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ISSUE 796 // March 28 2024

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COVER STORY P 3



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Presenting the 2024 Clive Martella Service to Industry Award

George Prothero honoured with prestigious award.

GEORGE Prothero, a respected and admired person within in the timber frame and truss sector, was honoured with the prestigious 2024 Clive Martella Service to Industry Award in a ceremony surrounded by industry stalwarts at the 2024 FTMA National Conference. This award celebrates Prothero's monumental near half-century career, beginning when he was just fifteen years old and culminating in his own business at Alpine Truss, which has become a beacon of innovation and excellence in the industry.

Under Prothero's guidance, Alpine Truss became known not just for its exceptional products and safety protocols, but also for its employee-centric culture and significant contributions to the local economy, establishing Prothero as a community figure in Wangaratta. Beyond his professional achievements, Prothero is recognised for his commitment to the well-being of his employees, fostering a



1/ Ruth & Clive Jnr Martella (right) and Kersten Gentle, FTMA CEO (left), celebrate with George Prothero, winner of the prestigious Clive Martella Service to Industry Award.



2/ George Prothero, celebrates with family and friends at last week's 2024 FTMA National Conference.

familial atmosphere within his company, and his significant contributions to the local economy as one of the largest employers in Wangaratta.

The Clive Martella Service to Industry Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the timber frame and truss sector. Prothero's receipt of this year's award underscores his role not only as a visionary leader but as a driving force for industry collaboration and advancement.

Upon receiving this distinguished honour,

George Prothero shared his appreciation for the collective spirit of the industry and the crucial support of his team at Alpine Truss. "I am deeply humbled by this recognition, which truly belongs to the entire Alpine Truss family and our collaborators across the industry," Prothero stated, reinforcing his belief in unity and teamwork as the foundation of his and the industry's achievements.

The award ceremony also saw the unveiling of a symbolic timber slab trophy, engraved with Prothero's name and decorated with the FTMA logo,

signifying the strength and unity of the timber and truss community.

George Prothero's legacy will no doubt inspire current and future generations in the timber frame and truss industry, embodying the spirit of innovation, leadership, and community service that the Clive Martella Service to Industry Award celebrates.

For more information on George Prothero's contributions to the industry and the Clive Martella Service to Industry Award, please contact Kersten Gentle, FTMA CEO on 0418 226 242.

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Standing up for our profession

BY DR MICHELLE FREEMAN, PRESIDENT OF FORESTRY AUSTRALIA

HAVING a high profile should not provide anyone a free pass to speak disrespectfully and unfairly about others.

Forestry Australia is appalled by the misinformation about forest scientists and professionals that has been perpetuated by lobbyists and anti-forestry campaigners in recent media articles. It is hard not to think that such narratives have been constructed to suit certain agendas. Statements made are not universally supported by forest scientists, and do not recognise the knowledge, expertise and credibility of Australia's world-leading forest scientists. It is also disappointing that recent coverage has not included these other voices.

Forestry Australia is a not-for-profit, independent professional association with 1,200 members. Our members are individuals who have high levels of scientific expertise and extensive operational experience. They operate across all aspects of forest, fire and land management, farm forestry and tree growing throughout Australia. Some of our members are current or past employees of State forest agencies responsible for timber harvesting.

These forest scientists and professionals are among the most dedicated and passionate individuals, who make significant and under-acknowledged contributions to forest management, forest conservation and provision of renewable, sustainable



1/ Forestry workers, biologists and scientists work hard in the forestry industry to collect data, monitor and manage one of our most precious resources.

and responsibly-sourced timber for the Australian public. This contribution furthers our understanding of forest ecology and forest fire management. It also includes operational expertise in active and adaptive management options that are crucial for building climate resilience and mitigating wildfires.

These forest scientists make significant contributions to managing and conserving our forests for the benefit of society. They provide elite and specialised firefighting capacity to all major wildfire events, collect and apply seed to revegetate forests severely degraded by bushfires,



and are at the forefront of technological advancement such as drones and sophisticated apps to record and monitor forest values. In addition, they conduct the most comprehensive

threatened species monitoring programs that exist in this country, and oversee comprehensive management plans that provide high quality, sustainable local hardwood timbers.

It is time to move on from these tiresome, divisive and outmoded forest wars. Australia needs forest management decisions to be informed by pragmatic, open minded, evidence-based and credible voices who engaged in positive dialogue regarding future forest management. In doing so, it is only right that we recognise the immense positive contributions of the forest scientists and forestry professionals who have dedicated their careers to evidence-based care for our forests.

RECENT misinformation has plagued the timber and forestry industry. Shirley Forrest's article in this week's edition underscores this issue. Vic Forests confronts numerous false allegations surrounding its impending closure, detailed in last week's issue #795 on page 3.

The proliferation of misinformation is troublesome, as verifying claims demands time and energy. This challenge intensifies when misinformation originates from seemingly reputable sources. Discerning the true origins of articles amidst the cacophony of noise and propaganda poses a formidable challenge.

On the cover: Researchers study the forest and track ecological changes. Image: Shutterstock

Timber trends in Australian timber production

Navigating Australia's structural supply and demand dynamics.

By PHIL LINDSAY, RED STAG TIMBER

THE Australian Timber Supply Summit in Melbourne last year highlighted the situation for the supply of structural timber for building over the next 25 years. There were a number of presentations showcasing the fluctuating level of expected building in the short and medium term based on economic factors, but the firm longer-term outlook was an increasing softwood timber demand as population inevitably increased.

Population growth to between 35m and 40m will increase demand by 40% to 50% which cannot be met by current Australian production. The 33% increase in the production of softwood sawn between 2005 and 2020



The longer-term outlook is for increasing softwood timber demand in Australia, as population inevitably increases.

cannot be repeated as there are no more trees available. Worse, recent bushfires destroyed 10% of the softwood forests and the quality of the remaining trees has dropped

leading to lower production levels of structural timber. The result is less structural timber is being produced than 15 years ago.

peaked in the mid-2000s at over 2.3m m³ p.a. before falling to under 1.8m m³ p.a. in 2020. However, demand for softwood structural timber increased in 2022 to more than 2.5m m³ p.a. with imported timber surging to more than 700,000 m³ (almost 30% of total timber demand). Timber shortages resulted in record prices for most of the year as a perfect storm of unprecedented building coincided with worldwide supply chain struggles.

Relying on imports for 30% of the timber demand drove prices to double when supply was disrupted. By 2050 more than 40% of structural timber

Structural timber production

Cont P 5

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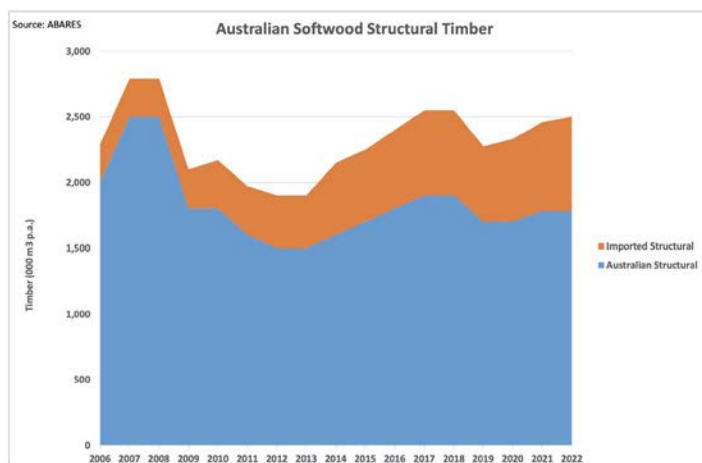
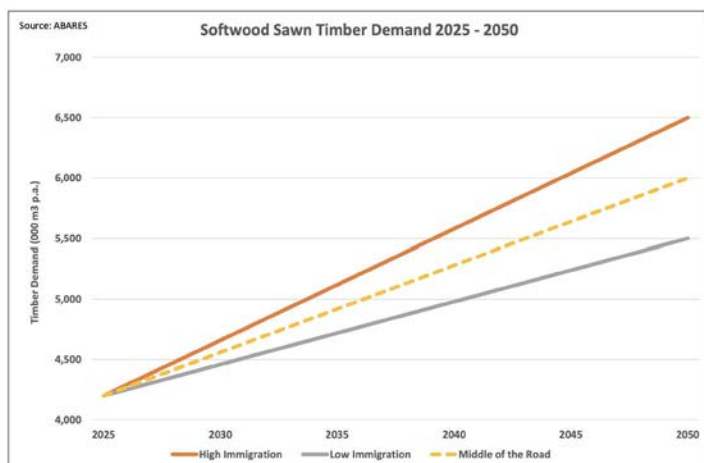
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From P 4

will be imported leaving the Australian market controlled by import supply chains. Boom then bust pricing and availability doesn't provide confidence to customers and can drive product substitution. That doesn't help anyone.

Simplifying greatly, my takeaways from the

conference were:

- Demand will increase,
- Australian production will remain static,
- So, imports will increase.

So which part of the Melbourne paradigm can be challenged?

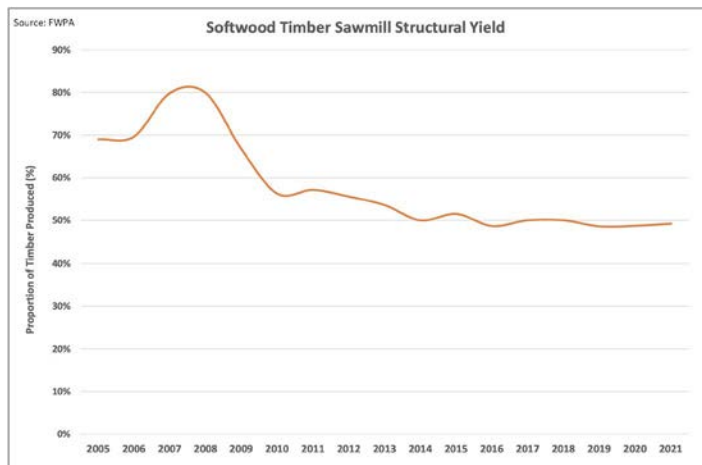
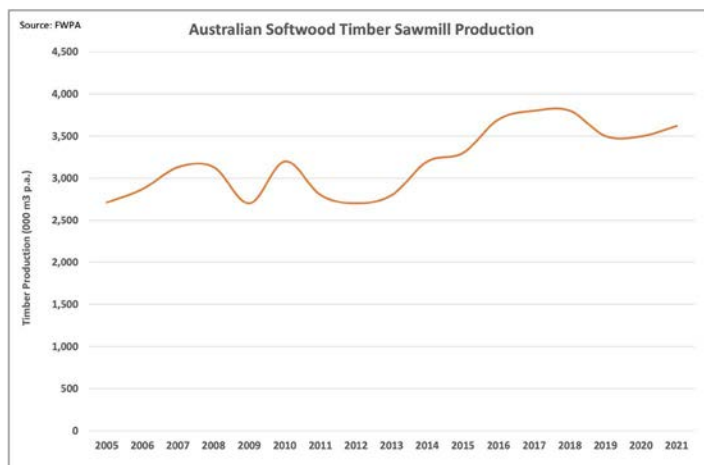
The only one is the assumption that Australian production of structural timber

will be static. If domestic structural timber supply increases, it reduces the need for imports and reduces the impact of global supply chains and pricing. Without having any more logs available then the only option is to produce a higher proportion of structural timber from the limited total already being cut.

There are two main ways

to achieve this: introduce a lower grade as a by-product of the current grade(s) or adjust the current grade to fit the properties of the current forests. I've experienced both situations in New Zealand, and I have a definite preference based on what worked and what didn't.

Cont P 6



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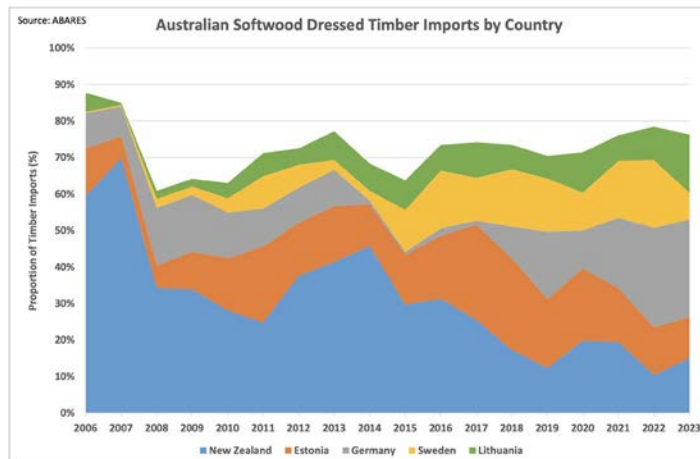
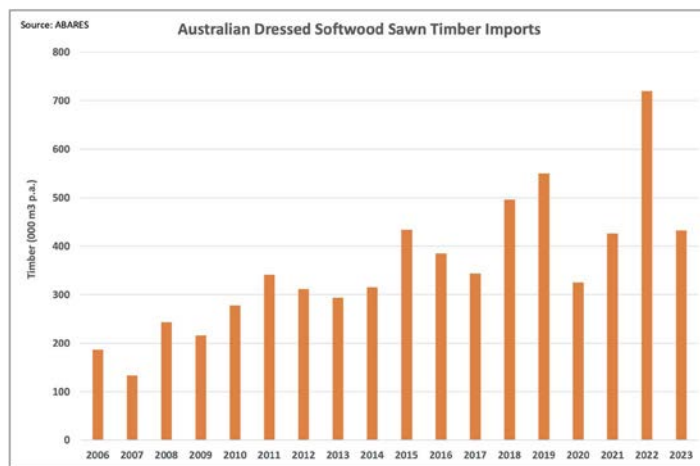


From P 5

The timber grades in New Zealand were revised in 2004 as sawmills moved from visual grading to mechanical grading, similar to what had happened in Australia ten years earlier. There was also the impetus of improving the building industries' confidence in timber after a less than stellar introduction of mechanical grading by some players, but that's another story. To keep things simple the three old visual grades were replaced with three new mechanical grades with new names. Standards bodies took the opportunity to update the design properties which hadn't been changed since the 1980s. Light timber framing Standards were updated so that all three new grades could be used in every part of houses so the total amount of timber available to be used for structural purposes would be maximized.

What happened? Almost no one used anything but the main grade. Both the lower and higher grades had very little uptake. The higher grade was only used where the main grade required going up a size or couldn't be used at all. The lower grade gathered dust (or the New Zealand equivalent; it sat in the sawmills' yard and got soaked) as few customers wanted it at any price.

The outcome was that the



effective supply of structural timber didn't increase one bit as merchants didn't want to complicate their limited yard space, the frame and truss plants didn't want to complicate their factories, the builders didn't want to complicate their building sites, and the much smaller market of Do-It-Yourselfers got what they were given.

It was a lost opportunity which New Zealand is paying

for to this day.

About the only positive was the adjustment of the design properties of the main grade to fit with the forests available at the time. It allowed the stiffness property of the new grades to be kept the same as the older visual grades but adjusted the strength properties as these were where the forests had changed. This allowed the total amount of structural timber available to

be maintained. Not great, but at least we didn't go backwards. With the benefit of hindsight, we lacked an understanding of our customers and tried to be too smart.

We missed the opportunity to increase structural timber production, we should have kept it simple. Those are about the only conclusions I had about the opportunity to increase Australian structural timber production:

- Understand the forest resource today and tomorrow
- Understand the drivers of customers' behavior
- Only adjust the design properties that will increase structural yields, and minimize those changes
- Keep it simple with one main grade

Postscript: Some Australian sawmillers may see New Zealand as a threat, that NZ could swamp the Australian market. Nothing could be further from the truth. New Zealand has its own challenges with timber supply over the next decade as our total harvest will drop by over 25%, and by more than 50% in some regions. The long-trumpeted New Zealand wall of wood is over, and a lack of subsequent forestry planting has left a gap in the age classes which is now starting to hit home. Not every region faces declining harvests, but some sawmills will face a hard road for the next decade.

Source: Timber Trader News



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1-2: Sydney Build Expo – Sydney. Sydney Build is the only event in Australia to offer 300+ accredited presentations, 500+ exhibitors and incredible networking opportunities for all of Australia's construction, architecture, engineering and infrastructure industries. For more information, visit www.sydneymbuildexpo.com

1-2: International Forest Investment Conference – New York City. For more information, visit www.getfea.com

20-21: IV International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments. The conference aims to bring together leading timberland investment management organizations, investors interested in forestry asset class and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about new forest business frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact rafal@forest-analytics.com

22-23: Wood Transport & Logistics 2024 – Rotorua, NZ and online. With an international focus and a rich understanding based in the forestry expertise of New Zealand, this regular conference delivers insights into

wood handling and transport innovations, automation, log scheduling and logistics being employed by leading forestry, wood harvesting and log transport companies. Topics include transitions to new electric, hydrogen and diesel-hybrid powered heavy vehicles, including the integration of truck automation and platooning, as well as new innovations in log measurement, scheduling and logistics. For more and to register, visit <https://innovatek.co.nz/event/wood-transport-logistics-2024/>

JUNE

14: NTHA Vic/Tas State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

25-26: Fire Summit – Melbourne Connect, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC. Theme: Prescribed fire: Exploring science, culture and practice. This Summit will review and discuss cultural fire practices, evidence from recent wildfires, fire science, lived experience and current prescribed fire practices. The Summit will also look to the future and consider more effective use of prescribed fire, health impacts of fire and smoke and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and forest scientists can encourage two-way capacity building to support healthy and resilient forests. For more information, visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2024-fire-summit-prescribed-fire-exploring-the-science-practice-and-culture/>

27: NTHA Qld State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

9: NTHA SA State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

12-13: Timber Construct Conference – Rydges, Melbourne. The Timber Offsite Construction Conference and Exhibition has been rebranded as the Timber Construct Conference to encompass the full spectrum of timber building. The conference provides an invaluable forum to address pressing challenges and opportunities influencing timber's role across the built landscape. Technical sessions will cover research updates, emerging products, building code enhancements, and best practice case studies. For more information, visit <https://timberoffsiteconstruction.com>

13: NTHA NSW State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

23: Latin America Forest Investment Conference –

Porto Alegre, Brazil.

24-25: International Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Porto Alegre, Brazil.

25-27: Field Trip – Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.

OCTOBER

11: NTHA WA State Awards. More details to follow. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact alicia@ntha.com.au

22-23: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

29-31: Forestry Australia's 2024 Symposium – Mercure Ballarat Convention Centre, Golden Point, VIC. Theme: Healthy and resilient forests for our future, will facilitate conversation and collaboration that regardless of land tenure and ownership, healthy and resilient forests should be the objective for all forest and land managers. The Symposium is a focused three-day gathering, consisting of two days of plenary and concurrent sessions, and a day of Field Trips. The two-day program will feature a range of Keynote and Invited Speakers, who are experts and thought leaders in their field. The Symposium will also feature several social functions, facilitating networking and collaboration in an informal and relaxed environment. For more information, visit <https://www.forestryconference.com.au/>

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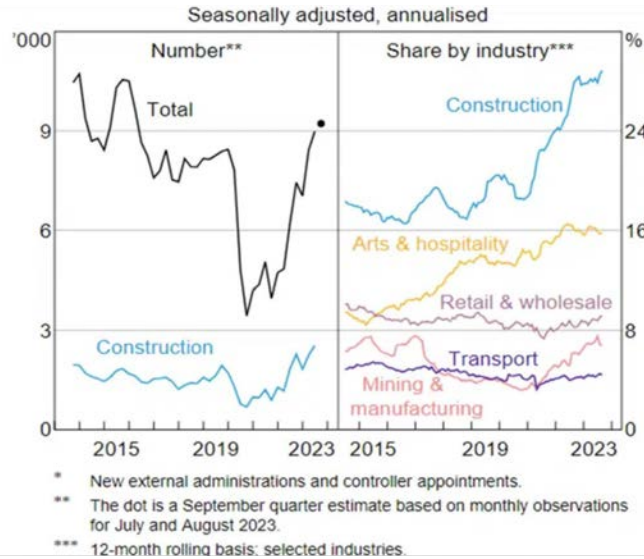
From the desk of Statistics and Economics Program Manager

An industry forum in the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Melbourne.

ON 13 February 2024, FWPA had been invited to the RBA office in Melbourne for the brief of Statement on Monetary Policy. The meeting was attended by other industry representatives such as from CBUS property, Energy Australia, Australia Post, and MAB Corporation. Despite the presentation from the newly appointed Deputy Governor, Andrew Hauser, the objective of the meeting was to share insights from the industry on how to manage the impact of high inflation and high interest rates.

In relation to our timber industry, risks remain high in residential construction

COMPANY INSOLVENCIES



Current business conditions in the timber industry are reflected in the data.
 Sources: RBA statement on Monetary Policy February 2024, ASIC. Image: FWPA.

activities due to higher input prices, higher labour costs, and material shortages. Insolvencies of large construction companies in the last two years were likely to transmit stress to other businesses and households (left), including to our industry.

In the forum, FWPA shared current business conditions in the timber industry. Like others, we have experienced a slowing demand for wood products. We also raised concerns about the supply chain in the construction industry, which remains a puzzle for us between supply

Cont P 9

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From P 8

and demand.

The forum will be held regularly for the RBA as a forum to seek inputs from industries to manage monetary policy, financial stability, and inflation targets.

FWPA ECONOMICS WEBINAR SERIES

As part of our study on housing for the future and the response from the timber industry, we will have a webinar series in April and May 2024. The series includes:



Nerida Conisbee



Dr. Liz Allen



Dr Tom Alves

- Webinar 1 (Tuesday, 30 April 2024, 10-12 pm) - Australia's future housing affordability.
- Webinar 2 (Tuesday, 7 May 2024, 10-12 pm) - Supply side response to the need for more housing for the future.
- Webinar 3 (Tuesday, 14 May 2024, 10-12 pm) - Bridging the housing issues and the

timber industry: A policy perspective.

In Webinar 1, we will discuss ongoing housing issues from multiple perspectives. Our confirmed speakers include:

1. Nerida Conisbee (Chief Economist at Ray White): Nerida will share

her expertise from the perspective of trends and dynamics in the housing market.

2. Dr. Liz Allen (Demographer and Senior Lecture at the ANU Centre for Social Research Methods): Liz will share her insights from the perspective of demography, migration, and population changes.
3. Dr Tom Alves (Head of Development at the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute – AHURI): Tim will share his view from the perspective of urban planning and built environment design.

For more information on FWPA click here.

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WoodSolutions collaborates with University of Tasmania

New dynamic course structured for the future-focused learner.

FACILITATED by Australian government grant funding, the University of Tasmania in collaboration with WoodSolutions has launched a pilot micro-credential course on Timber Design for Residential Construction.

The micro-credential is a structured to make upskilling and stacking credentialed education accessible to busy professionals and students. The course incorporates materials and knowledge from leading industry experts to enable students to learn through real-world case studies and models.

Ideal for engineers, architects, building designers,

and other professionals involved in construction planning and coordination, the micro-credential is delivered online with flexible options for self-paced learning and opportunities for networking with industry professionals.

This collaboration between the University of Tasmania, WoodSolutions,



The Timber Design for Residential Construction micro-credential has been developed through a partnership with WoodSolutions and prominent industry experts.

Collaboration between WoodSolutions and the University of Tasmania has resulted in an opportunity for the timber industry.

and other industry experts provides access to all the latest knowledge and practices for a cutting-edge curriculum. It also provides up-to-date information on industry standards for students to complete the course with practical knowledge that can be applied on the job.

Timber design in residential construction is an ever-growing field of work that aligns with core sustainability principles required across construction professions. Working in this field affords the opportunity to participate in rewarding careers that work toward a resilient and more sustainable future for residential construction in Australia. And students don't have to stop there. Completion of the micro-credential opens pathways to further studies at the University of Tasmania, including credit options for

engineering degrees. The micro-credential units are designed to accommodate the busy lives of professionals and to ease the financial strain of traditional education and upskilling.

The micro-credential equips individuals with specialised skills and knowledge in timber design for residential construction to meet the demands of the sector. This certification can help address professional shortages in Australia by providing a pool of qualified individuals ready to contribute effectively and efficiently to projects. The micro-credential course is funded by the Australian Government Micro-credentials Pilot in Higher Education. This means zero fees for students.

You can find more information and register your interest for the course by clicking here.



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AFPA welcomes strengthened laws to fight illegal logging

AUSTRALIA'S forest products sector welcomes legislation introduced into the Australian Parliament today by the Albanese Government that will strengthen Australia's fight against illegally logged timber, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Diana Hallam said today.

The provisions of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Strengthening Measures to Prevent Illegal Timber Trade) Bill 2024 will improve Australia's ability to identify and act against those who undermine our legal and sustainable trade in wood and timber products.

Diana Hallam said, "Illegal timber not only undermines the

environmental sustainability of the forest products industry, it also undermines our domestic biosecurity protections creating a heightened risk of potentially devastating pests and diseases that can devastate local industry.

The Bill will amend the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 to:

- Strengthen audit, compliance and enforcement of offence penalties
- Enhance monitoring of compliance and streamline investigation powers
- Require notice of products being brought into Australia

"This updated legislation is particularly timely. Off the back of the native forestry



Diana Hallam, CEO of AFPA welcomes proposed strengthened laws against illegal logging.

industry closures in Victoria and Western Australia, we have seen a considerable increase in the volume of imported hardwoods and it's critical the proper checks, enforcement and penalties are in place if there's any doubt as to the

source," Diana Hallam said.

"I encourage anyone suspicious about where their timber products have come from to inform authorities and if consumers are in doubt to look for Australian and certified timber. Australian timber can be trusted as sustainable, safe, pest and disease free.

"The integrity of our timber and fibre products is paramount. When grown, harvested and processed properly, these products represent the height of sustainability, but when corners are cut, it can be environmentally damaging and undermine Australian jobs. We commend these proposed strengthened laws," Diana Hallam concluded.

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Victoria Government lets down Victorian foresters

THIS column is dedicated to all the hardworking, committed and passionate staff who have poured their personal all into sustainable forestry at Vic Forests.

Sadly, the staff at Vic Forests have all been told they will close their doors for the last time on June 30. The Vic Government does not have the back-bone to stand up and be counted on when it really matters, they are letting all Victorians down and the solution really is simple.

I have read the messages 'Save our town, who will fight the bush fires next time when we are gone, Minster, come and talk with us', 'Trees grow back, my timber town won't' - these are all a passionate cry for help and asking for politicians to listen.

Let's take a look at sustainable forestry management through nature's own Carbon, Capture and Storage (CSS) through managed tree harvesting and replanting. The urgency to combat climate change has prompted a search for innovative solutions to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions. Among these, managed harvesting and replanting of trees emerge as a natural and effective method for carbon capture and storage. This approach not only sequesters carbon dioxide but also supports sustainable forestry practices.

Carbon capture and storage involves the capture, transportation, and storage of carbon dioxide emissions to prevent their release into the atmosphere. Trees play a crucial role in this process through photosynthesis, the biological mechanism by

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which they absorb carbon dioxide from the air and convert it into organic carbon compounds, storing it within their biomass, roots, and soil. Managed harvesting and replanting capitalise on this natural process to enhance carbon sequestration while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.

Managed tree harvesting and replanting is a cyclical process that involves carefully selecting and harvesting mature trees, whilst simultaneously replanting new ones. Once a tree is harvested there is usually a seed just waiting for daylight and room to grow, but good forestry management always includes an audit to ensure a sapling is growing and they are protected during their early years. If no baby seedling appears, then you plant one. This is called sustainable forestry management and ensures a continuous cycle of carbon capture and storage while supporting economic, social, and environmental objectives.

The process typically involves several key steps:

Assessment and Planning: Forestry experts assess the forest's health, biodiversity, and carbon stocks to develop a sustainable harvesting plan. This plan considers factors such as tree species, age, growth rates, and ecosystem services.

Harvesting Operations: Skilled loggers employ selective



harvesting techniques to remove mature trees while minimizing damage to surrounding vegetation and wildlife habitat. Modern harvesting equipment and practices aim to reduce environmental impacts and maximise wood recovery.

Reforestation and Regeneration: Immediately following harvesting, foresters replant or encourage natural regeneration of new trees to replace those harvested. This process ensures the continuous sequestration of carbon dioxide and maintains forest resilience and biodiversity.

Monitoring and Management: Continuous monitoring and adaptive management are essential to assess the success of reforestation efforts, address any unforeseen challenges, and adjust management practices as needed to optimise carbon sequestration and ecosystem health.

BENEFITS OF MANAGED TREE HARVESTING AND REPLANTING FOR CARBON CAPTURE

Carbon Sequestration: Harvested trees store carbon within their wood, and replanted trees continue the process of carbon uptake, effectively sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Renewable Resources: Wood harvested from sustainably managed forests serves as a renewable and low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels and energy-intensive materials like concrete and steel.

Ecosystem Services: Managed forests provide a multitude of ecosystem services, including habitat for wildlife, water regulation, soil stabilisation, and recreational opportunities, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human well-being.

Economic Opportunities: Sustainable forestry practices support local economies by creating jobs in timber harvesting, processing, along with related and supporting industries, whilst also supporting the local economy and the communities that depend on them.

Policy thought bubble: *Don't just work on the theory of replacing one tree for one tree, buy land, set it aside and start a whole new process. One for one plus plant an extra one at the new site, get it? and while you are at it provide the policy framework and laws to protect those who manage our unique forests. At a federal level we are talking about building more homes to help with a critical shortage and for that we need wood – and to quote the complete obvious, Wood – the ultimate renewable!* Shirley

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Pirelli embodying innovation and sustainability

Pirelli's FSC-certified tyres shine at Australian Grand Prix.

IN alignment with International Day of Forests and its theme of "Forests and Innovation," Pirelli, a trailblazer in tyre manufacturing renowned for its commitment to innovation and performance, proudly brings its industry-leading FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) certified tyres to the Australian Grand Prix for the third race of the year.

Having made waves with their debut in Bahrain and subsequent usage in Saudi Arabia, Pirelli's FSC-certified tyres continue to make a resounding impact, underscoring the company's steadfast dedication to sustainability in motorsport. By sourcing rubber from FSC-certified smallholders, Pirelli adheres to the highest standards of sustainable forestry, thereby safeguarding forest ecosystems, combatting deforestation, championing the rights of forest communities, and ensuring fair wages for workers. CEO of FSC Australia and New Zealand, Melanie Robertson notes, "Pirelli's commitment to using FSC-certified rubber in their tyres underscores the vital link between performance and sustainability in the industry, setting a notable benchmark. FSC ANZ proudly celebrates Pirelli's pole position on the transition to sustainably sourced materials by using FSC-certified tyres



1/ Pirelli brought its new industry-leading tyres out for the Australian Grand Prix.
2/ These new tyres are made under the stringent FSC certification for sustainability.

at the Australian Grand Prix, highlighting the importance of responsibly sourced forest materials in our daily lives. This initiative emphasises the critical role of sustainable forestry to the Australian public, highlighting the urgency of environmentally

and socially responsible forest management to safeguard ecosystems and the communities they support."

Recognised as a key player in the fight against climate change for the sixth consecutive year, Pirelli's inclusion in the 2023 Climate

A list by the CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) solidifies its status as a global leader in sustainability. Moreover, Pirelli's distinction as the first tyre manufacturer to receive a three-star rating on the FIA's Environmental Accreditation Programme underscores its unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship.

As Formula 1 enthusiasts converge to revel in the excitement of racing at Albert Park, Pirelli's new FSC-certified tyres will take centre stage, delivering unparalleled performance but also championing responsible forest management practices. With FSC certification ensuring that all-natural rubber used in Pirelli tyres meets stringent environmental and social standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council, spectators can rest assured that they are witnessing a spectacle that prioritises both performance and sustainability.

Sara Mariani, FIA Sustainability and D&I Director applauds this development, noting, "Pirelli's implementation of FSC-certified tyres in the FIA Formula One World Championship is a strong statement of the company's commitment to sustainability – not just to its own targets but also in its alignment

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Have some news to share?

Send media releases, news stories, events, any timber and forestry news related information with us anytime to Nicky, Donyale and Jess -

editors@timberandforestrynews.com



Contact Nicky, Donyale or Jess today...

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with the goals of the FIA’s Environmental Strategy, which seeks to reduce motorsport impact and reinforce the sport as a catalyst for sustainable innovation and technology.

The introduction of FSC-certified tyres at the Grand Prix Australia underscores Pirelli’s unwavering commitment to minimising environmental impact and fostering sustainable practices within motorsport. In doing so, Pirelli not only cements its position as a leader in motorsport sustainability but also sets a precedent for responsible environmental practices within the Formula 1 community.

ABOUT THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC):

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – a non-profit organization governed by environmental, social, and



FSC certification is clearly displayed on Pirelli tyres.

economic perspectives equally – covers more than 150 million hectares of certified forests and is the global benchmark for sustainable forestry. FSC’s strict forest management standards require that forests are managed to preserve biological diversity, while benefitting local workers and communities in way that is economically beneficial for them. The robust FSC certification process ensures

that all certified material is separated from non-certified material throughout the supply chain, from plantation to tyre manufacturer.

“PIRELLI SETS PRECEDENT FOR RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

PIRELLI’S NATURAL RUBBER SUPPLY CHAIN

FSC certification of the natural rubber from certified plantations used by Pirelli to make tyres for the FIA Formula One World Championship is the latest step in the company’s long-running programme to sustainably manage the natural rubber supply chain. This is achieved via a roadmap of best practice in the different countries of origin for natural rubber, in line with the principles and values set out in the Pirelli Sustainable Natural Rubber Policy from 2017. This document is the result of consultation with key stakeholders in the natural rubber value chain, including international NGOs, Pirelli’s main natural rubber suppliers, growers and sellers in the supply chain, automotive clients, and other global organisations.

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Have fun this school holidays in NSW

PART ONE OF TWO

FORESTRY Corporation of NSW has released a list of some of their best spots for families to visit this school holidays. If your family likes to get out in nature there are some amazing free camping spots, day trips, picnic areas, free experiences and more available.

Forestry Corporation is excited to show off the construction and maintenance works they have done over the last year saying that state forest visitors will notice improvements across roads, campsites and attractions.

List of popular activities in state forests in the Hunter Valley and Central Coast:

- Tree Top Adventure Park in Ourimbah State Forest
- Strickland State Forest waterfall, arboretum and walking tracks
- Camping at Frying Pan Creek (Telegherry River) in Chichester State Forest
- Picnic at The Pines in Olney State Forest
- Mountain Biking in Ourimbah and Olney State Forests
- Paintball in Awaba State Forest
- Fishing and canoeing in Barrington Tops State Forest on the Manning River
- Visit Heaton, McLeans and Hunter lookouts in Heaton State Forest
- Visit Abbotts Falls in Olney State Forest

List of popular activities in state forests on the Mid North Coast:

- Visit Guulabaa – Place of Koala in Cowarra State Forest – home of the ‘Big Koala’ and Wildnets
- Go camping at Swans Crossing in Kerewong State Forest



1/ Guulabaa – Place of Koala in Cowarra State Forest, home of the ‘Big Koala’ and Wildnets.

2/ Swans Crossing in Kerewong State Forest.

3/ Enjoy camping in some truly spectacular places and get back to nature.

- Picnic at Coopernook HQ and visit the restored Foresters Cottage
- Take a walk along Longworths Historic Tramway Walk in Kerewong State Forest
- Go Mountain Bike Riding at Jolly Nose in Queens Lake State Forest
- Cool off at Cobrabald (Wild Bull and The Bluff Camping areas)
- Visit the award-winning ‘Old Bottlebutt’ in Burrawan State Forest
- Go birdwatching at No. 1 Tower in Mt Boss State Forest
- Visit Mid North Coast Paintball in Cairncross State Forest

Forestry Corporation’s Partnerships Leader Alex Capararo said, “If you are after excitement, visit Tree

Tops Adventure Park in Ourimbah State Forest. There is something for everyone of all ages and fitness levels in State forests.”

“We encourage people to put State forests on their day trip plans, as well as supporting local businesses along the way. Especially as camping in State Forests is free. You can even take the family dog,” Alex said.

Forestry Corporation’s Tourism & Partnerships Leader, Leah Moncrieff said, “Cobrabald is situated on the Wilson River and is a great place to go, either for a day trip or camping overnight, with easy access to swimming and exploring the surrounding native forest. Just remember there are limited camping spots at Wild bull and The Bluff Camping grounds so get in early!”.

“Our State Forests are fantastic places to visit for school holidays, there is something for everyone, whether you are after an activity, or just want to sit back and relax in nature. Anyone who hasn’t visited us before is sure to find a place or activity that suits them. Download our free VisitForests app and discover great places to enjoy these holidays,” Leah said.

Forestry Corporation asks visitors to please be checking their website for any closures, notices and solid fuel fire bans. It is also important to stick to the formed roads and be aware of possible dangers as you explore these beautiful and natural areas. The Forestry Corporation shared that there is more than 2 million hectares of state forests in NSW full of amazing, unique and fun places and activities to discover.

For more information about Forestry Corporation of NSW, click here.

New mini-excavator park for kids in Queensland

GREAT news for parents this school holidays, there's a new activity just an hour from Brisbane that your kids are going to really dig.

Located at Tamborine Mountain is Australia's first mini-excavator park, 'Dig It'!

The park first opened in May last year and has already hosted thousands of kids for a real-life construction experience. Kids will learn about the construction industry, earthworks, engineering, building, safety, and teamwork! Each kid will adorn themselves in hard hats and high-vis gear before getting to jump into the driver's seat of their very own CAT 1.7 mini-excavator. They will then learn a range of skills that they will put to the test as they dig up dirt, use the claw to stack tyres, or use the hook. The custom-designed park brings to life an engaging and educational experience while maintaining a heart of fun with plenty of activities.

Dig It is located in the famed Thunderbird Park which has plenty of parking or accommodation for those of you travelling from afar. Families can enjoy lodges, gleaming, cabins, or your classic camping.

Here are 10 reasons why Dig It says their adventure park is the place to bring the kids this school holidays:

1. Fresh air!

When playing at the Dig It adventure park, kids aren't cooped up indoors. The kids are active in the fresh air and are immersed in a world of outdoor play!

2. Fantastic for kids interested in construction

Bob-the-Builder is a classic



DIG IT sees kids sitting in the driver's seat, operating their own mini-excavator, just like a real construction worker, in an outdoor construction zone.

children's show that has inspired many young kids to be interested in learning how to build and construct things. What better way to encourage young ones to engage their creative minds and work with their hands than to bring them to a real-life mini-construction site!

3. No screens

After the safety video, there's not a screen in sight. The Dig It experiences gets kids digging, smashing, crashing and even driving!

4. Fair sessions

Each Dig-It experience has a duration of two hours and is closely monitored by the team to ensure each kid has a fair amount of time playing with the equipment.

5. Hands-on activities!

If your kids likes to get dirty, then this is the place to be. Dig-It is very hand-on and interactive. Kids will get to drive their own mini-excavators and take on a world of challenges!

6. Educational

The Dig-It experience isn't just fun and games. It has been designed to get kids problem solving, learn engineering, and develop teamwork skills.

7. Build interest in trades and engineering

We will always need tradies, engineers and construction workers. This experience could be what inspires your kid's future! And even if they

don't go into construction, the lessons they'll learn in project management and team building will always be invaluable to their lives.

8. Close to the city

Dig-It is located at Thunderbird Park, Tamborine Mountain, only an hour from the Gold Coast or Brisbane! Dig-It is surrounded by an array of family fun activities and events to enjoy.

9. Not just for the kids!

Parents, don't worry, you can also jump in the excavator with your kids and enjoy every moment with them as you dig, smash and crash!

10. More than just construction!

There is plenty to do at Thunderbird Park. Your family could enjoy mini golf, battle it out in laser skirmish, or continue the outdoor theme by completing the Treetop Challenge!

For more info on this amazing new park, click here.



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