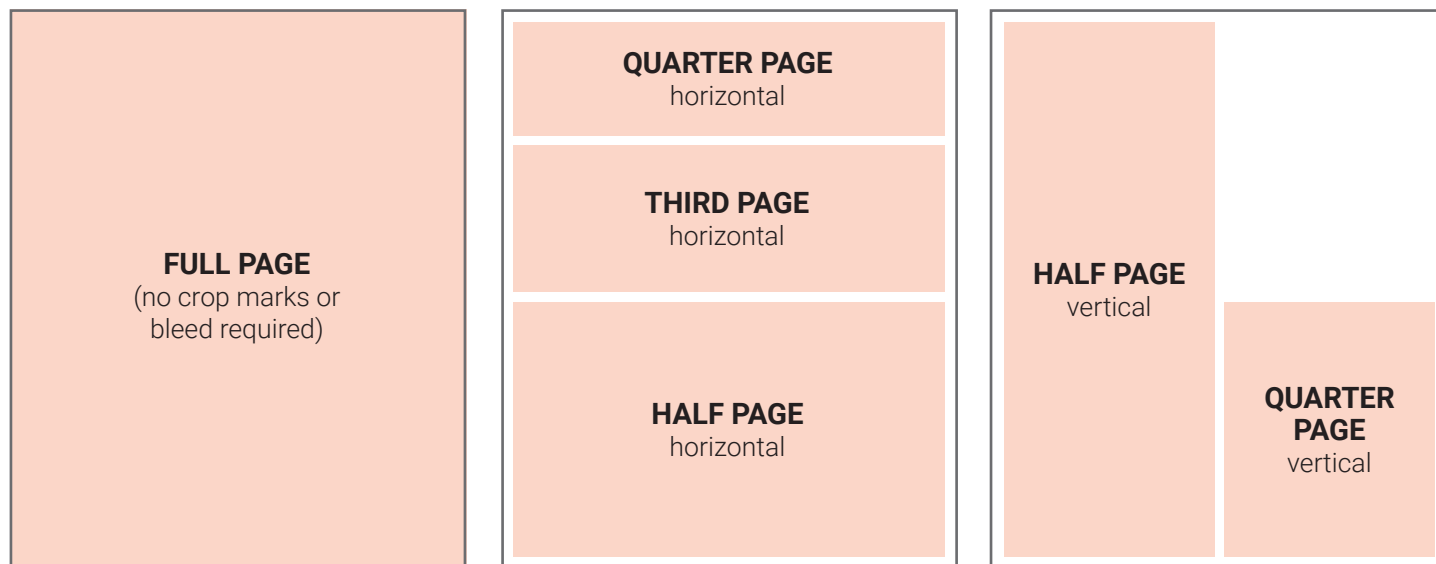
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