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Sydney Build Expo hits another home run!

COVER STORY P3

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Sustainable forestry championed at SydneyBuild Expo 2024

AT the heart of Australia's largest construction and design show, the SydneyBuild Expo 2024, Responsible Wood, stood as a beacon for sustainable forestry and ethical supply chains. With over 25,000 registered visitors, including contractors, architects, and construction professionals, the event provided a platform for industry leaders to showcase innovations and discuss pressing issues facing the sector.

Responsible Wood's presence was marked by the active involvement of Sustainability Manager Matt de Jongh, hosting a networking hub session and delivering a compelling presentation on certified sustainable forestry and responsible supply chains. Reflecting on the significance of the expo, Matt stated, "SydneyBuild offers a unique



Responsible Wood hosted The Networking Hub.

opportunity to engage with stakeholders across the construction industry and drive conversations around sustainability. It's crucial for us to highlight the importance

of sourcing wood from responsibly managed forests to ensure the long-term health of our ecosystems."

Throughout the expo, attendees were treated

to displays from leading companies in sustainable construction, including XLam and NextGen TimberLink. XLam and NextGen TimberLink, who are frontrunners in timber solutions, showcased their engineered timber products tailored for efficient prefabricated construction, also emphasising the importance of Australian-made engineered wood products and their role in promoting carbon capture and storage.

The synergy between exhibitors and attendees fostered an environment ripe for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Responsible Wood's networking hub session provided a forum for stakeholders to connect, share ideas, and explore opportunities for advancing sustainable practices in



1/ The XLam display was visited by Sustainability Manager, Matt de Jongh from Responsible Wood.
2/ Matt de Jongh joined Responsible Wood member NextGen Timberlink at their display at the SydneyBuild Expo.



Cont P 4

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Build Expo returned to Sydney

Bigger and better than last year.

THE Build Expo in Sydney never fails to impress, and this year's event was no exception. The eNews team had the pleasure of attending the 2024 expo at ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, and it exceeded our expectations, surpassing the previous year in both scale and excitement. Taking place on the 1 and 2 of May, the expo boasted an impressive line-up of over 500 exhibitors spread across six expansive halls, from the first floor's Halls 1-4 to the fourth floor's Halls 6-7. Sydney build expo team recorded 24,727 visitors through the doors over the two days.

From the moment we stepped foot into the venue, it was evident that the atmosphere was electric. Each hall pulsed with activity as exhibitors, tradespeople, architects, presenters, visitors, and organisers mingled and engaged. The entertainment line-up was equally impressive, featuring live music, talented buskers, DJs, comedians, and even dancing insects, ensuring there was never a dull moment. And of course, the abundance of coffee kept everyone fuelled and energised throughout the event.

Navigating through the halls and engaging with exhibitors was a fulfilling journey that spanned seven hours. We had the opportunity to connect with a myriad of exhibitors, with a notable focus on timber and timber-related products. The expo featured a staggering 500 speakers across two days, distributed across fifteen conference stages covering diverse topics. Some of these stages were



1-3/ Many eNews and Timber Trader News customers exhibited at the Sydney Expo this year. Photos: Campbell McInnes and Chris Parker



A new fastener developed by Simpson Strong-Tie, is a great launching pad for product innovations.

the Future Construction, Digital Construction, AI and Robotics, Future Tech, and Sustainability stage.

Key Hubs like Networking, Architect's, and the Government Hub provided invaluable opportunities for interaction, including engaging with government agencies such as the Building Commission NSW, Australian

Building Codes Board, and Homes NSW. There were also Government International Hubs showcasing the likes of the Trade and Consular Office of Hungary, Sydney, Australia Vietnam Business Council and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, among others.

We were particularly pleased to see familiar faces and customers from eNews and Timber Trader News among the exhibitors, delivering exceptional presentations and showcasing innovative products. The enthusiasm and dedication of their staff were evident, as they eagerly provided education and solutions to visitors. Notable exhibitors included Multinail Advance, Simpson Strong-Tie, Tilling Timber, X-Lam, Re-Direct Recycling, NexTimber, and Mitre 10 Trade, among others.

Beyond the expected highlights, there were also intriguing stalls covering a range of topics, from Women in Trades to Robotics, Safety, Flooring, Connectors, Bamboo, IT software, Shipping Logistics and more, demonstrating the breadth and depth of the industry. With the dates for Sydney Build 2025 Expo already set for 7-8 May, anticipation is already building for another exceptional event next year. We eagerly await the opportunity to explore the latest innovations and trends shaping the build and construction industry once again.

On the cover: Sydney Build Expo saw over 24k visitors and filled six exhibition halls this year. Image: Trescon (LinkedIn)

From P 2

the industry. "Events like SydneyBuild facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration among industry professionals," remarked Matt. "By working together, we can drive positive change and build a more sustainable future."

The expo also featured a diverse range of conference stages, workshops, and entertainment, further enriching the experience for participants. With topics spanning from digital construction to diversity and inclusion, SydneyBuild offered

a comprehensive platform for learning and engagement.

As the event drew to a close, the impact of Responsible Wood's advocacy for sustainable forestry resonated throughout the expo. Responsible Wood's efforts to raise awareness about the importance of responsible wood sourcing echoed among attendees, inspiring a collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, SydneyBuild Expo 2024 served as a catalyst for promoting sustainability and innovation within the construction industry. Through Responsible



Matt de Jongh presented on certified sustainable forest management and responsible supply chains.

Wood's active participation and thought leadership, Matt reaffirmed the crucial role of certified sustainable forestry in shaping a more resilient and environmentally conscious built environment.

Richard Stanton awards open

THE Responsible Wood Richard Stanton Memorial Leadership Awards are now open. This award first started in 2015 as a tribute to the late Richard Stanton and the legacy he left behind.

Responsible Wood outlines that "Candidates must be nominated". Nominations opened on Tuesday 7 May and will close at 5:00pm on the 30 June 2024. For the first time since its beginning, eligibility is now open for early-career professionals to also be nominated for the award.

We will be covering the eligibility, excellence areas, selection criteria and award bursary in full next issue.

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Australian Forest Products Association

AFPA THE LEADING VOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

Government opens tender for Forestry Workforce Training Program

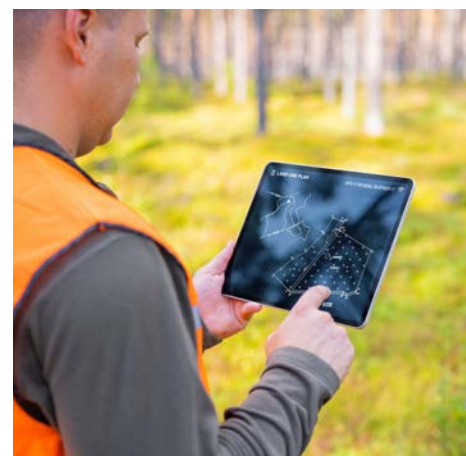
THE Albanese Government has taken a key step in delivering an important \$10 million election commitment in Forestry Workforce Training this week with the opening of tenders for the program's delivery, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Diana Hallam said this week.

"The forestry industry is a significant employer in rural and regional Australia and like many sectors is struggling with capacity and skills in a tight labour market and this program will provide much needed support to ensure access to contemporary and specific training and credentials required for the workforce."

"The suite of skills needed for a career in the forestry, wood, paper, and timber industries is extensive and



The forestry industry requires a specialised workforce to properly take care of our forests from planting to harvesting to sustaining.
Images: Shutterstock



our capacity to supply skilled labour is being challenged. This challenge has been raised with me by every employer I have met, and we appreciate the Albanese Government's assistance," Ms Hallam continued.

Australia's forest and wood products industries supply the nation with vital building and construction materials, packaging, and many essential household products – all are increasingly important for Australia as we move to replace plastics and decarbonise the economy.

This diverse industry requires a specialised workforce and an issue faced by these industries is accessing the specific training and credentials required for the workforce.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is now searching for

a service provider to deliver the Program through an approach to market in line with the recommendations of the Scoping Study. Potential suppliers can submit a tender via AusTender. The approach to market will close at 9:00 am on 28 May 2024.

"I thank Minister Murray Watt for his continued support of this great Australian industry through this important initiative," Diana Hallam concluded.

Click here for more information on tender submission.

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WoodSolutions new EPD database provides carbon accounting roadmap

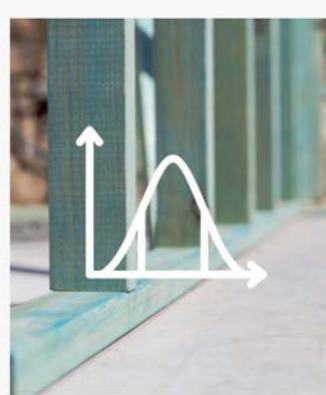
THERE is considerable discussion among governmental bodies, regulatory agencies, sustainability rating systems, and professionals within the industry regarding the emergence of 'zero-carbon' initiatives. These initiatives carry significant implications for the building and construction sector.

Conversations are emerging surrounding various aspects such as material selection, the impact of embodied emissions, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) associated with both building materials and construction processes throughout the entire lifespan of structures. This entails a thorough examination of the carbon footprint at each stage of the building process, ranging from material extraction to eventual demolition and disposal.

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Embodied Emissions



Industry Averages



Product Specific

The new EPD database provides essential data that will allow the industry to better plan and calculate for sustainability. Image WoodSolutions website

Addressing these inquiries necessitates comprehensive data on manufacturing emissions associated with building products and much of the world already uses this approach. In response, WoodSolutions has partnered with Thinkstep-ANZ to develop an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Database. This database consolidates pertinent information drawn from all publicly available EPDs for timber building products used in the Australian market, encompassing structural (both treated and untreated), aesthetic, and landscaping components manufactured

in Australia and overseas.

This hugely valuable database includes industry average EPD data as well as product specific data from individual publicly available company EPDs. It includes values for the fossil fuel emissions (GWP fossil) used in the production phase (Modules A1-A3), the biogenic carbon storage value (GWP biogenic) recognising the carbon sequestered in the wood, and a GWP-total value – which is these two values added together. This GWP-total value includes the biogenic carbon in forests as well as the fossil carbon emissions included in forestry practices, haulage, processing, kiln drying, planning, and packaging.

This database is a major benefit for embodied emission data users in the building and construction industry, as all the embodied emission information for the major timber building products, used in the Australian market and that have EPDs, is now in one

place and easily accessible. Industry professionals can now access detailed information on the environmental impact of key timber products and have more accurate knowledge to feed into their decision-making process. The database covers more than ninety products including structural timber products, internal appearance products, landscape products, and more.

“This new resource from WoodSolutions is a huge win for the industry as it delivers crucial, consistent, and accurate data for timber and building products in use across the market,” said Kevin Peachey, Head of WoodSolutions.

“This EPD database gives the building and construction industry the ability to calculate carbon emissions more holistically during the first three stages of the building process to help achieve sustainability ratings for projects.”

To download the database, click here.



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MAY

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/>

www.fba-events.com or contact rafal@forest-analytics.com

JUNE

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

26-27: 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/>

JULY

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

28-2 AUG: Gottstein Understanding Forest Science Course – Sunshine Coast, QLD.

The course is open to everyone associated with the timber and forestry products sector in some way. For full details, visit <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-forest-science-course>

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.

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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LIGNA 2025

THE next LIGNA event will be in Hannover, Germany in 2025. This event will mark 25 years of LIGNA. Their passion is linking people and driving innovation as the leading global trade fair. Next year there will be a focus on three topics: connectivity, sustainable production, and engineered wood.

LIGNA. CONNECTIVITY

LIGNA is designing this space to facilitate the greatest possible networking for visible success. The more our services, products, processes, infrastructures and value chains can network together, the higher productivity, efficiency and effectiveness we can achieve. This in turn increases our yield, reduces costs, saves resources and increases sustainability.



The LIGNA 2025 Expo topics include connectivity, sustainable production and engineered wood. Image: Ligna website

LIGNA.Connectivity is about discovering ideas, concepts and solutions for the digital and networked future of your industry.

LIGNA.SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

Stay up to date with the latest innovations and best practice examples for resource saving across your production line and throughout the entire value chain. LIGNA. Sustainable Production will bundle innovations,

best practice examples and companies to help you further increase the sustainability of your company in all areas.

LIGNA.ENGINEERED WOOD

Wood is the greatest renewable resource and we can do so much with it. LIGNA.Engineered Wood focuses on innovative wood-based materials for environmentally friendly construction, and new technologies and machines that have been specially developed for the processing of solid wood and wood-based materials.

LIGNA 2025 will be an amazing resource for all. Tickets will be available for purchase in 2025. For more information click here.

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Creating natural early childhood learning spaces

THE architectural scene is embracing timber as the go-to material, from universities to airports. This sustainable choice is reshaping our built environment, with a notable shift towards inclusivity in design, accommodating even our youngest members.

LADY GOWRIE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Originally built over 50 years ago the Lady Gowrie Early Learning Centre in Midway Point, Tasmania was a typical, red brick institution building, complete with high windows and grey concrete blocks. The entire space has been redesigned by Cumulus Studios to meet the goal of a child and parent friendly atmosphere that eased anxiety and was both inviting and inspiring.

The redesign, now finished, features Tasmanian Oak through the play space, large windows at child level to make use of the beautiful views and timber outside for a more natural feel.

Cumulus Studio outlined their goal with the use of timber in the space, "The timber details around the space create a warm, tactile feeling while window seats connect the interior play



1/ The use of timber on the interior of Lady Gowrie Early Learning Centre in Midway Point, Tasmania is very prominent.
 2/ An architectural rendering of the exterior of the multi-storey childcare centre in Munich, Germany, currently in progress.

spaces to the water beyond."

The centre is already being enjoyed by the staff and children. In the opening week Crystal, the program's service team leader, shared some highlights from the week,

"The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring, discovering and navigating the new nature-based play environment with their peers.

"We have also been very busy in our garden, filling our new garden beds with a vast range of seedlings." Crystal wrote.

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Cont P 15

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East Coast, New Zealand: the challenge of sustainable land use management

By MICHAEL SMITH

MICHAEL Campbell, the advisor for the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU) in Tairāwhiti (East Coast), New Zealand, noted in a progress report that the region's topography "is one of extremes ... which restricts economically viable land use options. The approach ... has been driven by historical incentives to clear the land for farming and then plant the land in pine trees to stop erosion, specifically in response to Cyclone Bola [1988]."

Having experienced 16 extreme weather events since 2017, including last year's cyclones, the communities in Tairāwhiti have clear expectations of the forestry



The clean-up on the East Coast (and in Hawkes Bay) is extensive and ongoing

sector and Gisborne District Council (GDC) when it comes

to the challenge of sustainable land use management.

Timber & Forestry eNews invited Philip Hope, chief executive of the Eastland Wood Council (EWC), to provide an update on the clean up of slash and comment on the forest industry's future prospects in Tairāwhiti.

In relation to the Ministerial Inquiry, Mr Hope says a fulsome review of land use needs to be carried out as a matter of priority.

"It needs to incorporate the views of all land users and should be based on science. Site-specific risk assessments are crucial for high-risk areas to identify and inform operations – and how we can do so in partnership with local and central government, iwi and mana whenua.

"While there are EWC members already operating under their own self-imposed catchment constraints model, members do not support coupe and adjacency

constraints recommended in the MILU report ... because the unintended consequences would see tree stands remaining in the ground significantly longer and growing bigger and heavier. This would increase the risk of wide-scale slope failure on the already highly erodible ground. It also presents the possibility of reducing staff numbers to meet

constraints.

"To mitigate both factors, we recommend that catchment constraints are not prescriptive, but rather are informed by detailed operational planning that reflects the unique characteristics of individual forestry blocks or estates."

Uncertainty also remains regarding moves to limit the size of the clear-cut areas within catchments – possibly resulting in a lengthy and staggered approach to harvesting. "The industry is keen to have clarity about what is required and believes this needs to be informed by science and best practice to ensure meaningful outcomes. Any regulation or management changes will inevitably impact the industry."

The clean-up of slash is currently funded through the GDC, but the MILU report's recommendation to establish a Woody Debris Taskforce is yet

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From P 10

to see the light of day. Mr Hope says, despite this, forestry companies are continuing to de-risk catchments within their estates, and to varying degrees on neighbouring lands.

“Debris removal and clean-up has been self-funded, with central government funding being channelled by Gisborne District Council to third parties contracted to undertake debris removal. As a result, EWC cannot comment on matters relating to the funding of a taskforce.

“The EWC continues to endorse the establishment of the taskforce. A priority for us in working together is acknowledging the near and present risk of future debris flows. We know there are still large areas of destabilised and at-risk land where trees are present.

“We continue to raise this with our partners and are keen

to see a regional mitigation plan developed.”

Mr Campbell added in his progress report that “dialogue between GDC and the forestry sector has been limited with little interaction over several years, mostly undertaken in the regulatory setting of resource consent applications. Forestry managers expressed frustration at their inability to get GDC officers to engage with them in proactive problem solving in an industry/council forum or field trips on site.”

Mr Hope says that, in the past 12 months, the two organisations have taken several steps to strengthen their relationship. “They include



Philip Hope, chief executive of the Eastland Wood council endorses the establishment of the Woody Debris Taskforce.

signing a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2023 to formalise our commitment to serving our community together.

“Regular meetings and working groups have also been held – to build on the way we are collaborating across the region. One way we are doing this is through jointly

hosted technical meetings with stakeholders, and each other, to review draft forestry consents and update these in ways that make sense to us both.

“We have also recommenced a forestry sector roading forum with GDC and met earlier this month, with meetings scheduled quarterly.”

Mr Hope adds that utilisation of harvest residues would be welcomed by the forest industry. He acknowledges that residues could be repurposed to support decarbonisation of industries, but notes that some hurdles need to be overcome.

“Work is required on logistical supply chains and infrastructure to improve the feasibility and cost, but we remain keen to see these conversations progress further into action and stand ready to be involved.”

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Lateral torsional buckling

Know how to prevent lateral torsional buckling.

By PAUL DAVIS

ONE of my young engineers recently had his 4WD Ute up on blocks and was using a very long lever out of a steel RHS to torque up the suspension. It didn't work so another RHS was sleeved on – and then another and another. It still didn't work so a flat bar was added, so in the end the lever was about five meters long! With he and his brother straining heavily down on it, suddenly, and in the blink of an eye, the lever simultaneously rolled over and viciously buckled sideways. All that pent up energy in the lever was released. Fortunately, nobody was in the way as the steel whipped sideways or else it could have done some serious damage.

HOW IT OCCURS

As a good engineer he instantly knew he had witnessed something that I had been banging on to him at work – lateral torsional buckling. Lateral torsional buckling occurs when a beam, subjected to bending about its major axis, experiences both lateral deflection and twisting.

If you want to get a feel for the timber equivalent, get yourself something like a 10m long, 300x45 timber I-joint sitting on bricks, block the ends from twisting and stand in the middle. Or, better still, don't do that because you will likely injure yourself as the beam lateral-torsionally buckles sideways.

PREVENTION AND DESIGN

This instability can compromise the overall structural integrity of any structure that includes beams. While the calculations are

different for different shapes and material, longer span, deeper and narrower members are most vulnerable. However, that vulnerability goes away when the beam has intermediate restraints that stop it buckling; that timber I-joint is no longer unstable when it is part of a larger structure and flooring is attached.

Although you may not be designing or supplying them yourselves, steel beams often are part of an otherwise timber building structure. These timber elements provide lateral restraint. Steel floor beams depend on the lateral restraint provided by the floor joists. Roof support beams benefit from lateral restraint by the roof rafters. Lintels, used above doors and windows, rely on lateral restraint from the surrounding timber framing.

Steel lintels, however, are the most tricky one if they are not attached directly under the top plate but rather set down further in the wall frame. Whilst they may have timber jack studs attached to them, these studs are not capable of providing lateral restraint – in the absence of the beam you could just push a jack stud sideways. So, it is the beam supporting the jack stud, not the other way round.

End restraints are also critical for preventing lateral



Learning a valuable lesson on lateral torsional buckling!

and torsional movement. If we went back to that example of standing on a long timber I-beam, and if the ends are not blocked from rotating then the whole thing will just roll over sideways. Like a domino sitting on its end, it is completely unstable. So, in the case of any beam, whether it is steel or timber, at some points along its length (generally at the ends) it must be restrained against rotating about its long-axis.

STRUCTURAL SAFETY

Structural safety in design is paramount. Designers of timber house components cannot overlook the interaction between timber and steel. These materials form a cohesive system, and any weakness in one affects the other. Therefore, even if the timber designer did not directly design the steel beams, they must consider the restraint

needs of the entire system.

If in doubt, consult the steel design engineer. Collaboration ensures that both timber and steel work harmoniously, enhancing safety and preventing failures. The publication "Structural Steel in Housing" (third edition) provides valuable information on restraint practices.

If it's you that has designed the beam using some sort of software (it's out there), then one critical input

that the software will ask you about is the location of lateral and torsional restraints to the beam. Small changes in these distances can make for relatively big changes in beam capacity; so, your inputs must accurately reflect the real-world situation of the beam.

Remember, the strength of a structure lies not only in its individual components but also on the overall structural system that they form. Archimedes said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." He was regarded as one of the leading scientists and greatest mathematician of ancient history. However, he was wrong not to add that the lever should be suitably restrained against lateral torsional buckling!

Source: Timber Trader News

Epson plans construction of biomass power plant

Company's first power plant aims to use renewable electricity.

EPSON has announced that it is planning the construction of the company's first biomass power plant in Japan. Epson hopes to have the plant in operation in the 2026 fiscal year (ending March 2027) and is moving to secure the land and buildings, contract construction and file the paperwork for power generation.

Epson publicly committed to becoming carbon negative and underground resource free¹ in Environmental Vision 2050. The use of renewable electricity is a key means by which Epson seeks to reach its goal of decarbonisation and, in December 2023, Epson completed the switch to 100% renewable electricity at all Epson Group sites² around the world.

The new power plant is intended to provide Epson with self-generated renewable electricity on a continuous basis and reduce the ratio of electricity the company purchases from external power companies, thereby promoting wider public adoption of renewable electricity. Epson plans to construct the plant on the site of the former Kiribayashi Clean Centre, which the Minami Shinshu Wide-Area Union shut down in December 2017.

The electricity generated will be sold to the market under a feed-in premium (FIP) scheme³ and Epson will convert the electricity that it uses into renewable electricity by leveraging the environmental value created through power generation.



Conceptual drawing of the Minami-Shinshu biomass power plant. Image: Epson website.

Moreover, the power is expected to be supplied to local facilities in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

The power plant will not depend on fossil fuels. It will be fuelled primarily by unused wood from the Minami Shinshu area, as well as by materials such as tree bark, mushroom culture medium and some waste wooden pallets from Epson. By utilising wood and bark from neglected forests, Epson will also be contributing to forest maintenance.

Construction of this power plant will increase the ratio of self-generated power and meet the technical criteria of RE100, which emphasises additionality.

In the future, Epson aims to create a closed-loop power plant, including by developing technology for the fixation and utilisation of CO₂ produced during power generation.

Epson will continue to promote the wide-spread adoption of renewable

electricity, reduce its energy consumption, and circulate resources on its way to realising its Environmental Vision 2050.

EPSON, EPSON AUSTRALIA AND EPSON NEW ZEALAND

Epson is a global technology leader whose philosophy of efficient, compact and precise innovation enriches lives and helps create a better world. The company is focused on solving societal issues through innovations in home and office printing, commercial and industrial printing, manufacturing, visual and lifestyle. Epson's goal is to become carbon negative and eliminate use of exhaustible underground resources such

“NEW POWER PLANT AIMS TO PROVIDE EPSON WITH SELF-GENERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY”

as oil and metal by 2050.

Led by the Japan-based Seiko Epson Corporation, the worldwide Epson Group generates annual sales of more than JPY 1 trillion.

Epson Australia and New Zealand offer an extensive array of award-winning image capture and image output products for the commercial, industrial, consumer, business, photography, and graphic arts markets, and are also a leading supplier of value-added point-of-sale (POS) solutions for the retail market. Epson is the market leader in Australia, New Zealand, and worldwide in sales of projectors for the home, office and education. Established in 1983 Epson Australia and now in its 40th year of operation, it is head-quartered in Macquarie Park, NSW and is a subsidiary of the Epson Group head-quartered in Japan. Epson New Zealand is head-quartered in Auckland and is a branch of Epson Australia Pty Limited.

For more information on Epson Australia click here.

¹ Free of non-renewable resources such as oil and metals

² Excludes some sales sites and leased properties where the amount of electricity consumed cannot be determined

³ Unlike in a feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme, where electricity is purchased at a fixed price, in a FIP scheme renewable electricity producers that sell electricity on a wholesale market, for example, receive a premium on top of the selling price. This helps to promote the adoption of renewable electricity.

Wasting no good thing

Thor's Hammer is giving timber a second life.

IN 1994, one of our *Timber Trader News* subscribers, Thor Diesendorf began collecting unwanted left-over timber from local demolition sites to create custom furniture and kitchen tops. Today, 'Thor's Hammer' creates bench tops, cladding, doors, posts & beams, beds, tables, and other furniture, all from recycled timber.

Thor's passion for timber and recycling began when he was 12 years old working with his Grandad.

"I first started learning about timber as a kid, watching my grandfather in his shed and passing him tools...Grandad would take me along when he went to the tip. In those days, you could wander around and scavenge, so we usually took home some prizes, sometimes timber for the furniture that he made. That was my first experience of timber recycling."

Thor was also inspired by his father, a scientist who was involved in renewable energy research.

"As I grew up, I listened to Dad and his scientist mates talking about their research and the state of the world. Their viewpoint made a lot of sense to me, and environmental sustainability became an important part of my life and work as well."

In the 90s, Thor would witness how much timber was going to waste from demolition sites.

"Having made contact with the local demolition companies and done a few salvage jobs, I saw how much good timber was going to waste. Once a building



1/ **Hackett Gardens House built with recycled cladding, decking, posts and beams, and re-milled flooring.**

2/ **Thor's Hammer re-milled timbers salvaged from Sydney house demolitions for the Amy Elleway House project.**

3/ **Canberra-based artist studio was built with recycled cladding, furniture and salvaged flooring from buildings in Sydney.**

is ripped down and loaded onto trucks to be taken to the tip, there is little left among the crushed and splintered remains that is re-usable."

Thor hated the waste he was seeing and knew something had to be done to create change. Armed with his grandad and father's legacy, Thor started 'Thor's Hammer'

to create stunning architecture and furniture out of recycled unwanted timber.

"By saving these timbers, waste going to landfill is reduced and a high quality, unique resource is available for building and furniture making.

Wood is around 50% carbon, bound from the atmosphere as the tree grows. When the wood is burnt or decays, the carbon is released as carbon dioxide. By recycling timber we are keeping this carbon stored, avoiding greenhouse gas emissions."

The process begins on the demolition site. First, Thor's team assesses the timber for any moisture that has caused nails to rust, internally split timber, or floorboards that have been ruined by polyurethane finishes or by being glued down. Once the timber has cleared the inspection, approximately 24 tonnes of good hardwood is saved from the tip and is ready to be given new life.

Once the timber arrives on site in Canberra, it goes through the denailing process. Each piece of timber is metal detected twice over to ensure it is clean.

Then, heavy duty machinery is used to plane the old timbers. Recycled hardwood can be dense, dry, hard and often can have dirt in the outside grain. Thor's team makes sure the timber gets the treatment it needs before filling.

Cont P 15

From P 14

Filling is the stage when any old nail holes or cracks are filled in so that the timber is durable and clean once turned into furniture.

"We use a clear, long lasting epoxy resin glue for our filling. It takes on the colour of the timber which surrounds it and holds very strongly to the timber. The epoxy resin we use is produced using 29% bio-carbon from the waste stream of other industrial processes."

The next stage is the joinery. Thor's Hammer uses mechanical joinery techniques and don't just rely on glue.

"Timbers to be laminated into tabletops are edge profiled to fit together. Table

"I SAW HOW MUCH GOOD TIMBER WAS GOING TO WASTE"



Thor's Hammer recycles rustic bridge, wharf and factory timbers into feature and entrance posts.

legs and rails are mortise and tenoned. Our joiners and cabinetmakers have skills which are becoming rare in these days of MDF and plastic laminates."

For the finish, Thor's team uses Osmo from Germany for all their furniture. Osmo is a quality finish made from natural oils and waxes. It is flexible and adjusts to the natural movement of the

timber. It also means the surface of the furniture can be easily maintained with a simple wax spray.

"Osmo applies best with a roller. No spraying, no pollution in the air, no spray booth required. And for us the best thing is these finishes are non-toxic, approved food safe and safe for children's toys."

For more information about Thor's Hammer, click here.

From P 9

On the other side of world in Munich, Germany Kéré Architecture has designed a multi-storey childcare centre in the Technical University Munich (TUM). This new space will be built using wood as its primary material. The designs are stunning and will be an incredible space once finished. The ground broke for the new project on the 18 April 2024 so it won't be long before students at TUM can make use of this ideally positioned childcare centre that is between the campus and the canteen space.

Kéré Architecture shared that "The daycare centre will be called "Ingeborg Pohl Kinderoase an der TUM" after the project's financial patron".

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Image: Shutterstock

Hyne Group further expands pallet manufacturing division

THE Hyne Group recently announced its expansion into Pallet manufacturing, following the acquisition of Rodpak in Melbourne.

The Hyne Group is now pleased to announce the further expansion of this new operating division, with the acquisition of Express Pallets and Crates (Express), based at Narangba near Brisbane.

Express has been in operation for some 35 years, under the ownership and leadership of Geoff Walton.

Geoff will retain ownership of the Pro-Pine sawmilling operation, which will remain an important supplier of timber to the Express business. The acquisition by Hyne only involves the assets and trading business of Express Pallets & Crates.

Express has a very broad and extensive client base, with significant long-term relationships across a range of market segments. This is very compatible with the long-term partnership approach that Hyne operates under, and together with the skills and input from Hyne's



The Hyne Group has expanded its operating division of pallet manufacturing with the acquisition of Express Pallets and Crates in Narangba, QLD

major Scottish shareholder, James Jones & Sons Ltd, Express Pallets & Crates have a great opportunity to continue to be a major supplier of pallets and crates to the QLD market.

Hyne Group CEO, Jim Bindon said it is pleasing to be able to continue to expand the Pallet Division by acquiring excellent quality businesses with their own legacies and strong market positions.

"Being part of the Hyne Group and the broader James Jones & Sons global business, only enhances Express Pallets capability and credentials as a business partner to their many clients.

"As was the case with the recent acquisition of Rodpak, it will be business as usual for the Express brand, staff,

suppliers and customers, but with the strong backing and support of the Hyne Group.

"The existing General manager, Tim Hoatson, will continue to lead the business, and together with the rest of the management team and indeed all the Express staff, we look forward to all their future contributions, and welcome them into the Hyne Group." Mr Bindon concluded.

Geoff Walton said the Sale of his Company to a fellow long standing QLD family business, was a pleasing outcome after many years of growing and expanding the business:

“ WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE ”

"With the national and global position that the broader Hyne Group now has, this presents really good opportunities for all my team members, customers and suppliers, and I am confident the business will continue to succeed."

The acquisition of Express Pallets & Crates will finalise on 1 July 2024, subject to all Completion Precedents being met.

Hyne Timber was established in 1882 and today operates a range of large-scale softwood sawmills and engineered wood products manufacturing assets, including Australia's first Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) processing facility.

In 2022, a partnership with UK based timber company James Jones and Sons Ltd (JJSL) was announced, with JJSL becoming the majority owner of the Hyne Group.

In 2023, the Hyne Group announced a partnership with the Rocky Point landscaping products business in Yatala, Queensland, in which Hyne Group is now the majority owner.

In 2024, Hyne Pallets acquired the Rodpak Pallet business based in Melbourne as the first direct entry into the Pallet manufacturing industry.

For more information on Express Pallets and Crates, click here.

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

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Contact Nicky,
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The cost of letting productivity slip

DESPITE government investment in housing, 80 per cent of the additional new homes that could have been built will never see a shovel hit the ground said Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn.

Master Builders Australia has released *The Cost of Letting Productivity Slip*, which assesses the cumulative impact of positive and negative changes in the industry over the next five years.

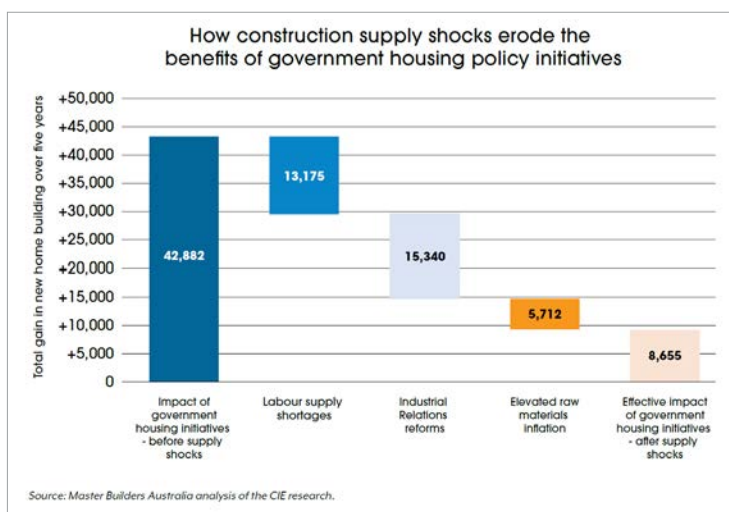
Ms Wawn added: "Under the best-case scenario, new home gains have been eroded away by a prolonged labour supply shortage, materials price growth and industrial relations reforms."

"This outcome will likely worsen when the full package of industrial relations reforms and current union-led pattern EBA negotiations have been finalised.

"The built environment is crucial to maintaining and enhancing our living standards but can only be achieved through productivity growth.

"The delivery of new homes and related infrastructure has been obstructed by ongoing and concurrent challenges, including labour shortages, industrial relations reforms, economic uncertainty, and material price escalations.

"The majority of businesses in our industry are small in size and need more support to manage the increasing cost of doing business which ultimately



Denita Wawn, CEO of Master Builders Australia, says that the government must align its policies with the long-term objectives of the building and construction industries.

flows on to consumers.

"It is a productivity maelstrom and cause for significant concern."

"For the building and construction sector to prosper, and if the ambition to deliver more housing is to be met, addressing productivity constraints is a must.

“IT IS A PRODUCTIVITY MAELSTROM AND CAUSE FOR SIGNIFICANT CONCERN

"We have heard a lot of talk from the government about lifting productivity, but it is now time for action.

"Make no mistake, the recent industrial relations reforms and the abolition of an industry-specific regulator increase uncertainty, legal risk and costs for businesses and consumers.

"It is crucial to enforce existing laws more effectively, condemning those who break them and ensuring rogue operators face the full force of the law.

"Reducing burdensome regulations and ensuring laws operate effectively and consistently is essential to relieving businesses of cost and compliance pressures.

"There must be a better approach to the level of risk involved in building and construction so that it is shared more fairly by everyone in the chain and not simply loaded onto builders.

"The Government must align its policies with the long-term objectives of the industry," Ms Wawn said.

For more information, click here.



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