

DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 792 // February 29, 2024

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

Tasmanian election ingites native forestry debate

COVER STORY P 3



TimberTrader
news

**subscribe
now**

for your printed magazine

NEED CREATIVE HELP?

We have an experienced,
in-house, artistic team
who can deliver polished ads,
promotions, brochures
and more.

ENQUIRE TODAY

 **Responsible
Wood** RW/1-10-1

To find certified
organisations or
wood products
on our database...

Click here.

 **Wood
Solutions**
design and build

www.woodsolutions.com.au

ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

- ◆ IR SUPPORT
- ◆ TRAINING
- ◆ EMPLOYMENT
- ◆ WHS
- ◆ COMMUNITY



 **NTHA**
NATIONAL TIMBER &
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

1800 822 621

Help to Buy hits hurdles

A popular housing scheme faces difficulties in the Senate.

THE Albanese Government's Help to Buy scheme looks set to pass through the House of Representatives this week but fail in the Senate, with both the Coalition and Greens signalling they won't support it.

Help to Buy is a shared equity scheme that will allow eligible home buyers to purchase a property with a smaller deposit. This scheme works by allowing buyers with a deposit of at least 2% of the property's purchase price to obtain a loan with an equity contribution from the Federal Government.

The size of the equity contribution available is up to 40% of the purchase price for a new home (up to 30% for an existing home). Labor has announced 10,000 eligible places in the scheme each year for four years.

The Greens have said that the scheme as currently planned is flawed. Their complaints include the argument that the limited number of applicants per annum is too low, that the price caps on the scheme exclude many properties and that the scheme may push up house prices instead of helping to steady them.

Greens housing spokesman Max Chandler-Mather said unless the government was prepared to introduce rent caps, build more public housing and wind back property investor benefits, the Greens would not support the bill, though in recent days the party has allowed for the possibility of current negative gearing arrangements to be grandfathered in their negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Coalition went to the last election opposing the policy and they haven't changed their minds. The best argument they make against Help to Buy is that the eligibility thresholds are too low for current home prices



Denita Wawn is urging the Coalition and Greens to support Help to Buy.

in major cities like Sydney: at \$950,000 the threshold excludes homes in a large number of areas.

The government has said they won't be negotiating over negative gearing, having gone to the last election on a promise it would not be changed and not wanting to risk burning any more political capital.

Master Builders Australia is just one of the major industry groups urging all parties to adopt the scheme.

CEO Denita Wawn said the industry was strongly supportive of Help to Buy. "The Help to Buy scheme will be rolled out at the same time

as the National Housing Accord, an initiative which includes the target of delivering 1.2 million new homes over five years which has never been done before," said Wawn. "Beating our industry's 'personal best' can only be done against the backdrop of exceptionally favourable conditions for the residential building industry."

Master Builders supports the equity cap for new builds being expanded even further to 50%.

"Designing the scheme in this way will help divert demand towards new home building and mean that the Help to Buy scheme works to expand Australia's stock of dwellings," said Wawn.

"Help to Buy is a sensible policy approach that looks at lifting housing affordability pressures while not negatively impacting the investment market. Policies such as negative gearing and CGT changes as being demanded by the Greens will only see a fall in the number of homes built and drive away investors."

“HELP TO BUY IS A SENSIBLE POLICY APPROACH THAT LOOKS AT LIFTING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

Following the awarding of a Global GreenRate Level A certification, MicroPro Wood Treatment Technology has recently been awarded a GoldHEALTH rating with its recently published Global GreenTag Level A Product Health Declaration™ (PhD™).

The GreenTag PhD is the first health transparency tool in the world to assess human health concerns directly, rating the health impacts of a final product – and not just the hazards of a product's ingredients.

For more information call us now on 1800 088 809.



MicroPro® is a registered trademark of Koppers Inc. or its subsidiaries. MicroPro® timber products are produced by independently owned and operated wood preserving facilities. © 2019 Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd. Global GreenRate, GoldHEALTH, Global GreenTag and GreenTag PhD are registered trademarks operated under licence by Global GreenTag Pty Ltd.

Tasmania may be in for a tree change

With an early election looming, will the Greens try to shut down forestry or does an agreement recognising Indigenous owners promise security?

IT'S a brave soul that tries to predict Tasmanian politics, and now is a more difficult time to guess than most.

After months of minority government and early date speculation, Premier Jeremy Rockliff bit the bullet a fortnight ago and called an early election for 23 March.

He has said that he wants the stability of majority government, and is counting on Tasmanians to re-elect his Liberal team – the last such state government in Australia at the moment – and punish the two rebel backbenchers who quit the party to sit as independents on the cross bench.

At the same time, minority groups including the Greens and the Jacqui Lambie Network are polling at around 40% combined, with JLN around 20% and the Greens around 15%.

Tasmania's Hare-Clark single transferable vote system benefits these smaller parties and independents, making it more likely that they will be elected to the House of Assembly. This benefit is stronger this time than in recent elections because an additional 10 seats will be added to the House of Assembly at this election,

“THE GREENS HAVE A COMMITMENT TO END NATIVE FORESTRY HARVESTING



1/ **Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff (here at Orana Enterprises) has a history of supporting sustainable timber harvesting.**

2/ **Dr Rosalie Woodruff, leader of the Tasmanian Greens.** Image: Josh Agnew

returning its number to 35 members (it was shrunk in 1998 in a bipartisan agreement between the ALP and Liberals, who wanted to make it harder for minority parties and independents to win seats). Seven members are elected from each of the state's five divisions, and many will be up against other candidates from their own party as well as the other parties and independents.

As a result, this will be a more difficult election in which to achieve majority government than previous polls, and the prospect has the Greens enthused about their chances to hold the balance of power.

“It's a generational opportunity with 35 seats, returning the house to a place where democracy can shine,” Tasmanian Greens leader Dr Rosalie Woodruff told the ABC.

“We've heard from people that they want real change ... they don't want



incrementalism. They don't want bits and pieces.”

Those fighting words sound great when combined with the Greens' policy of significantly increased funding for public housing, but are less encouraging when attached to a commitment to end native forestry harvesting.

Since the closure of Victorian native forestry, Tasmania has supplied extensively into Victoria, keeping the mills of several major operations going. Additionally, a reasonable number of Victorian workers, both foresters and in related industries such as haulage, have relocated to Tasmania to keep their businesses afloat.

While the Greens have no chance of holding power on their own, they have in the past proved astute at playing their

political cards.

Labor at the moment has not published a state-level forestry policy, though at the most recent national conference in August 2023, the Albanese Federal Government rejected calls for a ban on native forest harvesting. However, it is housing that is underpinning Labor promises at the moment and it is possible that the Greens could be in a position to use it as a bargaining chip to advance some of their plan to lock up Tasmanian forests.

Pollsters suggest that JLN candidates and independents are in strong positions to pick up seats and that majority government is unlikely. Rockliff's only comfort may be that, right now, the Liberals are polling more strongly than Labor.

The timber industry, on the other hand, may be able to pull native forestry logging off the bargaining table.

An idea floated at the Mona Forest Economics Congress late last year is gaining traction. As reported in *The Australian* (click here for the full story), the plan would see all but 50,000 hectares of 356,000ha of the most contested forests passed to Indigenous control. In return, the remaining 50,000ha would be made available for harvesting.

The 356,000ha of forests, including parts of takayna/ Tarkine, Bruny Island and

Cont P 17

Tasmania's forestry wars risk reigniting with debate ahead of the state election. Image: TFPA Facebook

AFWI's new board announced

The new forestry innovation institute's board includes well-known names.

THE announcement of the newly appointed board for Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) has drawn positive responses from across the sector. AFWI is a new institute for forest products innovation, run by the Australian Government in partnership with the University of Tasmania.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) was at the forefront of the congratulations, with acting CEO of AFPA, Richard Hyett saying, "It's terrific to see AFWI's continued progress, particularly given AFPA's key role in securing Commonwealth funding for the Institute ahead of the 2022 Federal Election."

Federal Minister for

Forestry, The Hon Murray Watt has announced that the board will be chaired by esteemed industry leader Bob Gordon. Fellow board members include: Diana Gibbs, Christine Briggs, Dr Heidi Dungey, Brian Farmer, Michael O'Connor, Racheal Cavanagh, Andrew Leighton, Dr Julianne O'Rielly-Wapstra and Andrew Wilson.

O'Connor has recently been in the news for his principled resignation from the Victorian Forestry Advisory Committee after that state failed workers in its speedy retreat from native timber harvesting, but is probably best known for his work with the CFMEU and industry superannuation funds.

"I congratulate Minister



Economist Diana Gibbs is renowned for her work in timber policy and her comprehensive understanding of the economics of forestry and agriculture.

current director, Diana Gibbs. AFPA played an important role in the genesis of the AFWI, so it's particularly satisfying to witness the progress," Hyett said.

"The new board will oversee all AFWI activities and expenditure, while also endorsing the strategic direction and research priorities for the organisation.

"AFPA, through our own membership and expertise will work with the AFWI to ensure well-formed research priorities and projects. Forest products sector innovation will be greatly spurred by the AFWI, the market possibilities it could help drive are truly exciting and it will help Australia's competitiveness in our sector," Hyett concluded.

Watt on marshalling this excellent board of forestry sector professionals. We welcome the inclusion of Michael O'Connor with his incredible depth of knowledge and former AFPA chair and

NTHA CAN

TRAIN AND UPSKILL YOUR EXISTING TEAM MEMBERS

- ✓ Nationally recognised qualifications and training
- ✓ Specialist industry trainers

STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM

RETAIL, SALES, BUSINESS, SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATION AND LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

(RTO 5343)
1800 822 621
ntha.com.au

The united voice for Australia's forest industries

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

Plantation grants open

A new round of government funding to support the establishment of plantation forests is open for applications until June.

THE second round of grants for the \$74 million Support Plantation Establishment Program is now open for applications.

Farm foresters, First Nations businesses and the forestry industry are among those who will benefit from funding to support new long-rotation hardwood and softwood plantation forests in Australia.

Acting deputy secretary of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group Dr Jared Greenville said the grants aimed to increase domestic timber supply, particularly construction and manufacturing timber. Additionally, the program hopes to provide employment certainty for the forestry sector and for related businesses including harvesting and haulage.

"Australia's plantation forest estate has been in decline for over a decade," Dr Greenville said.

"Estimates from 2019 predict a shortfall in domestic production of softwood logs

of 3.4 million cubic metres by 2050, based on 2015–16 production levels.

"That's why this grant opportunity continues to play an important role to increase Australia's future timber supply and reduce our dependence on imported timber.

"It's also an important investment in regional and rural jobs and the new plantations will continue to contribute to Australia's carbon emission reduction targets."

Funding of \$2000 (GST exclusive) per hectare of new long-rotation plantation forest established will be provided to successful grantees.

- The minimum grant amount is \$40,000 (GST exclusive).
- There is no maximum grant amount, provided grant funding is available.

The grants require applicants to provide a co-contribution at least equal to the grant amount and are open to private industry, First Nations businesses, farm foresters and state and territory government forestry bodies.



Dr Jared Greenville encourages land managers to apply for the grants and increase Australia's plantation estate.

The first round of the program has awarded more than \$3.2 million across seven projects in New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. Successful awards include \$1.87 million for a 935ha softwood project in NSW, \$168,000 for 84ha of softwood in Tasmania, \$92,000 for 46ha of hardwood in Queensland and \$172,000 for 86ha of mixed hardwoods in NSW.

It is expected that a further announcement of successful projects from the first round, which closed on 24 January, will be made shortly.

Greenville, who is also

executive director at ABARES, knows the pressing need for better security of timber supply in Australia, particularly in the coming decades as we attempt to hit record-breaking housing targets at the same time as international resource demand is high. He said, "It can take some tree species 20 to

30 years of growing before they are suitable for harvest and can be processed into structural timber.

"This growing time is even longer for some hardwood species."

Projects can run for one, two or three years and must be concluded no later than 30 June 2027. Applications for Batch 1 of Round 2 is open now and closes on 15 April, Batch 2 opens on 15 April and closes 27 June.

For more information click here or call 1800 900 090 or to apply for a grant, click here.

Looking for certified organisations or products?

Search our database to find Responsible Wood certified forests, businesses, wood products and chain of custody certified organisations.

responsiblewood.org.au



FWPA website update

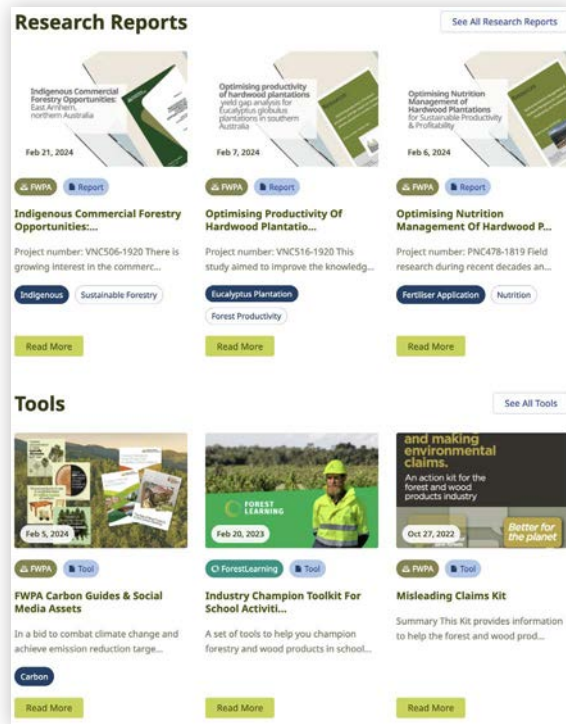
A wealth of information, tools and resources is easier to access than ever.

FOREST and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has unveiled its brand-new website. Designed with members and the industry in mind, the revamped fwpa.com.au houses a comprehensive library of programs, projects, resources, data and tools created by FWPA to support the success of its members and the broader sector.

The new website is intuitive and specifically designed for simplicity and an improved user-experience. Its powerful combination of enhanced navigation capabilities, outstanding search functionality and comprehensive indexing enables visitors to find the information they need more easily than ever before.

Sarah Downey, head of marketing and communications at FWPA, said the organisation is committed to actively supporting and delivering

“OUR USER-FRIENDLY REDESIGN ENSURES QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION”



Information on the site is now more accessible and also arranged like a library, increasing your chances of finding related material you didn't know existed.

- Research is designed to help visitors find information relating to current research projects, funding opportunities and investment plans.
- Industry Info provides reliable industry data to support members and the wider industry with decision making and business planning.

Which both makes items easier to find and helps browsers discover more relevant to their interests.

“We remain committed to ensuring the FWPA website is the best it can be and acts as a valuable resource for Australia’s forest and wood products sector,” said Downey.

“Feedback is always welcome and encouraged to ensure continuous improvement of the website.

“In launching this project, I would also like to acknowledge the Federal Government and in particular Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and our members – the work we do would not be possible without their ongoing commitment, funding and support.”

benefits for members and the industry.

“We heard what members and stakeholders need from the FWPA website and we are proud to present a platform that we believe will exceed their expectations,” Downey said.

“All are encouraged to browse our new site and make the most of the diverse information and resources it houses.

“Whether you are looking

for general information about FWPA, current projects, past research reports, or resources based on specific keywords, our user-friendly redesign ensures quick and easy access to the information that matters most to you.”

Information has been organised into three distinct sections:

- Resources allows users to browse all past research reports, webinars, and support tools.

County Helicopters is your premier choice for specialised aerial applications in forestry, utilising both helicopters and drones to cater to your specific needs.

P: 0417 442 980
ashley@countyhelicopters.com.au
www.countyhelicopters.com.au

PREMIUM QUALITY STRUCTURAL FRAMING
TIMBER, LVL AND I-JOIST PRODUCTS.

www.vigidas.com.au phone: +61290984323 sales@vigidas.com.au

MARCH

5-6: ABARES Outlook 2024 – Hyatt Hotel Canberra and online. The theme of this hybrid conference is 'Shaping the Future: Opportunities, risks, and resilience' and topics include debt, biosecurity and climate change impacts. The opening session focuses on the national and global economic outlook, including expert speakers from Westpac and the OECD. To register visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/event/abares-outlook?trk=organization_guest_main-feed-card-text

18-19: FTMA National Conference – Geelong, VIC. The conference is designed to expand members' perspectives by thinking beyond the conventional. Topics covered: understanding future housing scenarios, highlight potential threats to our market position, provide strategies for navigating the industrial environment, offer advice on defending your business from work cover claims, and shed light on future framing possibilities. Registrations now open at <https://conference.ftmanews.com/register-now/>

MAY

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.sydneypbuildexpo.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

JULY

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

AUGUST

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>

SEPTEMBER

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.

SAVE THE DATES 2025

JUNE 22-26: World Conference on Timber Engineering – Brisbane. WCTE is the world's leading scientific forum for the presentation of the latest technical and architectural solutions and innovations in timber construction.

OCTOBER 20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.

OCTOBER 23-24: Field Trip – Vietnam.

A CUT ABOVE...

Do you crosscut timber packs at ±1 mm accuracy?

Or cut structural timber, panel products (MDF & LVL), paper rolls?

Or produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths?

HOLTEC has a solution for you!

Our scope of supply:

- Mobile and stationary chainsaws
- Timber crosscut stations
- Log cutting stations
- Circular saws

- Mechanisation
- Sorting lines
- Scanning and optimising systems
- Special systems



For more information contact:



Ph: +64 9 416 8294 // Fax: +64 9 416 8296
Email: sales@holtec.org // Web: www.holtec.org

Professional freight task management program

AFCA delivers a specialist program designed to improve driver safety.

THE Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) is highly keyed in to major issues affecting the timber sector. Accordingly, following several crash investigations, AFCA identified the need for a program that focused on the human factors that contribute to crashes within the transport industry. The Professional Freight Task Management (PFTM) program was developed as a response.

Designed as a course that comes to you at your worksite, the PFTM program is run by trainers and industry experts Alan Pincott and Kirstin Pincottin. They provide valuable insights from AFCA's Heavy Vehicle Crash and Rollover Awareness Program, presenting a comprehensive training package.

The course is designed to be highly practical and to provide strategies that will enhance operations for all drivers, whether experienced professionals or new to the sector, as well as deliver valuable insights to people outside the transport sector. The two trainers use their extensive experience and dedication to safety to tailor the delivery to participants, making sure all attendees benefit, making sure the PFTM program offers a complete and holistic approach to best practices in the transport industry.

The training package is open to all industries and professionals, both within and outside the transport sector. It combines the knowledge and expertise of the PFTM trainers with real-world examples and practical training sessions. With an emphasis on safety, efficiency, and industry-wide



The new training program is designed to highlight areas of known risk for drivers and seek to lower or remove them.

excellence, this program is set to revolutionise the way freight tasks are managed. It equips professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the freight industry while prioritising the wellbeing of drivers.

The standard PFTM course runs over three hours, which reflects driver availability, though if there is attendee availability for longer it can go up to four hours. Issues covered are all informed by case studies of incidents – essentially crashes – that have previously occurred and the aftermaths of those events, including legal. It has been meticulously designed to promote 'best practice' within the transport industry and across various non-transport sectors.

The program is run in an interactive manner with mixed media presentations aimed to engage drivers, encourage discussion and participation, and provide practical advice and solutions for low-risk driving. It explores when drivers are at higher risk of a crash or incident,

hypothesises the reasoning behind these incidents, and provide simple tips and tricks to maintain concentration and attention.

Concepts addressed include:

- **ROLLOVER:** build on key learning outcomes from the 'Rollover Program' to establish learning objectives based on the pillars of the Safe System: Safer Road Users, Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles and Safer Speeds .
- **AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE:** takes the experience of many people from many parts of the transport industry and seeks to provide the participants' extensive awareness and knowledge about what happens when a truck rolls and why.
- **COMMUNICATION:** how centrifugal force, centre of gravity, speed and dynamic forces can act on a prime

mover and its trailers to a point where the driver is unable to avoid the rollover.

- **CHALLENGE:** participants to examine personal ownership and responsibility for their own and the community's safety.
- **ENCOURAGE:** participants to be personally accountable for their actions and shows them how to develop a personal risk reduction plan utilising trip planning method.
- **ASSIST:** drivers and management to collaboratively develop personal management tools based on ATSSS templates with extensive after-service support.
- **HUMAN FACTORS:** highlighting that fatigue, inattention and complacency, are the underlying causes of many crashes in heavy and light vehicles in the transport industry.
- **GUIDING:** educating drivers to adopt a proactive, intrinsically motivated view of solutions to driving challenges.
- **EMPOWERING:** drivers to take control of the factors that place them at higher risk of a crash, recognising that professional drivers are at higher risk of crashes or accidents due to the nature of their work.

The program aligns with the Chain of Responsibility laws and can underpin attendees' Safety Management System.

A recent webinar is available on YouTube (click here) describing the scope and details of the new program.

For more information or to book, click here.

“ THE TRAINING PACKAGE IS OPEN TO ALL INDUSTRIES AND PROFESSIONALS

Outdated building codes create risks

Many newly built homes in Australia are already unsafe thanks to climate change.

YAHOO News reports that over 36,000 new Sydney homes built in the past five years to codes using current BASIX standards will be unsafe in current and future heatwave conditions.

The editorial, written by city planner Sam Austin, highlights a joint report led by WSROC – a coalition of councils in Western Sydney – that investigated the issue. Their key study tested a typical brand new single-storey house against a historic heatwave in 2017. It found that even with the air conditioner running, the daytime indoor temperature



Western Sydney councils issued a report about future-proofing developments in Western Sydney. Image: WSROC

crossed 28.5 degrees – well above the maximum range for a safe working environment.

During a blackout when residents can't run their air conditioner – a common and regular occurrence during days of extreme heat in western Sydney – indoor temperatures reached a maximum of 37.6 degrees, and exceeding 30

degrees for seven hours.

Austin points out that current codes allow for the construction of suburban heat islands, with black roofs and roads and few if any trees, creating areas that can be over 12 degrees hotter than neighbouring suburbs.

The BASIX standards these homes have been built to requires houses to be “thermally comfortable” in the historic climate of 1990 to 2015.

When modelled on current climate data and forecasts for the years 2010 – 2029,

WSROC found a new house was already unable to meet the minimum standards to be thermally comfortable.

And when modelled against the forecasted 2050 climate? The study found that these new houses could be risking human lives.

The WSROC report, which can be downloaded from this link, encourages changes to the building codes and a commitment from governments to make sure their policies suit the changing climate. Additionally, there are practical design strategies and retrofit solutions offered to help mitigate the risks, for both houses and apartments (which fared even worse in the testing than most detached homes).

Source: Yahoo

Renewable.
Sustainable.
Reliable.

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



Champions of sustainability

Responsible Wood certificate holders lead the way in sustainable wood sourcing.

CERTIFICATION plays a pivotal role in fostering environmentally conscious supply chains, and over the past week, Responsible Wood Sustainability Manager, Matt de Jongh, engaged in insightful discussions with certificate holders Austpaper and DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation in Melbourne. These discussions highlighted the significance of responsible practices in promoting sustainable wood sourcing.

Robert Lane, general manager at Austpaper, emphasised their commitment to environmental responsibility,

saying, "We prioritise eco-friendly practices and responsible sourcing to minimise our environmental impact. The Responsible Wood certification aligns with our vision for a more sustainable and responsible future."

Luke Cerra, group manager procurement at DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation, echoed this sentiment, saying, "Our dedication to ethical and green initiatives is a cornerstone of our operations. It's



1/ Luke Cerra, group manager procurement at DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation with Responsible Wood's Matt de Jongh.

2/ Kelly Chan, procurement manager at Austpaper, with Matt de Jongh and Robert Lane, general manager, Austpaper.

Corporation prioritising responsible wood sourcing. Their commitment not only aligns with environmental goals but also enhances brand credibility and consumer trust."

In this evolving market, sustainability transcends being a mere trend; it's a responsibility. By supporting certified entities like Austpaper and DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation, we collectively drive positive change and safeguard our planet.

The dedication of these organisations inspires others to champion certification as catalysts for sustainable practices.

de Jongh notes that the collaboration between Responsible Wood and its certificate holders underscores the crucial role of certification in promoting environmental responsibility. Austpaper and DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation showcase that, by prioritising responsible wood sourcing and embracing eco-friendly practices, businesses can contribute to a harmonious balance between industry growth and environmental stewardship.

not just about certifications; it's about making a positive impact on the environment and ensuring a legacy of sustainability."

Certification through Responsible Wood provides a credible framework for companies devoted to eco-friendly operations. Austpaper and DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware Corporation serve as exemplary models of this dedication, contributing significantly to a greener future. de Jongh expressed his optimism about these engagements, saying, "It's heartening to see organisations like Austpaper and DIY Resolutions and Australian Brushware



Develop our future workforce

ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering services to support the skills development of the forest, wood, paper, timber and furnishing industries.

ForestWorks works with industry, government and the education and training sectors to improve skills standards and qualifications and support the development of forestry-related industries, their people, and enterprises.

To find out more:

Email: forestworks@forestworks.com.au
Phone: 1800 177 001
www.forestworks.com.au

Tallest magnolia meets its end

A famous tree in Dorset has had to be removed.

THE UK is famous for its trees, but in Lilliput, a suburb of Poole in Dorset, a famous magnolia that held the record for the tallest in Britain, has had to be chopped down,

It was feared the 18-metre (60ft) tree, which attracted visitors to the area when it bloomed, would fall and damage the house in whose garden it stood – or neighbouring properties.

The tree was planted more than 50 years ago by the previous owner of the house, who died in the 1980s. Every spring it was a popular attraction in the area, with branches laden in pink flowers showing above the nearby homes.

Sadly, after a recent inspection by a tree surgeon,



There is now a gap (left) where the magnolia once stood (right, image taken in 2021).

the tree was found to be suffering from decay issues and the decision was taken to remove it given the risk it posed to property and passers-by.

"It is a shame. We've only been here a few years but we

thought it was a lovely tree and were very disappointed when it went," neighbour, Steve Trew told *The Guardian*.

"I understand why it became a hazard. Sadly, I think the council did the right thing approving the felling. It's

never serious until something happens."

A tree preservation order had previously been in place, though some neighbours complained that the petals, when they fell, filled five wheelie bins a year.

Graham Whitehall, of the Dorset Lake community group, said: "It's a difficult one. I'm a big tree lover but I think this was the right tree in the wrong place.

"It was magnificent. But, at the end of the day, the person who owns that property is responsible for that tree and if they feel it is a danger and have done everything in the correct way, there's nothing you can do about it."

Source: *The Guardian*

arxada

IS IT SAFE TO USE PRESERVATIVE - TREATED WOOD FOR MY RAISED GARDEN BED?

Yes!

TANALITH® E Copper Azole treated timber is safe to use around fruit and vegetables!



TRUST
Tanalised®
Ecowood®
PROVEN
WOOD
PROTECTION

Tanalised, Tanalith, & Ecowood are registered trademarks of Arxada @ 2023

Combine future timber shortages with lack of housing and high demand and we have a crisis!

AUSTRALIA is facing a housing crisis of unprecedented proportions, with soaring property prices, a lack of affordable housing and a growing homeless population. As major cities like Sydney and Melbourne become increasingly unaffordable, the dream of homeownership is slipping away for many Australians.

One of the primary drivers of the housing crisis in Australia is the relentless increase in property prices – and this is despite rising interest rates. Over the past few decades, most cities, regions, and large populated towns have witnessed a property market boom that has outpaced income growth, leaving many prospective homebuyers unable to enter the market. Factors including but not limited to increased demand from foreign investors, immigration growth and a limited housing supply have created a perfect storm, driving property prices to record highs. This is of course the supply and demand model.

In Sydney and Melbourne, the two largest and most expensive capital cities, the median house prices have skyrocketed, making it nearly impossible for young families and first-time buyers to afford a home, even with the help of the 'Bank of Mum and Dad'. The impact of rising property prices is not only felt by those aspiring to buy but also by renters who face steep rental increases.

LIMITED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The scarcity of affordable housing is a significant aspect of the housing crisis.



Lightweight timber mid-rise builds like the Oxford Apartments, just outside of Melbourne, promise a low-carbon model to help solve some of our most pressing housing issues. Image: WoodSolutions

While property prices surge, the availability of affordable homes fails to keep pace with demand. Government initiatives and private sector efforts to build affordable housing have fallen well short, exacerbating the problem. Well beyond the city centre, the lack of affordable housing options has long forced individuals and families to look further afield, leading to increased commuting times and strain on public transport. Possibly the only positive to come from Covid-19 is the ability to do some work from home.

As housing becomes increasingly unaffordable, the number of homeless is also on the rise. Australia's homelessness crisis is a multifaceted issue, encompassing not only those sleeping rough and couch surfing but also individuals living in temporary accommodation, such as shelters and boarding houses. Kate Colvin, CEO of Homelessness Australia, recently stated, "there is an urgent need for state and

the emotional toll of having to turn people away. It said: "56 per cent of respondents rated the emotional impact at the maximum score of ten."

The homeless population faces significant challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education and employment, impacting opportunities. These challenges often start or prolong the problem, creating long-term homelessness. Addressing the housing crisis is essential to combatting homelessness and ensuring a better quality of life for the most vulnerable members of society. To be clear, whilst undertaking my research I found the \$73m referred to above is the shortfall from previous funding grants and does not help to increase services, despite the growing demand – hence the alarm bells are ringing, which explains the emotion and anxiety felt by the frontline workers and volunteers.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

The Australian government announced the National Housing Accord – with a target to build 1.2 million new homes over five years commencing mid-2024. Treasury states "The government is taking a national leadership role by implementing a range of measures to address Australia's housing challenges, with a focus on helping those most in need. The government is also partnering with all tiers of government, the private sector and the not-for-profit sector to increase the supply



federal housing ministers to plug a \$73 million dollar funding black hole." The statement went on to say, "The reality on the ground is heartbreaking. Every day, families and children are left without a roof over their heads, sleeping in cars or worse. This is not just a funding issue. It's a human crisis that demands compassion and commitment."

Homelessness Australia recently co-signed an open letter to the government including findings from a recent survey of 252 workers in frontline homelessness support services, showing

Komatsu

Xtreme Excavators



Komatsu PC270HW
Attachment Carrier



Komatsu PC270HW
Attachment Carrier



Komatsu PC270LL
Log Loader



Komatsu PC300HD
Attachment Carrier



Komatsu PC300FX
Attachment Carrier



Komatsu PC300LL
Log Loader



Komatsu PC300TL
Tractionline



Komatsu PC400HL
Harvestline

The Komatsu Xtreme models have been developed by collaboration between Komatsu Forest & Komatsu Osaka Factory to meet our tough forest conditions.

KOMATSU
Creating value together

Komatsu Forest Pty Ltd
11/4 Avenue of Americas
Newington NSW 2127 Australia
T: +61 2 9647 3600
E: info.au@komatsuforest.com

OneFortyOne community grants in NZ

A range of community organisations have received a welcome funding boost.

FORESTRY company OneFortyOne has announced community grants for five community organisations in their New Zealand program.

Kylie Reeves, OneFortyOne's corporate affairs manager says the company offers one-off grants of

up to \$5000. "We are particularly keen to support projects that relate to People, Ideas, Nature, Environment (PINE). We assess the applications every two months, giving consideration to our objectives and impact – this ensures the process is fair, but otherwise we leave it to applicants to let us know what they need most," said Reeves.

"This funding round we received applications from a diverse range of projects. The five successful organisations were chosen as it was felt that they would all make a big impact in the community.

"Since we launched in July 2021, we have supported 60 community projects in the region, contributing over \$160,000 in funding and building materials through the program," added Reeves.

In this round, Hearing Association Nelson Inc received a \$5000 grant



1/ **The Dangerous Decibels program educates children on hearing loss and risk. It was awarded \$5000 in the grants scheme.**
 2/ **The Covenant Brothers Rugby 7s team received an \$1800 grant.**



which will help deliver their Dangerous Decibels program in schools.

Pete Dowling, Manager of Hearing Nelson said this education program is the only World Health Organisation approved hearing loss awareness program in the world: "With the increased use of technology devices such as headphones and bluetooth ear buds, it's crucial for the younger generation to know how to prevent hearing loss," Dowling said.

"Thanks to the OneFortyOne grant our interactive science-based program will be able to reach over 3000 students within our region this year."

REAP Marlborough received a \$1800 grant, which will help fund drama education for rural communities in Marlborough.

Selena Tonks, Education Adviser for REAP Marlborough said the grant funding will allow them to deliver the

drama workshops in six rural communities in Marlborough.

"The performance will bring the community together as we use drama to learn about local Marlborough places and stories," she said.

"The programs will be aimed at tamariki and students and along with having fun and learning a new skill it's also hoped it will help build student resilience and emotional regulation, leading to reduced stress and anxiety."

Tamaha Sea Scouts based in Mapua received \$1430 to purchase a new inflatable tent and ground sheet. Amanda Brett, Group Leader, Tamaha Sea Scouts said a new tent will be a valuable asset they can use for their camps: "Moving to these new larger inflatable tents means that our scouts will be able to camp in their patrols at regattas and we will be confident they will stay dry in wet conditions unlike some

of our older tents that have lost their weatherproofing.

"The funds will allow us to purchase a new large inflatable tent which will mean we can make the most of our weekend camps with a quicker set up so we can maximise our time exploring what our camping location has to offer."

Valley Stags Rugby Club received \$2000. This is the combined senior rugby team for Tapawera and Rangers clubs in the Tasman Rugby Union. There are also combined kids teams under the Valley Stags organisation, which includes players from the Murchison and Tapawera clubs.

And The Marlborough Fijian Community received \$1800 which supports their Covenant Brothers Team, a dedicated group of rugby enthusiasts, to participate in the Marlborough 7s, hosted by Navigation Pasifika.

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

timber
& FORESTRY *eNEWS*

Contact Nicky,
Donyale or Jess today...

Vale Ralph Affleck

The legendary timber man and inventor has died aged 93.

THERE was sad news on last Sunday's *Landline* with announcement of the passing of Ralph Affleck, a legendary timber man and inventor from Legume in NSW.

Affleck was born into a timber family and had a passion for designing and making things from an early age. His inquisitive and active nature didn't mix well with the highly regimented schools of that era, so instead of a career as an engineer, he joined his father in timber harvesting.

That lack of a degree didn't stop him from designing and manufacturing his own timber skidder in 1967 after seeing a journal article on the new machinery that was then being trialled in the US; though he knew his limitations, he called



Ralph Affleck built his timber mill from scratch as a retirement project.

on a self-taught engineer friend named George Mitchell, who was in his 80s, to solve a key problem – the skidder was still working as late as last year.

But he was most famous for his retirement project begun when he was 67: a timber mill made of scavenged

components that took him four years to build and which he could operate alone. The designs were drawn perfectly to scale in three dimensions with Affleck's 30cm school ruler.

Affleck's mill was an attraction for tourists in the NSW Southern Downs. In

2016, Tony Pearson, then President of the Killarney and District Historical Society, said, "There are so few of these old fellas who are able to diversify any piece of machinery to make what they want to make.

"He's been in the timber industry since the bullock days."

Although Affleck had stopped giving tours of the sawmill in recent years, he remained a hit on YouTube, where the original *Landline* story on his mill ([click here](#)) has over one million views and Tony Pearson has uploaded a long interview with Affleck, describing his life ([click here](#)).

Vale Ralph Affleck, born 7 December 1929, died December 2023.

Need creative help?

We have an experienced, in-house, artistic team who can deliver polished ads, promotions, brochures and more.

ENQUIRE TODAY

timber
& FORESTRY *e*news

Contact Campbell McInnes at
campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com



Creating greener workplaces

Winc's commitment to sustainability and equity.

By FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

OPTING for workplace supplies that steer clear of contributing to deforestation or forest degradation isn't merely a choice—it's an act of empowerment. Winc, which stands for Work Incorporated, offers businesses the chance to align with sustainable forestry practices and meet their corporate social responsibilities. As one of just a handful of B2B enterprises holding an FSC Promotional Licence spanning Australia and New Zealand, Winc is committed to contributing to the fight against deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity loss through responsible sourcing.

Since becoming part of the FSC community in 2017, Winc has worked closely with FSC to promote workplace supplies sourced from responsibly managed forests. They actively champion the FSC label on their products, engage in vital initiatives like the FSC Forest Week awareness campaign, present at FSC events on the value of their promotional licence and have also arranged for team members to participate in educational forest walks in FSC-certified forests. These efforts deepen their dedication to responsible sourcing and enhance their team's understanding of the importance of sustainable forestry practices.

Their dedication to social responsibility and driving positive change transcends the realm of workplace



Winc and its business partners ensure office paper supplies are sourced responsibly.



Winc partners with First Nations groups to provide training and career opportunities.

supplies. Winc firmly upholds the belief in the economic empowerment of First Nations Peoples as a pivotal force for fostering societal equality and progress. Through strategic endeavours such as partnering with MEGT to provide trainee placements for First Nations candidates and instituting a mentoring program geared towards career advancement, Winc actively fosters avenues for employment and education within First Nations communities.

A prime illustration of this commitment lies in Mandura, a Victorian workplace supplies



Winc copy paper is fully certified and carbon neutral.

company majority owned by First Nations individuals. Helmed by Jaithmathang Senior Elder Roderick McLeod and Scott Allen, Mandura symbolises a collaboration deeply rooted in empowerment

and sustainability. With contracts amounting to \$6.3 million and a steadfast dedication to FSC-certified products, Mandura epitomises the convergence of business success and responsible stewardship.

Winc's commitment to environmental and social stewardship is further evidenced by its rigorous Paper Sourcing Policy, ensuring that every product meets strict criteria for responsible sourcing. From eliminating products from

endangered areas to tracking the origin of paper products, Winc's ethical standards set a precedent for the industry. Nick Severino, Merchandising Director at Winc notes, "We give purchasing preference to suppliers that provide paper products from certified forests whenever feasible, which means we encourage our suppliers to participate in certification programs like FSC."

As an FSC promotional licence holder, Winc not only empowers customers to meet their sustainability goals but also educates them about the importance of responsible sourcing. Through transparent communication and a robust product selection process, Winc empowers its customers to make informed choices that align with their values.



Are you following us on social media?

Please like and share our page so we can get the timber and forestry message out to a bigger audience. If you like our publication, please leave us a review.



From P 3

Blue Tier, were protected under the 2012 forest "peace deal" but later earmarked by government for "potential future" logging and labelled as Future Potential Production Forest, or FPPF.

Industry representatives involved in the discussions included Shawn Britton, acting chair of the Tasmanian Forest Products Association, and the organisation's chief executive, Nick Steel.

Britton said while the association did not yet have a position on the concept, he believed it had some support and should be further developed.

"It was an idea that had some reasonable interest and support and was an idea worthy of taking further," he said. "I'm sure it will be discussed again. Resource

security is always an issue. The industry will advocate and back a government that's going to give the industry and its people secure resource outcomes."

Aboriginal elder Jimmy Everett, one of three Indigenous figures involved in the talks, said he opposed any logging of old growth but land handbacks would be supported, saying: "We've never knocked back any land for return to the Aboriginal community, that's for sure."

Most conservationists remain opposed to any logging inside the FPPF. "I am absolutely horrified – this is an attempt to make it look like we can hand back Aboriginal ownership of forests but that there has to be a compromise with that," said Jenny Weber, Bob Brown Foundation campaign manager.

"No way is that OK. There

shouldn't have been any talk of logging the FPPF. Those forests are all high conservation value and should have been protected... This is definitely a very worrying move by the industry. It's a wedge."

Resources Minister Felix Ellis has not ruled any option in or out. "We continue to work closely with industry as to if or when it might be necessary to make some of these forests available to Tasmanian sawmills," he told *The Australian*.

Labor resources spokesman Shane Broad said it was "not proposing any changes" to the forests' status, while Dr Woodruff said her party "fully supported" Aboriginal land returns but that all 356,000ha should, as intended in 2012, be protected as national park.

From P 12

of safe, secure and affordable housing."

The truth is – as we know – builders aren't in a place to take on that volume. They've been hit with supply chain issues and rising prices, which have caught many building and construction companies on fixed priced contracts off guard. A significant number across the country have entered into Administration whilst others have walked away from development projects, stating they cannot possibly cover their costs.

Late last year at the Australian Timber Supply Summit, in Melbourne, the conference attendees discussed among other issues:

- Demand for imported timber and wood-based products, as domestic production continues to be constrained by resource availability;



Australia is decades behind in growing the plantation timbers needed to build new houses. Image: HQ Plantations

- Slow softwood plantation establishment in Australia – even the new incentives are unlikely to have any meaningful impact on softwood timber supply for at least two decades; and
- Domestic hardwood production is declining significantly because of harvesting bans in native forests in WA and Victoria.

All this makes hitting our national targets less likely.

Timber is a renewable

material that provides carbon capture and storage and isn't energy intensive, unlike steel and concrete.

Australia's housing crisis is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. We desperately need access to increased timber supplies if we want to deliver a fast, good-quality and affordable increase in housing supply now!

Shirley



Timber Media
AUSTRALASIA

Timber & Forestry enews an authoritative and rapid deliverer of news and special features to the timber and forest-based industries in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. Enews is delivered weekly, every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year. Advertising rates are competitive with other industry publications. Timber & Forestry enews hits your target market – every week, every Thursday!

HEAD OFFICE

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd
PO Box 3001
Maraylya NSW 2765

PUBLISHER

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd

EDITORS

Nicky Ainley
Donyale Harrison
Jess Hockridge
editors@timberandforestryenews.com

ADVERTISING

Campbell McInnes // +61 (0) 406 223 007
campbellm@timberandforestryenews.com

ACCOUNTS

Chris Parker // +61 (0) 413 710 203
cparker@ttnews.com.au

SUBSCRIBE

www.timberandforestryenews.com

The information contained in this publication has been obtained from sources assumed to be reliable. However, the publishers disclaim all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness, reliability or adequacy of the information displayed. Opinions expressed in Timber & Forestry enews are not necessarily those of directors or the Timber & Forestry enews team. We do not accept responsibility for any damage resulting from inaccuracies in editorial or advertising. The publishers are therefore indemnified against all actions, suits, claims or damages resulting from content in this publication.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

EMPLOYMENT

LATEST JOBS:

Click this link
to advertise
online...

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

BUY AND SELL -

New and Used
Machinery/Equipment

Click this link
to advertise
here & online...

ADVERTISING PACKAGES

PACKAGES:

Click this link
to learn about
advertising
packages...



ADVERTISING RATES

DISPLAY AD RATES

All pricing below is excluding GST and are based on a weekly booking. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

FULL PAGE: \$540

297mmH x 210 mmW

HALF PAGE: \$320

Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: \$240

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

QUARTER PAGE: \$210

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover strip:

Contract booking

Horizontal • 32mmH x 200mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module:

Contract booking

Horizontal • 45mmH x 50mmW

PAGE 2 below story:

Contract booking

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

JOB ADS: ONLINE ONLY

BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE & IN PUBLICATION

744pxH x 720pxW

TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5%

24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 9am Tuesday prior to publication

Supplied artwork: Wednesday 12 noon prior to publication. Supply hi-res jpg or pdf to our specifications. **NO crop marks or bleed required.**

Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETELY ONLINE.

Go to www.timberandforestrynews.com/post-a-job/ to place a job vacancy. **Book and pay online by 12noon Wednesday prior to publication.** Job ads are for individual positions.

If more than one position is to be advertised, separate ads will need to be created and advertised accordingly.

BUY & SELL ADS ARE ONLINE & IN PUBLICATION.

Go to www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/ to place an ad. **Book by 5.00pm Tuesday prior to publication.**

PAYMENT TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

WHO TO CONTACT

Media releases and editorial:

Nicky Ainley // Donyale Harrison // Jessica Hockridge

e: editors@timberandforestrynews.com

Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com

Accounts:

Chris Parker // e: cparker@ttnews.com.au



TIMBER TESTING CENTRE



Providing independent and experienced
testing of wood products.

+61 7 3250 3777

| inbox@timbertc.com.au

