

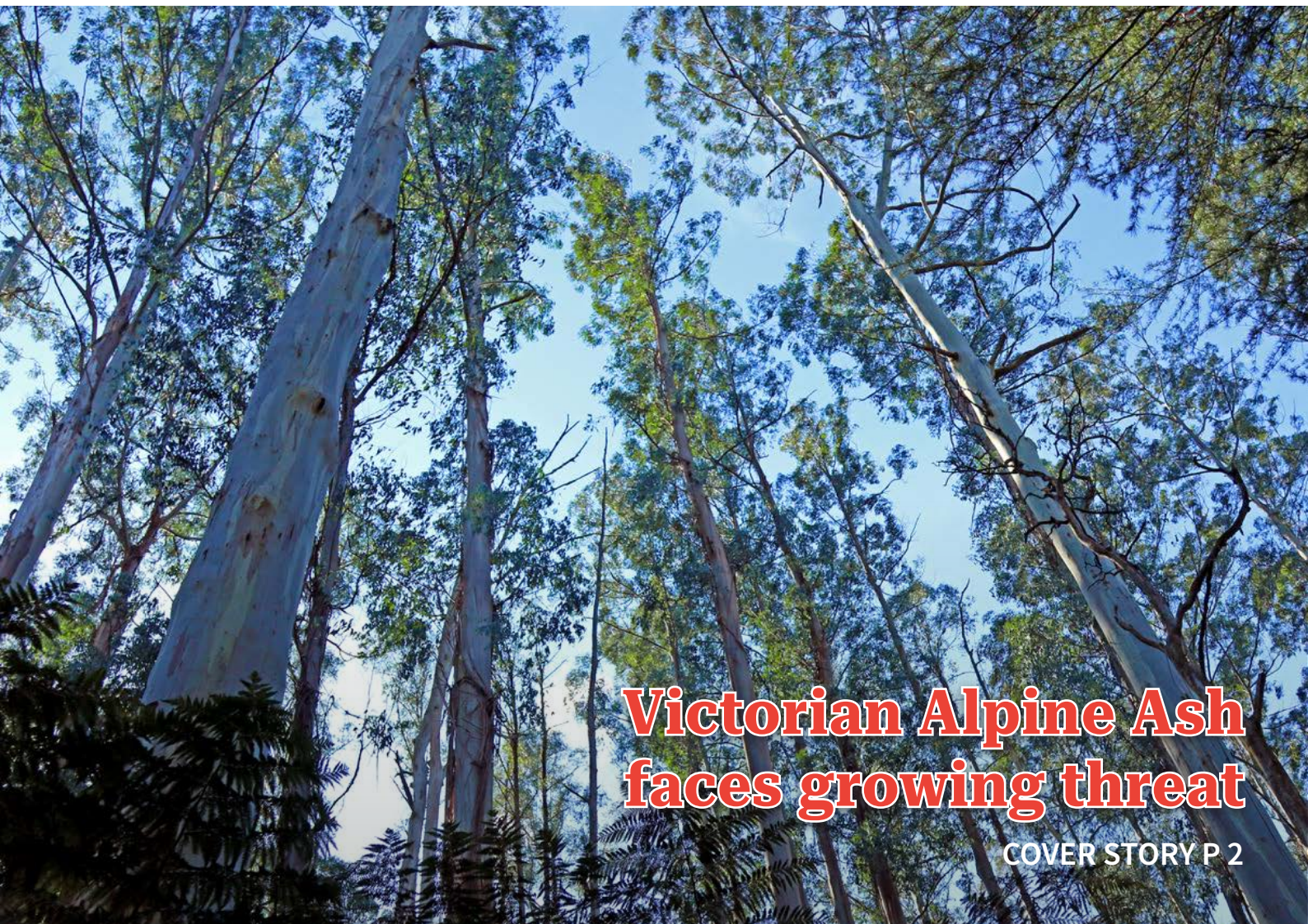
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Victorian Alpine Ash faces growing threat

COVER STORY P 2

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Victoria's alpine forests: a ticking time bomb

VICTORIA's alpine forests, dominated by towering alpine ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), are on the brink of ecological collapse as frequent, high-intensity bushfires threaten their survival. The abrupt closure of the state's native forestry industry in 2023 has critically undermined regeneration efforts, leaving these ecosystems desperately short of seed and expertise. Scientists warn that these 600,000-hectare forests, vital for biodiversity and carbon storage, are one catastrophic fire away from oblivion, creating a "ticking time bomb" for Victoria's natural and cultural heritage.

Alpine ash, among the world's tallest trees at up to 80 metres, is uniquely vulnerable due to its slow reproductive cycle, requiring 20 years to produce viable seed. Dr Tom Fairman, a fire risk analyst at the University of Melbourne, estimates that 80,000 hectares of juvenile forest—half the state's alpine ash range—have been ravaged by six major bushfires over the past two decades. "If we can't reforest after repeat fires, we'll lose this

habitat forever," he says. The Black Summer fires of 2019–20 scorched vast swathes, prompting government agencies to re-sow tens of thousands of hectares by broadcasting seed from aircraft over rugged terrain. Yet, with fires recurring every four years, young trees are repeatedly killed before maturing, stalling recovery efforts.

The 2023 closure of Victoria's native timber industry, enacted six years earlier than planned, has dealt a devastating blow to forest regeneration. VicForests, the state agency responsible for sustainable timber harvesting and eucalypt seed collection, was dismantled, leaving a gaping void in expertise, infrastructure, and funding. For decades, VicForests employed skilled climbers like Brendon Clark to harvest up to six tonnes of pinhead-sized



The Alpine Ash is also known as Woollybutt due to the darker, stringy bark that grows on the lower half of the tree, contrasting to the light, smooth bark that grows on the upper half and branches. Image: Photographer Huw/CC by-nc/4.0

alpine ash seeds annually, maintaining robust seed banks for post-fire reforestation. The closure shuttered seed storage facilities, retrenched experienced workers, and disrupted a system that integrated economic activity with ecological stewardship. Rural communities, particularly in Gippsland and the High Country, faced job losses and economic decline, eroding the social fabric that supported forest management. The Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action

(DEECA) has struggled to fill this gap, awarding contracts for just one to two tonnes of seed over two years—a fraction of the 17 tonnes forester Owen Bassett deems essential. "It's woefully inadequate," Bassett says, noting the seed bank, depleted after Black Summer, has seen minimal replenishment.

The forestry closure's fallout is multifaceted. The loss of silvicultural expertise has crippled seed collection, with climbers like Clark, once Victoria's best, opting out of recent contracts due to insufficient seed targets and poor remuneration. "The forest is in serious trouble," he warns. "If the last two fires haven't scared you, nothing will." The industry also maintained firebreaks and access tracks, reducing fire risk and aiding

Cont P 3



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From P 2

firefighting efforts. The policy decision, driven by environmental and political pressures, failed to account for the timber industry's contributions to forest resilience, leaving alpine ecosystems more exposed to fire-driven collapse. DEECA's underfunded and understaffed efforts have been hampered by bureaucratic delays and a lack of long-term planning, further jeopardising the forests.

From Mount Hotham, Bassett surveys a bleak landscape of bleached tree skeletons and strewn trunks. "Fires, not logging, are the primary culprit," he clarifies, countering misconceptions. The degradation is so severe that some advocate listing mountain ash as a threatened



species. These forests are ecological powerhouses, supporting endangered species like the Leadbeater's possum and greater glider, while storing vast carbon reserves critical for climate resilience. Their loss would devastate biodiversity, weaken Victoria's environmental defences, and diminish cultural connections to these iconic landscapes. Bassett proposes privately funded seed banks, backed by corporate and community donors, to supplement government efforts. "This forest is worth



1/ The fruit of the Alpine Ash tree is small, brown and conical.
2/ Flowering occurs over summer beginning as small green bud that turn red or yellow before opening to white flowers. Both images: Photographer Ian Brooker and David Kleinig/CC by-nc/3.0

saving," he urges, advocating for a collaborative approach to restore seed supplies and expertise.

Scientists like Fairman criticise the government's sluggish response, calling for urgent investment in seed collection, fire management, and reforestation. Controlled burns, improved seed harvesting, and innovative planting strategies could mitigate the crisis, but time is running out. The forestry closure has left a legacy of lost skills, economic disruption, and dwindling

seed stocks, amplifying the threat of intensifying fires fuelled by climate change. Victoria must act decisively—rebuilding silvicultural capacity, scaling up seed programs, revitalising rural communities, and fostering public-private partnerships—to save these forests before the next blaze pushes them beyond recovery.

On the cover: The Victorian Alpine Ash is at risk of irreversible damage due to repeated bushfires and a critical shortage of seeds needed for reforestation in which VicForests, previously played a key role in collecting and preserving seeds for future regenerations.
Image: Shutterstock



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Forest industries lament ‘white flag’ on Polyphagous Shot-hole borer eradication

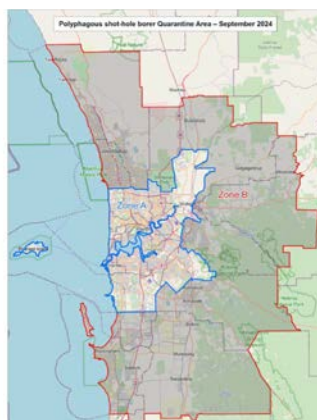
AUSTRALIA'S forest industries are disappointed the Commonwealth and State governments have given up trying to eradicate the insidious Polyphagous Shot-hole borer (PSHB), a tiny, imported beetle with the potential to destroy Australian forests and devastate our forestry industry, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Diana Hallam said.

On page 6 of issue #852 and page 10 of issue #855 AFPA outlined how crucial it was to eradicate the PSHB before it spread across Australia and the potentially devastating effects it could have on forestry. However, the National Management Group (NMG) met on Wednesday

and determined it was no longer feasible to eradicate the pest – and a transition to management will now be finalised.

“We’re disappointed that governments have effectively accepted the PSHB is here and here to stay. The likelihood it spreads from metropolitan Perth to other parts of the country has increased as a consequence of the decision to move from an eradication to a management strategy,” Diana Hallam said.

“The risk this beetle poses to trees in forestry operations, national parks, reserves and even backyards is immense and the cost borne by our industry and other stakeholders, like local councils, to prevent its spread



There are strict quarantines around Perth with the goal of stopping the spread of the PSHB. However, transitioning to management of the pest instead of eradication increases likelihood of it spreading beyond Perth. Image: Western Australian Government

and manage its risk will unfortunately, likely increase.

“We know in South Africa and California, where PSHB

has already established itself, the losses and cost of management are in the billions of dollars across local governments, horticulture, forestry and the environment through tree deaths or increased management costs.

“Despite our disappointment, we do welcome the Western Australian Government’s commitment of \$26.5 million towards the PSHB response in the State’s Budget announced this week.

“AFPA will continue to work with our industry and other stakeholders on the impact of the NMG’s decision and protecting forestry operations from the PSHB moving forward,” Diana Hallam concluded.

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EPBC reforms roundtable

Sustainable native and plantation forestry, critical for the environment, climate and economy.

THE Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) thanks Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, for the invitation to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Reforms Roundtable, in Canberra. The key message from AFPA to those assembled was that reform of Australia's environmental laws must recognise the nation's environmental, economic, and social goals and that sustainable native forestry and much needed plantation forestry is vital if Australia is to achieve its decarbonisation ambitions.

Attended by AFPA Chief Executive Officer Diana Hallam, the Roundtable included representatives from across environmental, industry and property sectors, and discussed the Albanese Government's EPBC Act reform agenda, including the establishment of a national Environment Protection Agency (EPA) along with National Environmental Standards.

Diana Hallam said, "When



1/ **Diana Hallam, CEO of AFPA.** Image: AFPA



2/ **Senator the Honourable Murray Watt, MP.** Image: Parliament of Australia

invited by the Minister to speak, I made it clear that we support EPBC Act reform, but that sustainable native and plantation forestry must be allowed to continue and grow in recognition of its importance to Australia's climate goals. I alerted those gathered that in the five years since the independent review of the EPBC Act (the Samuel Review) was handed to government there have been many developments in science, innovation and data capture that demonstrate forestry's improved custodianship of the environment. We have also seen some terrible

consequences arising from decisions made in haste that have been to the detriment of forest industries and the environment.

"For example, since the removal of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) and abolition of VicForests, the Victorian Government is now forced to pay forest contractors \$72 million annually for bushfire management. Expanses of Victorian Mountain Ash have failed to regrow following severe bushfires, something VicForests would have been legally required to address,

and uncertainty reigns because EPBC Act approval requirements remain unclear without the RFA and VicForests guidance impeding plantation investment.

"More recently an Australian Federal Court decision in January 2024 confirmed that Regional Forest Agreements are achieving the objects of the EPBC Act and it is noteworthy that the NSW North East RFA references the EPBC Act 94 times. Improvements to Australia's environmental laws will help provide regulatory certainty and allow Australia's forest industries to be rightfully acknowledged as leading practitioners of ecologically sustainable development.

"Without native and plantation forestry, we cannot protect the environment, and we cannot decarbonise the economy. A strong forestry sector is required to meet so many of Australia's future challenges, and its essential the Albanese Government's EPBC Act Reforms support a strong forestry industry going forward," Diana Hallam concluded.

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Comprehensive report considers future of forestry in NZ

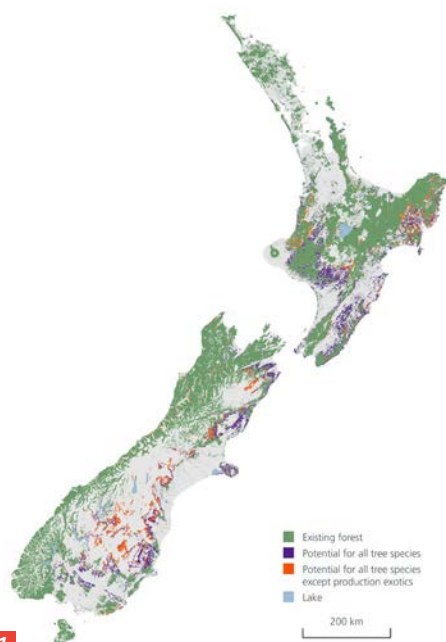
PART ONE. By MICHAEL SMITH

A RECENTLY released report by Simon Upton, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment – *Alt-F Reset: Examining the drivers of forestry in New Zealand* – is a comprehensive effort to inform discussions on future afforestation in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Timber & Forestry Enews* considers some of the report's key points and recommendations.

Mr Upton says that New Zealand's current approach to climate mitigation means that between 2022 and 2050, more than 900,000 hectares of new forests could be planted across the landscape.

In an ideal world many would hope that much of it will be native forest. However, current economic and policy drivers (for instance, the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)), make it more likely that radiata pine will continue as the species of choice. That puts New Zealand on a path to establishing vast areas of new exotic production and carbon forests.

The commissioner acknowledges that radiata pine should continue to play an important role in the country's economy. "Sited appropriately (and managed well) it is a highly valuable resource with many benefits.



"However, our current heavy reliance on a single species comes with environmental and economic risks that could impact the resilience of our forests.

"In some places the adverse environmental effects of the current clear-fell regime are simply too great to justify – and using forests to offset fossil emissions carries even greater risks."

He notes that the ETS allows fossil fuel emitters to purchase unlimited forestry offsets (a unique feature of any existing schemes globally). That could result in large areas of land being locked up in forests with carbon liabilities, severely restricting the option of future land use change.

In addition, productive land (including production forests) could be lost to carbon forests (with impacts on rural communities); and the Crown may face implicit liabilities if forests established to offset



1/ **Private land potentially suitable for afforestation.** Image: MPI, pers. comm
2/ **Native trees integrated on farmland in the Wairarapa.** Image: MPI

emissions are damaged by pests, diseases or natural events.

Further, he says that production forests will need to cope with changing environmental conditions until harvesting at around 28 years. That seems manageable, but trees planted for long-term carbon storage will need to withstand changes over many more decades to form permanent, self-sustaining forests.

"In general, planting monocultures for long-term carbon mitigation purposes is unlikely to result in permanent, resilient forests. Regardless of the type of forest, ongoing management is likely to be needed."

The commissioner considered a range of alternative forestry systems

that could be appropriate in New Zealand – among them the establishment of new native forests.

While there is a great deal of public interest in establishing such forests, "little is known about how to successfully do so at scale.

"Significant environmental changes have occurred since the arrival of humans in New Zealand, including land use pressures, the introduction of pest plants and animals, accompanied by the loss of native seed sources from many areas. This means that large-scale native afforestation is likely to need human intervention to succeed."

Upfront establishment costs will potentially be accompanied by significant ongoing costs. "Some degree of forest maintenance is likely to be required to manage the effects of pests over the lifetime of the forest – particularly where tall, diverse forests are the aim."

“LARGE-SCALE NATIVE AFFORESTATION IS LIKELY TO NEED HUMAN INTERVENTION TO SUCCEED

Cont P 7

JUNE

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/>

30: WoodSolutions Workshop "Timber in a carbon neutral environment" – Pridham Hall, Adelaide. 8.30am - 3.30pm. Discover how timber is reshaping the future of sustainable construction. For more information and reserve your place visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/woodsolutions-workshop-timber-in-a-carbon-neutral-environment-tickets-1363725101489>

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Timber Queensland Biennial Conference "Doing Timber Business in Queensland" – Brisbane.

For more information, email admin@timberqueensland.com.au

7-12: Gottstein Trust's Understanding Wood Science Course – Albury and Canberra. The course is designed to provide exposure to a wide range of industry & research experts and includes site visits to leading plants across 3 types of end products. For further information and registration details visit <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-wood-science-course>

13: SAVE THE DATE: WFTN Cocktails for Charity event – Brisbane, 2.00pm - 6.00pm. Sponsorship opportunities available - contact jenni@versacetimbers.com.au More details to follow.

18-19: SAVE THE DATE: THU 18 - Onetrak/Tigercat field demonstration day followed by AFCA AGM & dinner. FRI 19 - Networking breakfast – Canberra. More details to follow.

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 – Perth, WA. (Follows on from the woodchip and biomass seminar in Singapore.) For more information visit <https://danaevents.co.nz/2025singapore/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

He believes that without this help, new native forests will suffer the same fate as many of our existing native forests – many of which are in poor health.

"Better management is needed to improve forest resilience and stem further losses. A particular risk from a climate mitigation perspective is that failing to adequately

maintain our existing native forests could see them become a major source of carbon emissions."

However, they are still highly valuable, "supporting native biodiversity and providing substantial carbon storage, water regulation and erosion control".

Mr Upton also gave some consideration to transitional forestry, where fast-growing exotic forests are managed to

transform into native forests over time. "The approach could offer a more financially viable alternative to planting a native forest from scratch.

"However, research undertaken for this report by Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research found that a 'carbon dip' is likely to occur during the transition, as the exotic trees are replaced by slower-growing native trees that (at least initially) hold less carbon.

The carbon liability incurred during this time could be significant."

More on the report in next week's edition including the commissioner's recommendations and conclusions on afforestation in New Zealand.

Timber & Forestry Enews acknowledges the report and summary document provided by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

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AFPA pays tribute to Sustainable Timber Tasmania CEO, Steve Whiteley

THE Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) thanks and congratulates Sustainable Timber Tasmania's (STT) Chief Executive Officer, Steve Whiteley, ahead of his retirement that has been announced.

"On behalf of Australia's forest industries, I congratulate Steve on his career that has included more than 40 years of dedicated service to STT, the broader industry, as well as service as an Independent Director on the AFPA Board since 2018," Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, Diana Hallam said.

Steve Whiteley's career began in the forestry sector in the late 1970s, where he

started as a field officer with the Tasmanian Forestry Commission, gaining hands-on experience in forest management and operations. Over the decades, he progressed through various roles, including forest planning and resource management, honing his expertise in sustainable practices and industry leadership. His ascent to Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) in 2010 marked a significant milestone, where he led with a steady hand, driving innovation and ensuring the organisation's long-term success while contributing valuable insights to the broader industry.



Steve Whiteley has served with dedication and care for over 40 years and has been an incredible leader in the industry. Image: Steve Whiteley / LinkedIn

"It was clear to me when I joined AFPA last year as someone new to the industry, that Steve was a well-respected industry leader who provided a steady hand,

vision and commitment to the management of STT, as well as quality advice to the rest of the industry through his role on the AFPA Board," shared Diana Hallam.

"It's no surprise to me that Steve's leadership has been instrumental to positioning STT for long-term success and I particularly thank him for his advice, insights and contribution with regards to Tasmanian forestry and human resources matters for AFPA."

Following Steve Whiteley's departure, Greg Hickey will take over as Acting Chief Executive Officer at STT in July. Steve will continue to serve on the AFPA Board.

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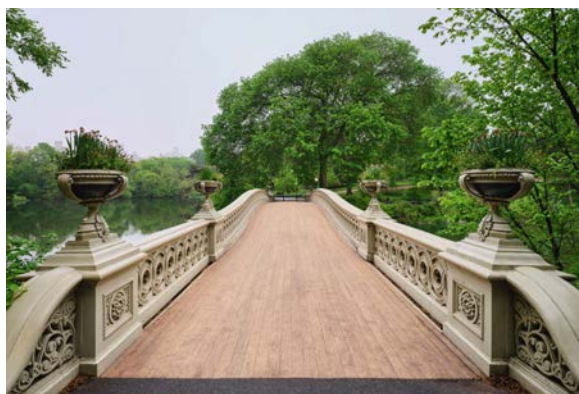
Image: Shutterstock

Restoring a Central Park landmark

New York City's Central Park is renowned as one of the world's most famous urban landscapes and few spots capture its beauty and charm quite like Central Park's Bow Bridge. Spanning 26.5 meters across The Lake - one of the park's most picturesque bodies of water, linking the Ramble on the east to Cherry Hill on the west - the bridge was first constructed in 1860. With its graceful cast-iron curves, intricate detailing, and sweeping skyline views, the Bow Bridge is an architectural marvel of its time and one of the most photographed and iconic pedestrian bridges in the world.

After more than 160 years of enduring weather extremes, heavy foot traffic, and countless film productions, the bridge showed clear signs

of wear. While it underwent a comprehensive restoration in 2015, by 2024, the Southern Yellow Pine decking required replacement. For this essential upgrade, Accoya emerged as the optimal solution - its exceptional dimensional stability ensures the wood retains its shape and structural integrity without warping, cupping, or swelling, even under New York's intense seasonal fluctuations. In addition to its superior performance, Accoya's sourcing from sustainably managed forests and its minimal environmental



Accoya wood has been used to replace the decking on the stunning Bow Bridge in Central Park, New York City.

Image: ACCSYS

impact made it a natural fit for the Central Park Conservancy and New York City Parks, aligning with their long-standing commitment to ecological stewardship.

Sergio Munhoz, North American Sales Director comments, "It's a privilege to contribute to the preservation of such a cherished New York

City landmark. Bow Bridge required a material that could offer long-term reliability while respecting its historic character. Accoya's superior durability, dimensional stability, and sustainability credentials made it the right choice to help ensure this iconic structure

continues to be enjoyed for generations to come."

The restoration of the Bow Bridge deck has revitalised this historic gem. Using Accoya, the bridge exemplifies how timeless design, and modern innovation can coexist in perfect harmony.



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Sustainability commitment starts at home

TO create more natural habitat for the increasingly rare Regent Honeyeater, LAPP Australia Managing Director, Simon Pullinger began planting the types of gum tree best suited to this critically endangered native bird, including *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (Red Ironbark), *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box), *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum), and *Eucalyptus robusta* (Swamp Mahogany).

With an estimated 250-350 of the species left in the wild, habitat loss has been identified as the primary reason for the Regent Honeyeater's declining numbers. As part of community conservation efforts, Simon helped plant 250 new saplings.

However, when native fauna like wombats, kangaroos, and wallabies – plus the invasive deer population – showed an unwelcome interest in this bushland regeneration, Simon wanted to harmlessly dissuade them from eating his new plantings.

After puzzling about how to protect the trees 24/7 while he was at work in Sydney, the answer came when he was inspecting the recycling needs of the company's booming industrial cable, automation, and connectivity solutions operation.



1/ LAPP Australia Managing Director Simon Pullinger tends to 250 newly planted saplings at his bushland home, protected from the interest of hungry local fauna by recycled cable spool "collars".

2/ The planting of different types of trees is to help rebuild the habitat of the Regent Honeyeater. All photos: LAPP



"When I looked at the cylindrical cardboard spools for cable drums that we were gathering for the company's recycling and sustainability programme, I thought – 'This is good, and we can use some of these ourselves out at the family's bushland shack as "collars" to protect the young plants.'"

"The whole family loves going out there to give the bush a helping hand to survive and flourish and working with the local land care group (which takes the rest of the collars to use across a broad area of bushland)," says Simon, who swaps his executive attire and corporate transport for a 4wd to enjoy the tranquillity of the bush at weekends.

To protect saplings from becoming part of the menu during their early stages of life – and to conserve and retain water around their roots – the dozens of newly installed cable drum collars now do the job of conservation without the

need for non-biodegradable materials being introduced to the pristine property.

"We didn't set out to build an environmental showpiece, because that's not the way it is done in the bush. Out in the country, it is second nature to use and reuse resources. It is the way people live. It is simply good common sense," says Simon, who has also recycled a fuel stove more than 100 years old, which his father-in-law had stored in his home's garage for more than 50 years.

"We cleaned it up and lit it up and – wonderfully – it burst back to life after lying disused for decades. It was a small thing, but

real sustainability practices start with individuals and a mindset," said Simon.

While Simon's country sustainability initiatives are a personal choice, they also accord strongly with the corporate objectives of the global LAPP Group of which LAPP Australia is part.

Matthias Lapp, Chairman of the Board at Lapp Holding SE, says that, "As a family business that is driven by the search for forward-looking solutions for future generations, it is our duty to treat the resources of people and the environment responsibly.

"For us, looking at the impact of our work and our products is part of the development of promising innovations. Sustainable thinking influences our decisions every day. We tackle the challenges we face together – with the ideas, expertise and strength of all our employees."

“REAL SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES START WITH INDIVIDUALS AND A SUSTAINABILITY THINKING MINDSET”

SEMA launch 'Stay Racking Safe' campaign

EVER wondered what your racking legal requirements are when it comes to racking, how to prevent costly downtime from damaged or how to reduce the risk of racking-related accidents? If so, the Storage Equipment Manufacturers Association (SEMA) is here to help with the launch of their free 'Stay Racking Safe' guide.

The guide outlines the key dos and don'ts of warehouse racking systems along with the practical steps warehouse owners and managers can take to keep employees safe and protect their business.

Free to download from the SEMA website, the guide breaks down the five simple steps you should follow over the lifetime of your racking:

Step 1: check your suppliers

A flashy website showing lots of photos of impressive racking work does NOT guarantee safe racking. The only way to be sure your supplier is designing safe racking is to check their credentials – are they working

to industry standards, do they have the correct insurance documentation in place, do they meet Health & Safety requirements?

Step 2: racking installation

When your racking arrives on site, the design will include key safety standards that rely on the installer to meet these exact requirements. It only takes an incorrect floor fixing or wrongly positioned tightened fixings according to the manufacturer's tolerances and it can significantly impact the structural integrity of your racking. Check your installer has the required skills by asking if they have an industry-recognised qualification such as SEIRS.

Step 3: load racking correctly

Racking is designed to carry maximum loads and overloading, or incorrect



loading of the shelves can weaken the structure. To avoid this happening, your racking should have a Load Notice affixed to the structure. This important sign informs employees on correct loading weights and practices – make sure your team is trained on how to read the Load Notice.

Step 4: train employees

Employees working around racking need training to stay safe. Look out for courses like SEMA's Rack Safety Awareness course which equips them with the skills and knowledge they need.

Step 5: meet your racking inspection requirements

Your inspection process is more detailed than you think:

- Appoint a Person Responsible for Racking Safety (PPRS) who's responsible for racking safety in the warehouse
- Ask warehouse employees to immediately report racking damage
- Train a team member to conduct Visual Inspections
- At least once a year, appoint a qualified professional to undertake your Expert Inspection – our SEMA Approved Racking Inspectors (SARI) can help with this one!

Make your warehouse a safer place to work by visiting Warehouse Racking Safety Guide | Storage Equipment Manufacturer's Association Ltd and downloading SEMA's Stay Racking Safe Guide.

OneFortyOne invites community feedback through new survey

ONEFORTYONE has just launched a community survey. The survey aims to gauge community awareness and perception of OneFortyOne, including recognition of the brand, understanding of the forestry and sawmilling company's activities, and sentiment.

OneFortyOne Corporate



Lochie is a forester for OneFortyOne. By taking part in the survey you can help shape how they engage and communicate with the public. Photo: OneFortyOne

Affairs Manager Charlene Riley said the insights gathered will inform future engagement

strategies and help strengthen community relationships.

"We value the opinions of our community and want to hear from you,"

"Your feedback, positive or negative, will help improve how we engage and communicate."

The survey questions are mostly multiple choice, and designed to be

simple, taking only about 10 minutes to complete.

"This survey is your chance to have input into how OneFortyOne connects with the community," Charlene said.

The survey is anonymous; however, participants have the option of entering the draw to win one of 5 \$250 VISA gift cards if they share their name and contact.

The survey is open now, available online via www.surveymonkey.com/r/OneFortyOne and closes on 27th July 2025.

From apprentice to award finalist: Zac's rise to the top

NOT every journey is linear and for Zac Butler, the path to success was anything but easy. From overcoming personal setbacks to becoming a finalist in the NSW Government's prestigious Training Awards, Zac has proven that resilience, and a strong work ethic can turn any challenge into an opportunity.

Just a few years ago, Zac Butler was working early mornings at dairy farms and tending to horses at racing stables. The work was tough, physical, and unpredictable. Then came a turning point, an injury, and the responsibilities of starting a young family forced Zac to rethink everything.

Zac knew he needed a stable career and a promising future. That is when Corey from Timberfast Building Supplies offered Zac a job, after the two met at the local football club.

With no prior experience in the timber industry, Zac started on the truss jig. He worked hard every day and his employer Corey, saw huge potential in Zac, knowing that what he lacked in background knowledge, he made up for in work ethic.

Corey encouraged Zac to take his skills to the next level by enrolling in the Certificate



1/ Zachary Butler, finalist in the NSW Government's prestigious NSW Training Awards for the North Coast and Mid North Coast regions.



2/ NTHA Trainer Colin Taranto with Student of the Year Zachary Butler.



3/ NTHA Chairman Peter Hutchison presents Zachary Butler with NTHA's Student of the Year Award.

All photos: NTHA

III in Timber Systems Design through NTHA (National Timber & Hardware Association) Training. It was a decision that would change his life.

Driven by a deep sense of purpose, Zac poured himself into the course. While most students take up to two years to complete the NTHA qualification, Zac did it in just 12 months. He mastered complex building plans, roof layouts, and customer design briefs with a high level of precision. He did not just complete assessments; he researched beyond all standard requirements.

"I have done a few courses in the past, but I did not finish them because they weren't enjoyable. This course with NTHA Training was so 'left field' for me. I loved learning something new and achieving a qualification. I also became a dad two years ago so I knew I had to achieve a qualification that would keep in a steady job that I loved," Zac said.

Through it all, Zac remained

humble, crediting his NTHA trainer, Colin Taranto, as a key figure in his success.

"Colin was so approachable and always took the time to ensure I fully understood the material before moving forward. This hands-on approach helped me build confidence throughout the course," Zac said.

Colin, in turn, was impressed by Zac's initiative and discipline.

"Zac has an appetite for learning, designing, and implementing processes to ensure efficient frame and truss designs that are cost effective, production and installer friendly, compliant and error free. He took it upon himself to learn components outside his daily role, a true sign of someone building a career, not just doing a job."

"Zac started off at a basic level of estimating timber wall frames. Now that he has completed his qualification, he can design wall frames for production and installation. He

now has a solid understanding of the relevant Australian standards, building codes and basic engineering principles," Colin said.

Now aged 26, Zac is not only thriving in his role at Timberfast, but he has been recognised as a finalist in the NSW Government's

prestigious NSW Training Awards for the North Coast and Mid North Coast regions, selected from thousands of applicants across the state. The nomination comes off the back of Zac winning NTHA's Student of the Year Award just last year.

Zac is now a long way moving from job-to-job and having an uncertain future. His story is one of hard work, quiet resilience, and the power of seizing the right opportunity. Congratulations Zac.

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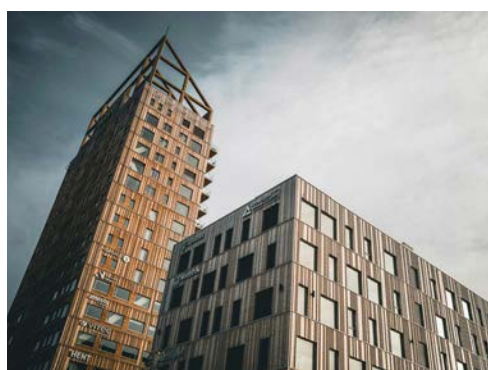
Green skyscraper set to transform Perth's skyline

PERTH'S urban landscape is gearing up for a game-changer with the recent approval of a 35-storey hybrid timber tower by the City of Perth's Metro Inner Development Assessment Panel. This innovative project, designed by Rothelowman with planning by Urbis, promises to blend sustainability with city living, set for completion in 2028.

The tower will house 351 built-to-rent dwellings, 64 short-term accommodation units, and a mix of retail and dining options, alongside 3,000 square metres of communal spaces. Its standout feature is the hybrid construction, merging cross-laminated timber (CLT) with a concrete core and mass timber columns. This eco-friendly

approach aims to slash the carbon footprint, targeting a five-star Green Star rating. Rooftop solar panels, strategic landscaping to tackle the urban heat island effect, and easy access to public transport, walkways, and bike paths are key to its green credentials.

The ground plane will be a lush haven, boasting native trees and landscaped pedestrian links, enhancing the precinct's walkability and vibrancy. Existing trees along Stirling and Aberdeen streets will stay put, preserving Perth's urban canopy. Rothelowman's principal, Kylee Schoonens, believes this green space will knit the area into the city's fabric, creating a "natural pause point" that fosters movement



Hybrid timber buildings provide not only better sustainability but also a unique design. Image: Hans-Joa-chim Kaiser - Unsplash

hybrid timber tower by Fraser and Partners, poised to be the world's tallest hybrid. The new tower's focus on sustainability and community spaces reflects a growing trend in Aussie cities to build smarter. With its mix of modern design and environmental smarts, this Perth

project is set to inspire future developments, proving timber can rise high while treading lightly. Locals can look forward to a vibrant, eco-conscious precinct that's as good for the planet as it is for the people.

and connection. "It's a ripper contribution to Perth's Urban Greening Strategy," she said, highlighting how low-impact materials and expanded inner-city bushland will give back to the community.

This approval follows the 2023 green light for a 51-storey

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A timber treasure: the 1928 Ford Woody

AT the recent Beachfest car show held in Caloundra, a 1928 Ford Woody turned heads with its gleaming timber body, a testament to craftsmanship and nostalgia. Owned by a passionate car enthusiast, Bayden, this classic vehicle was built in 2004 by Steve Stockton of Ipswich and showcases the artistry of American mountain ash timber, blending retro charm with hot rod spirit.

The Woody's body, handcrafted from American mountain ash, is a highlight, its wooden panels evoking the iconic surf wagons of the 1950s and 60s. Stockton, the founder of Oz Rods in Logan, Queensland, is renowned for his timber-integrated car builds, including the Morris Z Ute with its striking timber tray. "Ash is ash," Bayden said, noting that Australian mountain ash is similar. The timber, last sealed in 2004 with a two-pack automotive clear coat, needs refreshing, but modern polyurethane paints promise a durable finish. Bayden plans to follow the lead of another Woody at the show, a 1940 Ford with Victorian plates, which sported a vibrant, late-model clear coat.

Only the cowl (the windscreen's front section) and radiator shell remain original 1928 Ford steel; the rest is Stockton's handiwork. The interior roof, finished in high-gloss timber strips reminiscent of vintage Bondwood speed boats,

1/ Rear view of the 1928 Ford Woody, highlighting its unique timber panels and special interest registration plate. Photo: Jessica Hockridge

2/ The glossy timber interior roof of the 1928 Ford Woody, reminiscent of vintage Bondwood speed boats. Photo: Bayden

3/ A side view of the 1928 Ford Woody, blending retro charm with hot rod spirit at the Caloundra car show. Photo: Jessica Hockridge

is a standout feature. "It's one of the best parts of the car," Bayden said. A timber roof rack and longboard surfboard would complete the beachside vibe, he mused.

The Woody, acquired three years ago via a Gray's online auction in Dandenong, reflects a lifelong love for classic cars. Bayden, a mechanic since 1973, and his equally car-mad wife, live in a retro world, with a shed housing a 1937 Ford Club Coupe, a 1966 Ford Galaxy Hardtop, a 1963 Volkswagen Beetle rat rod, a 105E Anglia race car, and a 1970 Olympic Riviera fibreglass caravan. The Woody, on special interest registration, is driven to sanctioned events like Beachfest, organised by the Australian Street Rod Federation. Recent upgrades,

including new wheels and suspension, have tamed its once-twitchy handling, making it a joy to cruise.

The car's purchase was spurred by personal loss, prompting Bayden to dip into superannuation, determined to enjoy life. "You don't know how long you're here for," he reflects. At nearly 100 years old, the Woody, with its modern chassis and running gear, is built to last another century. Bayden expressed a deep commitment to sustainability as the car community has a culture of passing vehicles on to future custodians in the car community who are passionate about the care and maintenance of these historic vehicles. "We're not owners, we're custodians," he says, placing the car's value at the "smiles per gallon".

Beachfest, a highlight on the Sunshine Coast, was a two day event and featured a cruise from the Sunshine Coast Air Museum to the Banana Bender pub, turning the pub's car park into a mini car show. The event's improved organisation this year, with clear communication and planned runs, made it a standout. The next Beachfest event is already being planned and will take place in May 2026.

Seeing timber used so creatively in the Woody is a joy, merging natural beauty with automotive art. The American mountain ash, shaped into sleek panels and glossy interior strips, proves timber's versatility, preserving a slice of history while inspiring future craftsmen to keep this vibrant tradition alive.



Population data highlights contradiction in government policy

"AUSTRALIA'S population reached 27.4 million by the end of 2024, up by 445,900 people, or 1.7 per cent for the year," stated HIA Senior Economist, Tom Devitt.

The ABS has released its National, State and Territory Population data for the December quarter 2024, covering births, deaths and migration.

"Population growth was driven by a net inflow of 340,800 overseas migrants, well above the average annual net inflow of around 220,000 overseas arrivals last decade," added Mr Devitt.

"Within Australia, people are continuing to leave New South Wales, and to a lesser extent Victoria and the

smallest jurisdictions, and head into Queensland and Western Australia.

"But even the jurisdictions losing residents interstate are absorbing enough overseas arrivals to see their populations expand.

"Victoria just passed 7 million residents at the end of last year, while Western Australia passed 3 million for the first time.

"Perversely, at the same time that the Australian government is stimulating demand for homes through strong migration, state governments are actively undermining the capacity to increase supply.

"Foreign capital is highly liquid. State governments

have forced institutional investors into building apartments in other countries. As a consequence, multi-unit construction volumes in Australia have halved, likely costing state governments tax revenue.

"Stimulating housing demand at a federal level through record inflows of overseas arrivals, while simultaneously penalising those who finance housing supply at a state level, has

been one of the worst policy own goals in recent Australian history.

"The Government has not balanced the goal of stable and reliable migration pathways with the removal of restrictions on new home building necessary to meet demand," concluded Mr Devitt

Across the different states and territories, Western Australia saw the strongest annual growth in population, up by 2.4 per cent, followed by Victoria and Queensland (+1.9 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (+1.4 per cent), New South Wales (+1.3 per cent), the Northern Territory (+1.2 per cent), South Australia (+1.1 per cent) and Tasmania (+0.3 per cent).

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WA Budget: Small gains, big gaps in housing crisis response

THE state budget has missed the opportunity to solve Western Australia's worsening housing and homelessness emergency, peak body for WA's homelessness and community housing sectors Shelter WA said.

"Despite some welcome measures such as \$6 million to grow Community Housing sector capacity, \$20.4 million for homelessness outreach and services, and the Build to Rent Kickstart Fund, the budget fails to deliver any bold or substantive initiatives to meet the scale and urgency of the crisis," Shelter WA Chair Kieran Wong said

"In essence, this budget only funds an additional 660 social and affordable rental homes - we needed an ambition at ten times this level.

"This was the year the government aimed to end



1/ WA has a high number of families waiting for social housing, the hope was for the government to take more extreme measures than 660 new homes to fix this issue. Image: Shutterstock

2/ With thousands sleeping rough every night the need for housing continues to climb. Photo: Jon Tyson - Unsplash

rough sleeping, but we are nowhere near meeting that goal and it's disappointing to see no announcements in this budget to help us get there.

"The forecast budget surplus of \$2.4 billion will bring WA's total budget surpluses to \$25 billion since 2020, and our state is touted as the economic powerhouse of the nation.

"Yet there are more than 22,000 households on the



social housing waitlist and more than 2,300 people sleeping rough.

"The average waiting time for social housing is now 151 weeks. Where will WA's most vulnerable people go for three

years, while they wait?

"The state government has never had a stronger mandate or a clearer crisis to implement bold and urgent actions that are needed to solve the housing and homelessness emergency.

"Unfortunately, we've been handed a budget that will continue to be overshadowed by record-breaking rent increases, sky-high housing waitlists and more and more families who are forced to live in cars and tents," Mr Wong said.

The budget included:

- \$6m Community Housing Capability Program - a key advocacy ask delivered for our members;
- \$246 million to deliver 548 social and affordable homes in partnership with community housing providers, to bring the total number of social homes delivered each year to 1,000;
- \$75 million Build to Rent Kickstart Fund to deliver around 400 long term rental homes with a requirement of at least 30% affordable rentals

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KEY FIGURES

- In the 2021 census, there were 9,729 people experiencing homelessness in WA – which included 2,315 people rough sleeping - this is a 114% increase from 2016.
- In April 2025, there were 1,934 people rough sleeping or temporarily sheltered just across the five By Name List communities across Perth and the South West.
- 50% of specialist homelessness services (SHS) clients in WA are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, despite making up just over 3% of the population
- 15% of SHS clients are employed – up 62% over five years
- There are currently 22,066 applications on the social housing waitlist (at 30 April 2025) - Including 7,125 priority applications - this budget will show average wait times have once again increased to 151 weeks.
- In Perth, someone earning \$70,000 a year will spend 58% of their income on rent
- At June 2025 there were 4,071 private rentals currently listed across all of WA - but only 156 under \$400, compared with at least 9,948 listings for whole homes/apartments on Airbnb
- WA will need over 5,700 social and affordable homes a year to 2041 just for anticipated population growth
- There is a current gap of 7,700 private rentals according to the Bankwest Curtin Economic Centre, and 210,000 Western Australians consider their housing unaffordable.

From P 16

- \$20.4 million homelessness initiatives including \$10.4 million to expand assertive homelessness outreach across Perth and Mandurah, \$3.1 million to grow Housing First Support Services in and around Bunbury, \$3.8 million for East Perth Common Ground, and \$4.8 million for Perth Passages Youth Engagement Hub;
- \$1.4 million to extend the Rent Relief Scheme to December 2025.

Shelter WA applauds the government's \$6 million Community Housing Capacity Building Program that will help grow the sector and scale up the delivery of social housing. This was one of Shelter WA's key election asks, which shows the Cook Government has been listening.

"Community housing providers have every reason to celebrate the capacity building program win," Mr Wong said. "This is a significant step forward in strengthening our sector's ability to deliver more urgently

needed social and affordable housing across the state.

"A large focus of our election platform was for more commitment to scale up what's already working in the community, and we look forward to showing what our sector is capable of."

While the extension of the Rent Relief Scheme is welcomed, more needs to be done to tackle the fundamental drivers of WA's catastrophic rental situation.

"The rent relief scheme has prevented thousands of Western Australians from becoming homeless, but we need to address the reason people need to access this scheme in the first place," Mr Wong said.

"With rents skyrocketing, a severe shortage of affordable homes, and vacancy rates

still below one per cent across WA, the problem is clear: there is no justifiable reason for rents to rise faster than CPI - which is down to 2.75% in this budget. We will continue to advocate for rent increases to be capped at or below inflation.

"We live in Australia's wealthiest state, delivering record headline economic indicators year on year. But this budget raises a fundamental question: who is it really designed to help? It's clearly not the hundreds of thousands experiencing housing stress, homelessness, or living in overcrowded homes."

Tinkering at the edges is no longer enough; we need action that meets the scale of the housing emergency. Western Australia's affordable housing situation is at breaking point.

"Shelter WA will double down on our efforts to achieve our vision for a housing system that enables all people to thrive," Shelter WA Chair Kieran Wong concluded.

“THIS BUDGET ONLY FUNDS AN ADDITIONAL 660 SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOMES



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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

Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com

Accounts:

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

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