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## Coalition pledges native forestry support

COVER STORY P2

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# Coalition forestry support welcomed

## The first-out-of-the-blocks policy offers a solid basis for planning.

WEEK two of the Federal Election campaign and we're already at the gaffe stage. Only three and a bit weeks to go!

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and Shadow Forestry Minister Senator Jonno Duniham both outlined the Coalition's forestry policy at press conferences in Tasmania this week. Key points include:

- No further bans on harvesting of native timber.
- Country of Origin labelling for wood.
- Establishing Permanent Timber Production Zones to support ongoing and reliable access for plantation and native timber.
- \$40 million in grants to establish a new Timber Manufacturing Expansion Program – where mills must utilise wood from their own region.
- A reiteration of the existing policy to remove public funding from the NGO Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), which has been accused of targeting forestry through 'lawfare'.



**The Liberal Party team at Neville Smith Forest Products. From left, candidates Mal Hingston, Marilena Di Florio and Susie Bower with Bridget Archer MP and Josh Garvin, who is standing for Franklin.** Photo: Jonno Duniham/Facebook

Duniham was joined at Neville Smith Forest Products in Launceston by all of the Liberal's 2025 Tasmanian election candidates for his presser on forest industries.

"Only the Coalition can be trusted to stand up for Australia's native forest industry," he said.

"Our forest industry is renewable, it's sustainable, it provides a vital product that

we need and, importantly, it sustains regional communities. A Dutton Coalition Government will not support any further bans on native forestry. Not one more tree, not one more stick will be locked up under us."

The policy announcement was warmly received by forest industry groups.

Australian Forest Contractor's Association

(AFCA) CEO Tim Lester said it would provide much-needed certainty for businesses, hundreds of communities and tens of thousands of workers.

"Production forestry from our regrowth native estate is sustainable and renewable, with positive payoffs for communities and the environment," Lester said.




"The alternative is exporting our jobs, importing more timber and Australian taxpayers spending more to manage our forests. Jobs in forestry are stable, sustainable and high quality, supporting rural and regional communities around Australia. The World Bank tells us that the overall economic impact of forest industries is \$2.50 for every dollar generated by the industry.

"We are pleased to see this practical approach to protecting the future of our sustainable industry and look forward to receiving similar assurances from the Australian Labor Party during the election campaign."

Diana Hallam, CEO of the

Cont P 3

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From P 2

Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), was equally pleased. "This is a welcome package that demonstrates the Liberal-National Parties' commitment to plantation and native forestry and our downstream processing and manufacturing cogs of the supply chain," she said. "It's an excellent start from the Coalition for what Australia's forest industries need to realise their potential for the economy, local communities, the climate and Aussie and export consumers into the future.

"Country of Origin labelling is an important reform that allows consumers to choose to buy Australian timber and understand the potential environmental implications of imported timber. With more dubious, imported product in the Australian marketplace, it's critical that consumers can compare the origins of their product."

Hallam also welcomed the funding for manufacturing expansion, saying that it "will allow us to do more with our existing timber resource and is welcome to boost capability in goods creation across the sector. The commitment for permanent timber production zones boosts sovereign capability in timber and wood-fibre – especially by enhancing the standing of much needed new timber plantations.

"The Coalition's support for native forestry is also essential in a political environment that has seen the industry under attack. The Australians that rely on the native forestry industry deserve to know that the next Federal Government – whatever their political stripes – has their back."

AFPA called for both

parties to sign up to its Australian Timber. Australia's Future Election Platform in full (click here to read).

AFCA, who released its own election platform last week (click here and see story page 9), highlighted that growing forests are an extremely effective carbon sink, allowing the forestry sector to help solve two of Australia's most pressing problems – climate change and housing. "Active forest management is the key to long term forest health and it includes sustainable harvesting of native timber with continuing strong environmental and regulatory protections," Lester said.

"The vast majority of Australia's public native forest estate is already protected for conservation. Our management of native regrowth production forests is so good after a short time they are almost indistinguishable from other areas.

"Forest operations are high quality, extremely skilled and specialist jobs located in rural and regional areas which support thousands of families, hundreds of small businesses and many, many communities."

Of course, the campaign hasn't all been mutual goodwill. Duniam leapt on a gaffe by ALP candidate



1/ **Senator Jonno Duniam, Shadow Forestry Minister.**

2/ **Labor's candidate for Bass Jess Teesdale had to clarify that her own comments on supporting the ending of native timber forestry in Tasmania were not part of the ALP platform.** Images: supplied

for Bass Jess Teesdale last Thursday. She said in an interview that the Federal Government was focused on allowing states and territories to make their own decisions on native forest logging and would not intervene in state decisions but, when asked by the ABC journalist for her own opinion, agreed that she would like to see the Tasmanian state government end native forest logging.

"There is no doubt, given half the chance, Labor will try to shut our forestry industry down - especially with the Greens likely pulling their strings in a minority

government," said Duniam.

Teesdale later issued a clarifying statement that read: "The Albanese Labor government is not changing its policy on native forestry logging. These are state forests managed by the Tasmanian Liberal Government. We support the jobs and the communities that rely upon this industry."

Liberal Bridget Archer, who holds Bass and was at the Neville Smith event with Duniam, pointed out that she had not infrequently spoken out against policies where she disagreed with her party and always been transparent about her views with the electorate.

Archer told the ABC: "I think people have an expectation, and an ever-increasing expectation, for integrity in public life, that they need to have people that are going to stand up and represent them and be honest about what they stand for and who they are."

Nick Steel, chief executive of the Tasmanian Forest Products Association acknowledged that Teesdale had initially made a mistake and added, "We also see this as a small positive; after the interview, we had federal Labor come out and reinforce their position where they supported forestry."

At the time of writing, the ALP has not yet released a forestry-specific statement in this election campaign but has upheld its established commitments to native harvesting in states that allow it and for supporting plantations and other timber research. Wait and see what the next week brings.

**On the cover: Peter Dutton making his pitch in Tasmania with Susie Bower, Liberal candidate for Lyons, and a very nice border collie.**  
Image: courtesy Peter Dutton/X

# Trees without the forest

A world-first project mapping English non-woodland trees has just gone live.

A GROUNDBREAKING project carried out by the UK Government's Forest Research agency has revealed that trees outside woodlands (TOW) make up 30% of England's tree cover. The new TOW map is now available for viewing online or can be downloaded in full.

Freddie Hunter, head of remote sensing at Forest Research, said, "This is an exciting moment. By using a combination of aerial and satellite technology, we have been able to locate and measure all trees outside of woodland for the first time. By combining the National Forest Inventory woodland map and the TOW map we have a complete picture of tree canopy in England.



*The city of Canterbury in Kent shows heavily treed streets and borders in addition to patches of woodland in the new map.* Image: courtesy DEFRA

"We used laser technology mounted on planes and images of the Earth's surface captured by satellites to identify tree canopy cover across the breadth of the

country. This will be vital in informing future tree-planting and monitoring."

By providing a better national picture, the map allows conservation groups

and local authorities to target tree planting efforts more accurately. The map can also pinpoint lone trees that could be connected to nearby wooded areas to create better habitat for wildlife.

Trees outside woodlands are defined as single trees in urban and rural areas, ranging from sprawling tree-lined hedgerows to much-loved street trees. These trees play an important role in storing carbon, regulating temperatures and mitigating against the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and over-heating. They also have a huge role in improving health and wellbeing – not least by reducing the impacts of air pollution.

Cont P 5

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From P 4

The project was funded by the UK Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) program.

Sir William Worsley, chair of the Forestry Commission said, "The map fills critical data gaps about our national tree assets, helping us understand this natural resource and the benefits it brings, including carbon storage. Many people – from citizens to governments – will use the map to make evidence-based decisions to improve management and protection of our trees."

The TOW map includes

urban trees, which are increasingly being seen as important resources. The City of Melbourne released an Urban Forest map several years ago and was staggered by the depth of community support for the project. However, most Australian cities have done little to gather this sort of information on their trees.

Not only do trees deliver benefits in situ, but their lifespan management is an important part of a community, too. Currently, trees that blow over during



**Currently, urban trees lost to storms are simply cut and mulched in many cities. But data like the TOW map could link trees with timber mills at the end of their lives.** Photo: Donyale Harrison.

extreme weather events, for example, are simply cut up and chipped in most locations. But some of these represent valuable timber. While there are a small number of mobile milling services around Australia that make use of this urban

forest resource, they rely on proactive reports from homeowners or sympathetic tree loppers. Information from local TOW maps could be used to plan ahead for expected senescence of street trees or highlight valuable timbers.

The English map is fully automated thanks to its use of spatial datasets and can be updated regularly to capture changes in tree canopy cover, though it lags real-time changes. For more information, click here.

## A note from the Publisher

**Forestry plantations of all sizes in Australia and New Zealand:** On 20 March we launched Descartes – insurance specialist for forestry plantations providing cover for losses (such as fire) and the associated loss in carbon credits. If you missed it, see pages 8+9 in issue #843. Descartes is also on our home page with a direct link to their website with the relevant content. No other

underwriter makes it so quick and easy. The Sydney-based team is available to answer any questions you may have.

**The Australian Made Campaign Ltd (AMCL)** welcomed the government's 'Buy Australian Plan' outlined in the Budget. Australian Made Chief Executive Ben Lazzaro described the plan as a big win for Australia's manufacturers and producers (see page 16).

"This level of support for Australian Made is unprecedented, and we look forward to contributing to a strengthened Australian manufacturing sector that not only creates high-quality products but creates new jobs and economic activity," said Lazzaro. "We must value our manufacturing sector and foster an environment that encourages and assists manufacturers to innovate

and build on their success while providing pathways to new markets."

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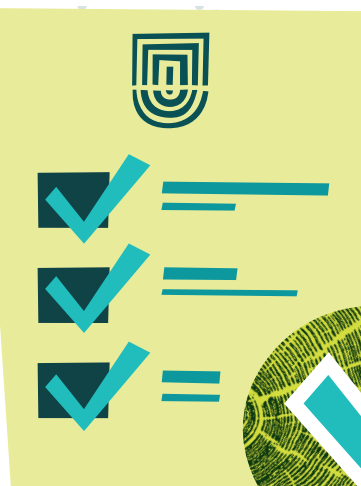


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# WA stockpile update

Small WA timber contractors have been denied ecological thinning fibre.

IN *Enews* #841, we spoke with Gavin Butcher and David Utting from the Sustainable Forest Industries Roundtable (SFIR) about an estimated 100,000 tonnes of logs from ecological thinning projects, which are currently stored in waste stacks at Diamond Mill, Dean Mill, Palgarup and the bauxite mine sites in Western Australia.

Butcher – a highly experienced forester and former director of the WA Forest Products Commission – said that after just one year of the planned four-year ecological thinning program there were piles of unused timber stacking up and a paucity of supply contracts for mills, furniture makers and other timber users, including finger jointers who could make good use of the small log sizes that represent most of the stockpile.

Butcher and Utting said the stockpile represents \$160 million (the figure coming from Budget estimates) of waste, which they rightly say could be used in hospitals, housing or schools.

“[The WA government is] refusing to contemplate [more supply certainty] so I don’t



1/ The WA government says ecological thinning stockpiles like this one at Palgarup are being made available for use, but local timber experts say there are few contracts in place. All photos: courtesy SFIR

2/ The enormous pile at Diamond Mill. After just the first year of a four-year program, piles are estimated at some 100,000 tonnes.



know what’s going to happen over the next four years when they do this sitting back and that stack of wood gets bigger and bigger,” Butcher said.

Now, a spokeswoman for WA Forestry Minister Jackie Jarvis has told Hamish Hastie, writing for *WAtoday* (a Nine Entertainment online paper, part of the *SMH* and *The Age* stable) that it was normal to stockpile timber in this manner and that it was all contracted out.

“Timber from ecological thinning along with material from approved mine site clearing activities is made available exclusively to WA industries via the Forest Products Commission and the

Forest Products Commission has contracts in place for the supply of this timber,” she said.

“This is in stark contrast to previous arrangements where the vast majority of WA timber was being sent overseas and interstate.

“Holding timber reserves is a normal business activity in forestry and is used to allow green timber to season or smooth supply to customers when conditions such as wet weather temporarily affect supply.”

Hastie was told that much of the wood is being ‘seasoned’ or dried out for firewood, but noted there is currently an oversupply of

firewood in the state.

Butcher’s complaint that only large contractors have been guaranteed supply was borne out in the reported comments.

“State agreements are in place for major buyers such as such as Wespine, Wesbeam, Laminex and Simcoa to purchase forest products,” the spokeswoman said.

“Other contracts, for both firewood and high-value log product, are commercial in confidence.”

Despite promises that the WA forestry transition program would continue to

Cont P 7

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**13: EUDR Insights Workshop – FWPA office, VIC and online.** Lunch - 12.00pm. Workshop 12.30-4.30pm. To register, please email [info@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:info@responsiblewood.org.au)

**14: AFCA National Forum & Dinner – Gold Coast, QLD.** SAVE THE DATE. More details to follow.

**11-17: Japanese Wood Architecture Tour – Japan.** Tour the world's oldest and most impressive wooden buildings. From Hōryū-ji, the world's oldest wooden building to the World Expo in Osaka - home to the world's largest wooden ring building. For more information and view the program, visit <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/events/woodsolutions-sponsors-tda-japan-study-tour?>

**26-30: LIGNA 25 – Hannover,**

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**30: NTHA SA/NT/WA State Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide.** Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. Contact Tahlia at [events@ntha.com.au](mailto:events@ntha.com.au)

**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. For more information visit <https://www.wcte2025.org/event/df0d5655-c16d-47df-b4a6-457a7dc63d96/wcte-2025>

**29-JULY 2: 5th International Conference on Timber Bridges – Rotorua, New Zealand.** The focus is on timber bridges and the current need for resilient infrastructure to support

thriving communities. For more information and to register your interest, visit <https://ictb-conference.org/2025/>

**SEPTEMBER**

**2-3: Timber Queensland Biennial Conference "Doing Timber Business in Queensland" – Brisbane.** For more information, email [admin@timberqueensland.com.au](mailto:admin@timberqueensland.com.au)

**OCTOBER**

**13-14: Timber Construct 2025 – Melbourne.** To register your interest, visit <https://timberconstruct.org/>

**20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Seminar and Networking Event – Singapore.** For more information visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2024singapore/home>

**20-23: Forestry Australia 2025 Conference – Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide.** The conference theme is 'Restoring forests and landscapes to secure Australia's future' and

aims to develop both local and national collaboration. For more details visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2025-conference/>

**22-23: Melbourne Build 25 – MCEC, Melbourne.** Victoria's largest construction and design show. For more details visit <https://melbournebuildexpo.com>

**23-24: Field Trip – Vietnam.** (Follows on from the woodchip and biomass seminar in Singapore.) For more information visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2024singapore/fieldtrip>

**24: GTTIA – The Barn, Mt Gambier, SA.** Nominations are now open for 2025 Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards. Nominate online: <https://gttia.com/nomination-form/> For full details on award categories and submission guidelines, visit: <https://gttia.com/2025-award-categories/>

From P 6

support forestry jobs and the existence of this large quantity of wood fibre, most of the timber sector in the state remains starved of resource.



Most of the logs are small in diameter, but could be finger-jointed into valuable products.

The spokeswoman said the native logging ban would protect nearly two million hectares of forests. "It was not environmentally, socially or economically viable to continue the logging of native forests in WA," she said.

"The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions ecological thinning program is undertaken for forest health outcomes, not timber production."

To read the whole Hamish Hastie story, click here.

Source: WAtoday

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# Housing cheers and fears

Battery subsidies have been warmly received, but builders have other worries.

WITH housing at the centre of all major parties' electoral campaigns, HIA has been busy. It welcomed the recent Federal government of a \$2.3 billion home batteries subsidises program, saying that the policy fills a known gap.

"[The] announcement from the Prime Minister ... is an important initiative to support homeowners cut power bills and boost uptake of home battery installations," said HIA chief executive, Simon Croft.

"Australia has been world leaders in the uptake of solar panels on our homes, but they are only part of the energy puzzle in providing 'energy generation' component – household batteries provide the essential 'energy storage' side to power the home.

"It is understood that one in three Australian households have solar panels, but only one in 40 have a battery, highlighting the significant opportunity household batteries present to reduce reliance on power from the grid."

For many homeowners, the large upfront cost of battery installation has been the stopping point for take-up. Croft notes that Australia has a history of subsidising energy solutions.

"Australian homes now have over four million solar panels installed, and these have been installed through a range of rebates and incentives, which shows how important targeted



**With the high uptake of solar panels and EVs in Australia, subsidised batteries will complete the picture.** Photo: Shutterstock/Basilico Studio Stock

subsidy or rebate programs can be in driving change," he says.

"We look forward to working with the government on the design of the scheme to ensure that it can be accessed for both our new home builds and existing housing stock.

"Equally, it is important that this scheme ensures it focuses on supporting Australian manufacturers and suppliers in providing these batteries into our homes. The focus should be on creating market conditions conducive to voluntary electrification including incentives such as those announced today."

HIA has also been asking its membership about their concerns. Yesterday, the association held a high-level roundtable in Dunkley in Melbourne's south east, aimed at tackling the housing affordability and construction challenges unique to the area.

The event brought together a broad cross-section of local building professionals and was attended by Federal Shadow Finance Minister Senator Jane Hume and candidate for Dunkley, Nathan Conroy

and Liberal Senate candidate Chrestyna Kmetj.

"The issues facing builders and developers in Dunkley are not only pressing, but complex," Croft said.

"From land availability and infrastructure bottlenecks, to mounting planning delays and workforce shortages – the feedback we heard was clear: builders are doing it tough, and federal leadership is needed now more than ever."

"HIA was joined by a diverse group of industry voices who participated in the roundtable, including home builders, tradies, land developers, manufacturers, planners and engineers. These conversations provided valuable insight into the local constraints holding back housing delivery."

Builders in attendance had real drive to help solve the lack of housing, but found they were stifled by red tape and infrastructure issues.

"In Dunkley, we're seeing a perfect storm: limited affordable housing supply, strong population growth, and regulatory barriers that are slowing down new builds," said Croft.

"Participants raised growing frustration with the slow rollout of critical infrastructure such as roads, water and sewerage and in turn new land releases to match a growing population across Frankston and the surrounding suburbs of Langwarrin, Seaford, Carrum, Carrum Downs, Paterson Lakes, Bonbeach, Sandhurst, Mount Eliza and Chelsea.

"Many builders reported delays and added costs due to aging utilities and insufficient coordination between levels of government."

Key reforms raised at the roundtable included:

- Boosting investment in local infrastructure to unlock build-ready land;
- Easing the growing burden of regulations and planning delays on small and medium builders;
- Introducing meaningful tax relief on new housing projects to improve affordability;
- Supporting long-term workforce development to fill trade shortages; and
- Improving access to finance for first home buyers and low- to middle-income households.

"These ideas sit at the heart of HIA's federal election platform, Let's Build," Croft added.

"Our campaign calls for real action to make it easier – not harder – to get homes built. That means cutting unnecessary regulation, backing skilled trades, and making smart investments in infrastructure that actually support new housing."

To read HIA's platform, click [here](#).

“OUR CAMPAIGN CALLS FOR REAL ACTION TO MAKE IT EASIER TO GET HOMES BUILT”



# AFCA 2025 Election Platform

The newly released platform focuses on forestry's value to Australia.

THE Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) has released its platform of policies and initiatives designed to deliver a secure future for workers and businesses associated with both plantation and native forest estates.

Directed at all parties, the platform is twofold, first making clear the economic and environmental value of Australian forestry (no other building material regrows itself!) and then outlining policies that will protect forest services businesses into the future.

Launching the platform, AFCA CEO Tim Lester said that forest services businesses are an essential link to the forest products value chain. He noted that the entire sector relies on safe, sustainable and viable businesses operations and practices within forest areas and to safely transport logs, wood fibre and biomass to mills, ports and other processors,

"Active forest management

is the key to long term forest health and it includes sustainable harvesting of native timber with continuing strong environmental and regulatory protections," Lester said.

"The vast majority of Australia's public native forest estate is already protected for conservation. Our management of native regrowth production forests is so good after a short time they are almost indistinguishable from other areas.

"The World Bank says that every dollar generated by forest industries multiplies two and a half times through the economy," he added, pointing out that forestry operations not only deliver high-quality skilled and specialist jobs to rural and regional areas, but that the



AFCA's Tim Lester talking sustainable forestry last month with Kirstie McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro. Image: Tim Lester/X

flow-on effects of forestry operations benefit other businesses and whole communities.

The platform (click here to download) calls for well-managed sustainable timber harvesting in forests where such activity is suitable, as well as capacity building, certification and certainty for the sector. It requests funding for rural communication now

the 3G network has closed, as well as forestry value chain carbon footprint analysis and the establishment of a dedicated workforce data unit within ABARES.

"Growing forests are also proven as an extremely effective carbon sink. In fact, government figures show that in the 20 years to 2021 native production regrowth forests captured an additional 120

million tonnes of carbon while forests managed for conservation emitted more than 250 million tonnes," Lester said.

"Whether for plantations or native forests, securing the future of our specialist forest operations businesses and workforce is a win-win for carbon, communities and the economy."

## Smoke alarm check

WE'VE all got a system for this one, right? Every year when you put the clocks forwards or backwards, you remember to also change the batteries in your smoke alarm and test it. So for everyone who is a 'clocks back' person, now's your reminder that Sunday was the day and it's now Thursday.

Every year, too many Australians lose property and lives to house fires and smoke alarms are the number

one way they are saved. Even if your alarms are wired in, the battery backup can be invaluable in the case of an electrical fire that takes out your power.

While you're changing over your batteries, check the expiration date on the alarm (most are 10 years from purchase) and test the alarm itself.

If you're a landlord or business owner, you might want to use a smoke alarm



Scheduling a smoke alarm check for the same day the clocks go back makes it easy to remember.

Photo: Donyale Harrison

specialist to save all that ladder work. They will also carry artificial smoke, which allows for a more thorough testing.

Ten minutes of work and a fresh battery could save your home, business or life, which is a pretty damn good investment.

# EUDR and market access

Responsible Wood explains what the forest and wood sector needs to know.

WITH major regulatory changes on the horizon, Australia and New Zealand's forest and wood products sector is facing growing pressure to demonstrate not just sustainability, but full traceability and legal sourcing across global supply chains.

One of the biggest drivers of this shift is the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). It's already influencing procurement requirements, tightening expectations from importers, and raising questions across the sector about what's required to maintain access to international markets.

To help unpack what the EUDR means in practice, an industry workshop will be held in Melbourne on Tuesday, 13 May, hosted by Responsible Wood at Forest & Wood Products Australia's offices in Melbourne. The event brings together international experts, including those working directly with certification systems, regulators, and technology providers offering real-world compliance solutions.

## WHY THE EUDR MATTERS

The EUDR comes into effect for large operators in December 2025. It requires businesses supplying products like timber, paper, rubber, and soy into the EU to prove that they are deforestation-free and legally harvested right down to the geolocation of the plot of land they came from. Micro and small enterprises will have until 30 June, 2026, to comply.

That's a big ask for businesses already managing complex chains of custody, client reporting obligations, and varying certification standards.



1

1/ **Rob Shaw, head of standards & integrity at PEFC International.**

1/ **Andreas Naujoks, senior product marketing manager at LiveEO.**

3/ **Swapan Chaudhuri, CEO and co-founder of Deeplai.** All images: supplied



2



3

Yet it's also a catalyst for improving systems. Those who get ahead of the curve could be better placed to meet growing customer and regulatory expectations, not just in Europe, but increasingly across the Asia-Pacific region.

The upcoming workshop offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from Rob Shaw, head of standards & integrity at PEFC International. Shaw is at the centre of global efforts to align certification systems with the requirements of the EUDR and to make sure certified businesses aren't left behind.

"At the core [of our response] is the PEFC EUDR due diligence system module," said Shaw. "A system designed to mirror the regulation's requirements, but in a simplified form, written in the language of PEFC and our chain of custody standards.

"By aligning our sustainable forest management standard with EUDR, 25% of the world's production forests are already managed in accordance with the regulation and that's a huge advantage for certified businesses."

Joining Shaw are two leading voices in the technology space: Andreas Naujoks, senior product

marketing manager at LiveEO, will demonstrate how satellite-based platforms like TradeAware are already being used to monitor forest activity and assess supply chain risks. Swapan Chaudhuri, CEO and co-founder of Deeplai, will present solutions that streamline EUDR compliance — from record-keeping to reporting using AI and data tools developed specifically for regulated supply chains.

"[PEFC] didn't build a data platform ourselves," Shaw said. "Instead, we partnered with leading tech providers like LiveEO, OSapian and Deeplai to give businesses real choice — from earth observation to AI-powered risk assessment and automated due diligence submissions."

While the EUDR is European legislation, its reach is global. Exporters, manufacturers, and procurement professionals across Australia and New Zealand are already seeing it emerge in conversations with their global partners, especially from companies supplying products to global manufacturers with EU-based buyers.

This workshop is about value and preparedness, it's for anyone who wants to:

- Understand how the EUDR will impact supply chains;
- See what leading certification systems and regulators are doing in response;
- Explore technology options to simplify the process; and
- Ask questions and connect with others navigating the same challenges.

"Third-party certification adds a level of confidence that's critical," said Shaw. "It ensures that your material and your systems are aligned with the regulation and that gives your customers, and regulators, the assurance they need."

Whether you're a supplier, processor, compliance manager, or procurement lead, this is a chance to engage directly with those offering the most up-to-date insights and tools that can help.

## REGISTER TODAY!

**DATE:** Tuesday, 13 May

**TIME:** Lunch from 12.00pm, workshop from 12.30pm to 4.30pm

**VENUE:** Forest & Wood Products Australia  
Level 6, 36 Wellington Street,  
Collingwood VIC

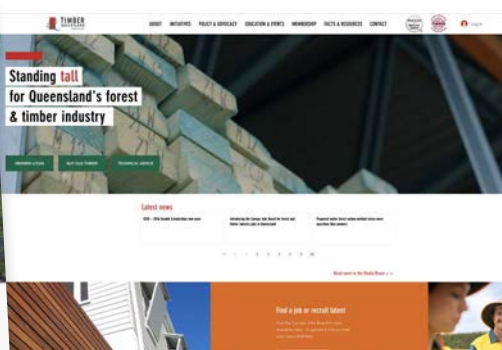
Remote access is available.  
For more, email [info@responsiblewood.org.au](mailto:info@responsiblewood.org.au).

# New Timber Queensland resources

AS a peak industry body, Timber Queensland has been at the forefront of both research into timber and promotion of all aspects of our sector. Now, its new website (click here) and the annual partner magazine *Grounded* are amplifying the association's powerful voice on political, technical, market development, industrial and environmental issues.

TQ's strategic relations & communications manager Clarissa Brandt said that as the public face for Timber Queensland, the new website echoes the organisation's mission to represent the State's forest and timber products industry to government, specifiers, timber traders and the wider community.

"The website provides up-to-date facts and resources to inform the community about the role forestry and



Timber Queensland's new website and magazine.

timber plays in tackling climate change and the environmental benefits of well-managed forests and timber products," said Brandt.

"From posting a new role on the free industry job board, accessing research and development reports to registering for an upcoming event and contacting us for technical advice the new website makes it easier to

interact with the services we provide," she said.

"We're always working on projects to build a proud, self-sufficient and expanding industry, a refreshed website makes it easier for members and other stakeholders to access the outputs of these initiatives."

Annual partner magazine, *Grounded*, is another communications channel that highlights the association's

undertakings to drive innovation, foster collaboration and advocate for the interests of both members and the broader industry.

Available to read online in an interactive flipbook format (click here to read), the magazine explores some of the behind-the-scenes details

of the people and projects working to help Queensland's forest and timber industry thrive.

"This publication is a great read," said Brandt, "either online or print it out and leave it in your lunchroom" She noted that readers can "learn more opportunity and directions for our industry, available scholarships and meet the companies that support our industry."

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# Recycled timber standards

FWPA leads the way in developing industry standards for recycled timber.

FOREST & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) is strengthening the sector by developing industry-owned standards that enhance quality, efficiency, and reliability. Through its Standards Development Program, FWPA collaborates with industry experts to create practical guidelines that meet evolving market needs.

As part of its commitment to advancing industry standards, FWPA has recently launched FWPA Standard G02 – **Recycled Timber: Visually Graded Decorative Products** (click here), a key step toward formalising the use of recycled timber in construction. This initiative not only supports sustainability but also lays the groundwork for these standards to be integrated into the National Construction Code (NCC). This initiative establishes clear grading criteria for recycled hardwood timber used in decorative applications, offering much-needed clarity for manufacturers, designers, and builders.

Further strengthening this commitment, FWPA is also currently in the final stages of publishing FWPA Standard G01 – **Visually Stress-Graded Recycled Timber for Structural Purposes** (click here), expanding the framework to support structural applications of recycled timber.



Scan the QR code to visit FWPA's new recycled timber standard Image: supplied

## STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

FWPA's Standards Development Program, led by National Codes & Standards Manager Boris Iskra, ensures that new guidelines are informed by direct industry input. The Industry Standards Reference Panel (SRP) plays a key role in providing oversight and ensuring that standards are practical and widely adopted.

Under FWPA's current Strategic Plan, the organisation is committed to publishing at least two industry-owned standards per year while continuing to contribute to existing Australian Standards and work collaboratively with national timber and built environment committees.

The newly launched FWPA Standard G02 – Recycled Timber: Visually Graded Decorative Products is the first national standard specifically designed for visually graded recycled hardwood timber used in decorative applications.

This standard provides clear guidelines for assessing and grading recycled timber, helping to establish a reliable and consistent approach within the industry.

Developed through extensive industry consultation and backed by research, FWPA Standard G02 has undergone public

review and refinement to ensure its practical application. It delivers numerous benefits to built environment users, including:

- **Quality Assurance**  
Establishes transparent grading requirements for recycled hardwood timber
- **Compliance Verification**  
Assists manufacturers in demonstrating adherence to industry standards
- **Guidance for Specifiers**  
Provides clarity for architects and designers when selecting materials
- **Sustainability Promotion**  
Encourages responsible recycling and resource conservation
- **Industry Standardisation**  
Creates a unified approach to recycled timber grading
- **Improved Communication**  
Enhances commercial transactions between suppliers and buyers
- **Pathway to Formalisation**  
Lays the groundwork for potential adoption as an

Australian Standard

Building on the success of G02, FWPA is set to launch another significant industry standard: FWPA Standard G01 – Visually Stress-Graded Recycled Timber for Structural Purposes. This upcoming standard will provide guidelines for assessing the structural integrity of recycled timber, ensuring that it can be safely and effectively used in load-bearing applications.

In addition, FWPA is advancing work on a draft standard for the **Design & Installation of Exterior Timber Wall Cladding** (click here), further supporting the industry with best-practice guidance.

Andrew Leighton, CEO of FWPA, emphasised the broader impact of this initiative: "By taking a leadership role in standards development, we're ensuring that the industry has access to practical, relevant, and high-quality guidelines that enhance both improves industry efficiency and long-term viability. The launch of G02 is just the beginning."

With these new standards, FWPA continues to support the Australian forest and wood products industry with essential tools to ensure quality assurance, regulatory compliance, and sustainable practices.

For more information on FWPA's Codes and Standards program and to download the latest industry standards, click here.

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Scan to learn more

# Easter eggs-cavating

IF you're a southern Queensland local or like to spend the holidays in the sunshine state, Dig IT at Tamborine Mountain (an hour from Brisbane and the Gold Coast) is ready to put a smile on your kids' faces these Easter holidays.

It's Australia's only construction-themed attraction and kids can don their hard hats and take control to dig, drive and demolish their way through the day.

Yes, there are important lessons about safety and work in trades that they'll learn, but it's 99% about driving a big machine that makes great noises.

Forget hunting for eggs with a tiny basket – at Dig IT, kids can unearth Easter surprises using real



**Kids can safely learn to operate a CAT mini-excavator at Dig IT.** Image: ??

excavators. Every little digger gets to play, explore, and uncover hidden treasures in a one-of-a-kind Easter adventure. Don't worry if your kid isn't overly fond of digging things up, there are also construction challenges and, of course, a demolition option.

The stars of the show are nine, CAT 1.7 tonne mini-excavators built in Queensland. They are the real deal, with hard hats and high vis gear required onsite. The experience sees kids sit in the driver's seat alone or on the lap of their parent or carer, to try a range of skills, from

digging up the dirt, to using a claw to stack and move tyres, or using a hook to catch pesky 'crocs' and special Easter options!

The Easter Bunny Construction Crew will also be patrolling and might just have some sweet treats and exciting activities in store for lucky visitors.

Open seven days a week over the Easter holidays from 5–21 April, at Thunderbird Park on Tamborine Mountain Road, Tamborine Mountain, Scenic Rim Queensland, adults are also welcome to book a two-hour session. Click here for more information and bookings or phone 1800 00 DIGIT or email [info@digit.com.au](mailto:info@digit.com.au)

Accommodation and campaign is available at Thunderbirds Park, click here.

## Forestry award closing soon

THE name Ponsse is well-known in forestry circles as a leading Finnish machinery company. Twenty years ago, Einari Vidgrén, the founder of Ponsse Plc, established a foundation bearing his name to highlight Finnish forestry know-how in terms of logging.

The goal of the Foundation is to increase appreciation for the work done in the field of mechanised harvesting and the responsible activities carried out in the forest industry in line with the principles of sustainable development. The Foundation seeks to increase awareness of mechanical harvesting entrepreneurship and its attractiveness as a form of employment, especially among young people.

Every year in June, the Foundation offers scholarships

and grants to distinguished forestry experts. This year, the Foundation is looking for responsible logging professionals whose work focuses on the broad range of forest machinery and forestry skills, as well as sustainable development.

The Einari Award, the main prize of the Einari Vidgrén Foundation, is awarded for long-term activities in the demanding harvesting industry and for professional entrepreneurship in the forest machine sector. Einari



**Roger Lejeune, winner of the 2024 Einari Award, is the man behind innovative forestry and logging company CC Bois.** Image: supplied

Recognitions are awarded to research and development parties active in mechanised timber harvesting, developers of training in the sector and parties that promote awareness of the sector and

increase its appreciation. The Global CTL Award supports the work done internationally to promote the Cut-To-Length method of forest harvesting. In addition, the Foundation gives Einari Operator's Awards to meritorious forest machine operators and Einari Scholarships to talented students in the forestry equipment field.

Applications should be submitted via the [evsaatio.fi](https://www.evsaatio.fi) application form. The application period is open now and closes on 7 May 2025. The Foundation will announce the recipients in June.

For further information, contact Juha Vidgren, chairman of the Ponsse board of directors, at [juha.vidgren@ponsse.com](mailto:juha.vidgren@ponsse.com) or visit <https://www.evsaatio.fi/in-english>

# Victorian Wood Fibre Roadmap

## VFPA's new strategy positions Victoria as a leader.

IN an unpredictable 2025, there are two certainties: we urgently need to do something about carbon levels in the atmosphere and we also need action on housing. The Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) has taken a leading role in these challenges, yesterday launching its Victorian Wood Fibre Roadmap to 2050.

In recent years, Victoria has been strengthening its position as a global leader in sustainable timber, engineered wood, and next-generational biomaterials, capitalising on the demand for low-carbon alternatives to create regional jobs and secure a local supply of construction materials while tackling a changing climate.

The Roadmap ties into this agenda, positioning Victoria's \$9bn wood fibre industry as a global leader in sustainable wood fibre production, advanced manufacturing and circular bioeconomy innovation, and outlining an ambitious way forward for the state's wood fibre and forestry industries.

It lists five key strategic priorities:

1. Increasing value added manufacturing along a wood fibre cascade to highest value use.
2. Increasing plantation forest resources to support increased domestic production of manufactured wood products for the built environment.

3. Increasing recovery and reuse of wood fibre for improved efficiency and circularity.
4. Decarbonising the sector to attain net zero targets and climate positive outcomes.
5. Supporting the ongoing product innovation for a more circular bioeconomy in Victoria.

It then ties these to current Victorian government policies and the existing state of the Victorian timber sector and charts a path forward for Victoria to develop innovative new products, such as biofuels, next generation building products and nanocellulosic materials.

VFPA CEO Andrew White said, "There is significant global interest in cellulose nanomaterials as a substitute for synthetic materials or nano-reinforcement for polymers in industries like healthcare, packaging, textiles, and even 3D printing.

"This is about using every part of the tree, multiple times over, and transforming our existing industry strengths into global leadership in low-carbon

materials and sustainable design. With the right policy settings, we can grow this sector even further to deliver climate solutions, housing materials, and manufacturing jobs where they're needed most."

VFPA clearly outlines the case for governmental support in the Roadmap, calling for unified support for the sector from Federal, State and Local governments. The Association makes it clear that policy certainty is an important part of meeting these goals and delivers a data-driven basis for both the goals set and the methods for achieving them.

Key actions outlined in the Roadmap include:

- Expanding Victoria's softwood and hardwood plantations.
- Fast-tracking investment in engineered wood products and innovation hubs.
- Prioritising local timber in construction to cut embodied carbon.
- Boosting wood fibre recovery and reuse to build a circular economy.

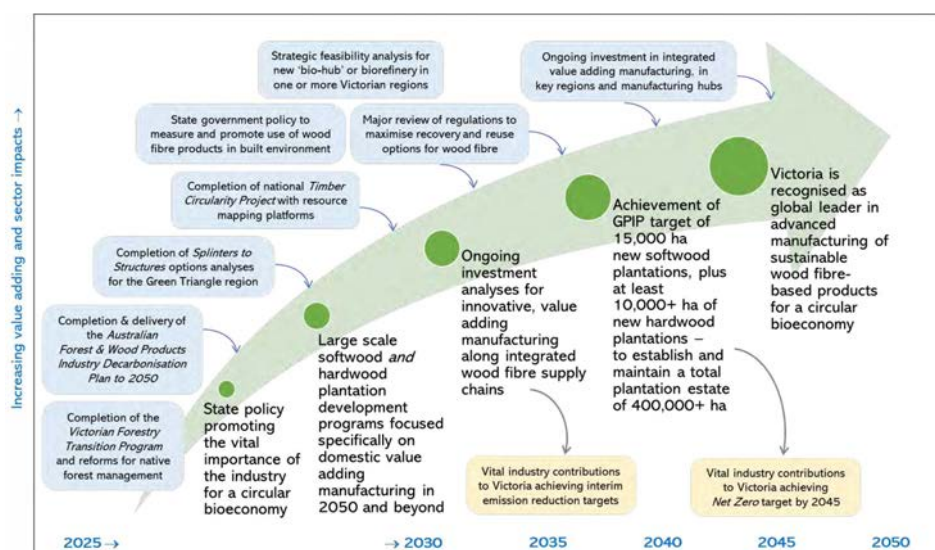


Figure 5-1 from the Roadmap: implementation roadmap for Victoria's future wood fibre industry, 2025 to 2050.

- Backing next-gen biofuels, textiles, and biochemicals through targeted R&D.

Victoria is remarkably well placed to deliver on the promises of the roadmap, with its combination of leading research facilities (both academic and industry-based), innovative timber producers and manufacturers, extensive fibre resource and

highly skilled timber sector workforce.

By centring circularity in the Roadmap, VFPA reinforces the forestry sector's responsible and sustainable approach to wood fibre: unlike sectors such as mining, the forest product sector is focused on regrowth and reuse – with value able to be added and realised at each step of that reuse cycle.

It represents a win not just to the sector and to consumers, but to some of the most pressing political issues of our time.

"We're asking the parliament to work with us on a bi-partisan basis – not just to support what we have now, but to build something even better," White said.

"If we make smart investments off the back of Victoria's strong scientific credentials, it's not impossible to think that Victoria could be a leading player in turning renewable wood fibre into real climate and economic outcomes."

To download the Roadmap, click here.

# Uncertainty and risk

## Sweeping Trump tariffs have sent markets down and anxiety up.

THE ABC's global affairs editor John Lyons is a highly respected journalist with a deep understanding of international events. Usually a calm, moderate voice, he is unflinching and honest. Which made it worse than usual when he summed up the Trump tariffs' effects as: "Because of one person, the superannuation accounts of Australians are falling by the hour."

While Australia's exports to the US and the 10% blanket tariff imposed on us are comparatively small, the large tariffs imposed on our Asian neighbours and major trading partners China, Japan and South Korea represent real risk. Poorer local partners such as Vietnam and Cambodia have also been hit disproportionately hard, which may destabilise our local region. And it could get much worse: not only are retaliatory tariffs reshaping global trade, between them, China and Japan hold roughly a fifth of all foreign-held US government debt and have the power to drive up US borrowing costs significantly if they are pushed.

While some still hope it's a short-lived gambit, Trump has long championed the idea of tariffs and his two major economic advisors, Peter Navarro and Howard Lutnick, also favour them. Predicting Trump is a pointless game, but some fallout effects are extremely likely. The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has warned that consequences could well include more foreign timber and wood-fibre products being diverted to Australia.

"Aside from obvious and very real impact on our direct



**While these Irish export logs have known provenance, a quarter of tested logs imported into Australia were found to be mislabelled.** Photo: Shutterstock/ David K Photography

exporters to the US, we're concerned the ricochet effect of the tariffs will mean some countries could resort to dumping their large export volumes intended for the US, to markets like Australia," said Diana Hallam, AFPA CEO. "There is the real prospect that Australia could experience an influx of dubious, imported timber and wood-fibre products – impacting a local industry already under pressure from the depressed housing market."

Throughout the current election campaign, AFPA has been petitioning for country of origin labelling on timber products and Commonwealth funding to crack down on illegally logged timber.

"We know the illegal trade is an increasing problem for Australia because a Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) testing trial last year found a quarter of tested imported products were found to be inconsistent with declared species, origin, or both," said Hallam.

"Ahead of the Federal

Election, we call on all sides of politics to commit to our Election Platform in full, but in light of [this] tariff announcement, especially the country of origin labelling measure and increased support to crack-down on the illegal timber trade at our borders."

Meanwhile, the Australian Made Campaign (AMCL) is imploring Australians to exercise their preference for buying genuine Australian products, noting that all Australian manufacturers, not just those who export, will be impacted by the sweeping 10% tariff placed on our goods.

AMCL chief executive Ben Lazzaro said, "It's never been more important to support our Aussie manufacturers, growers, and primary producers. These sectors have faced numerous challenges in recent times, and it has just become more challenging for some. More than 90% of Australians have a preference for Australian-made products, so let's turn that preference into purchases."

AMCL has welcomed the



*The Australian Made logo helps consumers identify products made here.*

Federal Government's recently announced policy measures to address the tariffs, including strengthening Australia's anti-dumping regime and financial support for exporters to access new markets. These measures, combined with the government's commitment to support Aussie manufacturers with its 'Buy Aussie' policy for government procurement and contracts, provides some positivity in the wake of these challenging international trade barriers.

"A strategic approach to 'buy local' initiatives, incorporating consumers, businesses and all levels of government is what is needed right now," said Lazzaro.

"Improving government and business local procurement policies by prioritising Aussie makers will help alleviate the impact of tariffs while strengthening the economy and creating local jobs. Given that federal government contracts were estimated to be valued at \$100 billion last financial year, a refocussing on Australian-made suppliers has the potential to have an enormous impact."

Companies who produce locally made products can apply to use the logo, visit [www.australianmade.com.au/](http://www.australianmade.com.au/) apply

For a comprehensive list of Australian businesses, visit [www.australianmade.com.au/](http://www.australianmade.com.au/) products.



# Good Design Awards open

The awards recognise innovation as well as excellence.

ENTRIES are open for the 2025 Australian Good Design Awards. Spanning design, architecture, engineering, research, fashion, and social impact, the Awards recognise visionary work that shapes how we live, work, and interact.

Established in 1958 and endorsed by the World Design Organization, these Awards have been Australia's highest international design accolade for over six decades. They honour the people, projects, and brands driving innovation and setting new global standards.

More than just an award, the Australian Good Design Awards champion the power of design to create a better, safer, and more prosperous world – driving industry progress and positive change across society.

This year's awards theme is *Rewarding, Defining and Celebrating Better* \_\_\_\_\_. Entrants are invited to fill



**The Hurlstone Memorial Reserve Community Centre by Sam Crawford Architects won the 2024 Architectural Design division.**  
Photo: courtesy Sam Crawford Architects

in the blank and designers, innovators, architects, engineers and creatives are all welcome to explore and articulate what "better" means in today's world to them.

By leaving the statement open-ended, the theme encourages a broad spectrum of interpretations and aims to reflect the breadth of design. From better places, spaces, products, and experiences – to more specific applications like workplaces, electronics, furniture, buildings, apps, services, branding, and user interfaces, to name just a few – design's potential for improvement is limitless.

Last year's awards saw timber-clad Hurlstone

Memorial Reserve Community Centre by Sam Crawford Architects win the Architectural Design division, with its practical and beautiful enrichment of an inner urban park said by the jury to exemplify "the potential of design to create intrinsic public value and significant positive impacts at any scale."

Every entry helps restore Australian ecosystems and biodiversity, with a donation of seed pods to the Good Design Awards' partner AirSeed, to help support a variety of reforestation and restoration projects here in Australia. Seed pods are packed with biodiverse blends of tree species and nutrients that help support regenerative projects such as the re-establishment of koala habitats and the revegetation of agricultural areas.

Entries close 2 May. For full details and entry forms, click here.

## Extreme weather impacts timber production

A new report in *Science Daily* warns that timber production could be severely affected across major production areas due to the severe weather impacts of climate change.

The team at the University of Colorado at Boulder have constructed a model that aims to understand the impacts of how extreme weather events, worsened by climate change, will affect ecosystems.

It predicted that a Minnesota forest could lose up to 50% of its timber revenue if a severe windstorm hits, for example, and that the negative impacts of severe weather events were being underestimated by many.

"With climate change, there's an urgent need to incorporate the impacts of extreme events like mega-fires and hurricanes have on the

benefits nature provides," said Laura Dee, the paper's first author and associate professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. "This research is an important step toward anticipating impacts to ecosystem services so that we can adapt management strategies accordingly."

Click here for the full article and links to the research paper.



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### 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

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### CONTACTS

#### Media releases and editorial:

Nicky Ainley // Donyale Harrison // Jessica Hockridge

e: [editors@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:editors@timberandforestrynews.com)

#### Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: [campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com)

#### Accounts:

Chris Parker // e: [cparker@ttnews.com.au](mailto:cparker@ttnews.com.au)

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[editors@timberandforestrynews.com](mailto:editors@timberandforestrynews.com)

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