

FOR OVER
18 YEARS
DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 857 // July 3 2025

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

A leap forward in firefighting: adapted Komatsu 895 Forwarder

COVER STORY P 2



1075C

**UNMATCHED
PRODUCTIVITY.
UNMATCHED
RELIABILITY.**

Tigercat



*Do you
have
a job
position
to fill?*

ADVERTISE TODAY



**Enabling
sustainability**

Explore how
forest certification
supports UN SDG
and ESG goals.

[Learn more.](#)



**ALL UNDER
ONE ROOF**

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



NTHA
NATIONAL TIMBER &
HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

1800 822 621

Rodwell Logging pioneers innovative forest firefighting solution

THE 2019–2020 Black Summer bushfires devastated communities across New South Wales, including Bombala. In response to the crisis, Peter Rodwell, Managing Director of Rodwell Logging, identified a critical opportunity: repurposing forestry machinery to support frontline firefighting efforts. His vision centred on a versatile and powerful resource already in use across the forestry sector—the forestry forwarder.

Rodwell Logging successfully secured funding through the Protecting Our

“ENGINEERED TO OPERATE IN RUGGED, REMOTE TERRAIN INACCESSIBLE TO TRADITIONAL FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES



1

1/ **The new firefighter includes a 20,000-litre tank with 3,000-litre backup for vehicle protection, high pressure pump and water cannons.**

2/ **This new innovative approach to firefighting doesn't require a whole new vehicle but adds firefighting gear to the already existing Komatsu 895 forwarder.** All photos: Komatsu



2

Communities (Disaster Resilience) Program. Combined with a significant investment from the company, this funding enabled the development of a groundbreaking firefighting solution: a purpose-built tanker unit mounted on a Komatsu 895 Forwarder. Engineered to operate in rugged, remote terrain inaccessible to traditional firefighting vehicles, this unit represents a leap forward in bushfire response capabilities.

At the heart of the design is a custom-built, 20,000-litre water tank integrated into the forwarder's log bunk. The

system is equipped with a high-pressure pump feeding twin water cannons, mounted on either side of the headgate, each capable of delivering up to 450 litres per minute with a range of up to 40 metres. For added safety, a 3,000-litre emergency reserve tank can be activated from within the cabin, allowing the operator to douse the engine compartment and cabin in case of direct fire threat.

The result is the Rodwell Fire Tanker RL21—a cutting-edge innovation that has already garnered significant industry interest. In recognition of its potential,

Rodwell Logging has entered into a national distribution and support partnership with Komatsu Forest Pty Ltd, further strengthening their long-standing collaboration.

Rodwell Logging's forward-thinking approach exemplifies how practical innovation and industry experience can help protect communities and ecosystems from the growing threat of bushfires.

On the cover: The powerful high-pressure cannons can shoot 450 litres per minute up to 40 metres. Combined with the rough terrain abilities this is a powerful new tool. Image: Komatsu

Preserve your Project, Preserve Timber

Choose a timber preservative with colour to set your project application apart.

- Micronised pigment technology
- Enhances timber grain
- A combination of Micropro's attributes with the added benefit of long lasting colour

www.kopperspc.com.au
1800 088 809

Efforts to safeguard NSW's fire-affected ash forests

IN last week's *Timber and forestry Enews*, issue #856, we reported on the danger to the Alpine Ash forests in Victoria due to the low seed banks and abysmal collection happening since VicForests was closed down. Alpine Ash trees also grow in NSW, and Forestry Corporation is working hard to ensure that the NSW Alpine Ash forests are not in the same danger as the Victorian ones.

Forestry Corporation has embarked on their second year of an alpine ash and white ash seed collection program to protect these important eucalypt forests from future fires.

Alpine ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) is a fast-growing eucalypt reaching heights of up to 40 metres in NSW and thriving in the high country.

Although resilient in cold climates, it is highly susceptible to fire, particularly before trees reach 20 years of age. As an obligate seeder the species' survival depends entirely on seeds released from the tree canopy following a bushfire.

To protect ash forest stands from future fires, Forestry Corporation has engaged contractors Worseldine Forest Produce to collect and extract alpine ash seed to help build a seed bank



1/ The seed collection is done by climbing to the canopy of mature trees to clip off the fruit.

2/ Alpine Ash fruit collected from the canopy of matured trees.

3/ Once cut down the fruit is collected into large bags to be taken away for seed retrieval, processing and storage.

4/ The pin head sized seeds are found inside the alpine ash tree fruit.

All photos: Forestry Corporation

that's stored in a cool room at Eden.

Forestry Corporation Resources Supervisor for the Southern Region Joel Dawson said alpine ash seeds have recently been collected from Maragle State Forest in the Tumbarumba area.

"Expert seed collection arborists have climbed alpine ash trees in Maragle State Forest and collected seed capsules from the tree canopies in areas that we have been monitoring for the last few years. Last year in conjunction with Worseldine Forest Produce we identified a widespread flowering event in the alpine ash stands, which meant there is mature seed present in the canopy that can



be collected this year and next year," Mr Dawson said.

"These seeds will be stored until they are needed, and act as an insurance policy to the natural regeneration that is occurring in fire-affected

stands as they reseed and regenerate following the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019-2020.

"Should another fire impact those same forests before the

Cont P 4

Today 440kg of seed is held in storage, with collection efforts to continue for another month before resuming in Spring - the overall goal is to build a seed bank comprising 800kg of seed.



“Just 4,650ha, or 6% of the total alpine ash area, remains untouched by fire since before



2/ Once processed the seeds are carefully stored in a cool room to be kept safe in case of a future bushfire that wipes out the currently maturing trees. All photos: Forestry Corporation

White ash (*Eucalyptus fraxinoides*) seed collection will also continue in the tableland state forests of the Eden-Monaro.

For more information visit
www.forestrycorporation.com.au

timber
& FORESTRY *e*news

Dear Editor

Leadership transition at FSC ANZ

James-Felton Taylor appointed Chair of the Board.

THE Forest Stewardship Council® Australia and New Zealand (FSC ANZ) is pleased to announce the appointment of James Felton-Taylor as the new Chair of its Board of Directors, following the conclusion of Jon Dee's second successful term in the role. The appointment was made in accordance with the FSC ANZ Constitution at the first Board meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

James Felton-Taylor is a long-standing advocate for responsible forest management. As the owner and Managing Director of Australian Sustainable Timbers (AST), he leads the first company in Australia to achieve FSC certification for native forest operations. Based on the North Coast of New South Wales, AST is known for its commitment to regenerative forestry and the sustainable use of private native forests.

With a background in environmental science, farm forestry, and remnant vegetation management, James brings deep operational



1/ James Felton-Taylor, the newly appointed Chair of the Board of FSC ANZ.

2/ Jon Dee served as Chair of the Board for 4 years and has been commended for the fantastic job he did during his two terms. Images: FSC



insight and values-driven leadership to the role. He is actively involved across AST's operations, from management planning to harvesting and timber marketing, and oversees a group scheme of FSC-certified private forests.

"James brings a valuable combination of technical expertise, business leadership, and on-the-ground insight into what responsible forestry looks like in practice," said Melanie Robertson, CEO of FSC ANZ. "His appointment reflects our continued focus on impact, integrity and regional relevance."

FSC ANZ also extends its sincere thanks to Jon Dee, who has served as Chair since 2021. A passionate advocate for sustainability, Jon has guided the organisation through a period of strategic growth and brought clarity and strong values to Board decision-making.

"Jon's contribution to FSC ANZ cannot be overstated. His values-driven leadership and steady support for the team have had a lasting impact. We're pleased he'll continue to share his insight and energy as a member of the Board," said Robertson.

James Felton-Taylor's appointment comes at a significant time for FSC ANZ, as the organisation is poised to commence the development of its new five-year strategy later this year, planning the strategic pathway of the organisation for the medium term.

"Under Jon Dee's Chairmanship, the Board has successfully stabilised FSC ANZ both financially and organisationally," said Felton-Taylor. "I'm looking forward to building on that foundation with the Board in the development of the new strategy to extend FSC's reach and impact across Australia and New Zealand."

Felton-Taylor expressed confidence that the new strategic plan will further consolidate FSC ANZ's work on strengthening responsible forestry in across Australia and New Zealand, which is supported by a growing network of members, certificate holders, and promotional licence holders committed to sustainable forest management.

Enabling sustainability

for the next generation...



responsiblewood.org.au

Explore how forest certification supports UN SDG and ESG goals by protecting forests, biodiversity and communities with good governance, robust environmental management and social responsibility.

Responsible Wood
RW/1-10-1





Business Grants

Access state and/or federal funding to grow your business!

Enews has partnered with a professional grant writing business. Watch this space as not all grants are made public. Enews will publish Federal or State / Territory-based grants for our industry here.

Our connection might be available to assist you with eligibility criteria, grant writing, application process and lodgment. They offer hourly through to full end-to-end service. They have a very high success rate, so contact us if

you would like to book an appointment on a day and time that suits you. We will send you a link and the initial appointment is free.

Contact:
editors@timberandforestryenews.com

Low Carbon Landscapes Grant

Increasing carbon storage in vegetation, soils, coastal, or marine areas across all land types and reducing emissions from livestock, land use, land use change, and forestry.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Low Carbon Landscapes grant program aims to scale up high quality carbon abatement from the primary industries and land sector, by supporting the development of financially viable projects which can attract investment.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Support a range of ambitious, landscape-scale, high quality carbon abatement projects in the primary industries and land sector through the initial stages of project development, up to the point where they can secure investment
- Develop a range of financially viable models for project delivery
- Increase private sector investment in high quality carbon abatement projects in the primary industries and land sector.

TYPES OF PROJECTS



Making a plan and applying for grants can be a complicated process. Make the most of your opportunity by engaging our grant writer who will help you create the best version of your application. Image: Shutterstock

FUNDED UNDER THIS GRANT

The Low Carbon Landscapes grant round covers the initial stages of project development for landscape-scale, high quality carbon abatement projects in the primary industries and land sector, up to the point where they can secure investment. This should include a focus on developing a financially viable model for project delivery and identifying suitable sources of private investment to enable on-ground implementation.

This grant round will not fund on-ground implementation of carbon abatement projects or subsequent management or

maintenance of these projects.

Carbon abatement activities within the scope of this grant program include:

- increasing carbon storage in vegetation, soils, coastal, or marine areas across all land types
- reducing

emissions from livestock, land use, land use change, and forestry.

This grant cannot be used for projects related to:

- energy use and transport-related emissions
- technological carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere and geological storage.

While the focus is on carbon abatement, funded projects must aim to achieve this in a way that delivers co-benefits.

Projects that are within the scope of this grant program and which meet the other criteria described in the Grant Guidelines are eligible for this grant.

GRANT DETAILS

Provider: NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Amount: Grants up to \$500,000 for projects with 1 target landscape area OR up to \$1m for projects with 2 to 5 target landscape areas

Closes: 5pm. 7 August 2025

Location: NSW

Who Can Apply:

- farmers or agribusinesses
- Aboriginal landholders or land managers including Traditional Owner groups, land councils or Registered Native Title Body Corporates
- not-for-profit organisations
- government entities, including NSW Government agencies & local government
- natural resource management/conservation organisations
- peak bodies or industry organisations
- producer associations
- co-operative/mutual organisations.

For-profit carbon service providers are not eligible to be applicants

Co-Contribution Required: No
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/low-carbon-landscapes-grant#toc-key-information>

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-](https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-wood-science-course)

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/>

Timber & Forestry eNews is reaching the market... *are you?*



Forest Contractors



Sawmillers



Wood Processors



Merchants



Associations



Engineers



Architects

With over 800 issues published, Timber&Forestry Enews consistently delivers value. Our weekly online journal reaches 15,200+ readers in Australia, New Zealand, and internationally every Thursday. While the average digital publication open rate is 20%, we get an impressive 50% opening rate every week—a testament to our engaged readership.

For business solutions tailored to your needs, reach out to campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com to start a conversation.

timber
& FORESTRY *enews*

A CUT ABOVE...

Do you crosscut timber packs at ± 1 mm accuracy?

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

Or produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths?

HOLTEC has a solution for you!

Our scope of supply:

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

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



For more information contact:

HOLTEC
YOUR PARTNER FOR THE PERFECT CUT

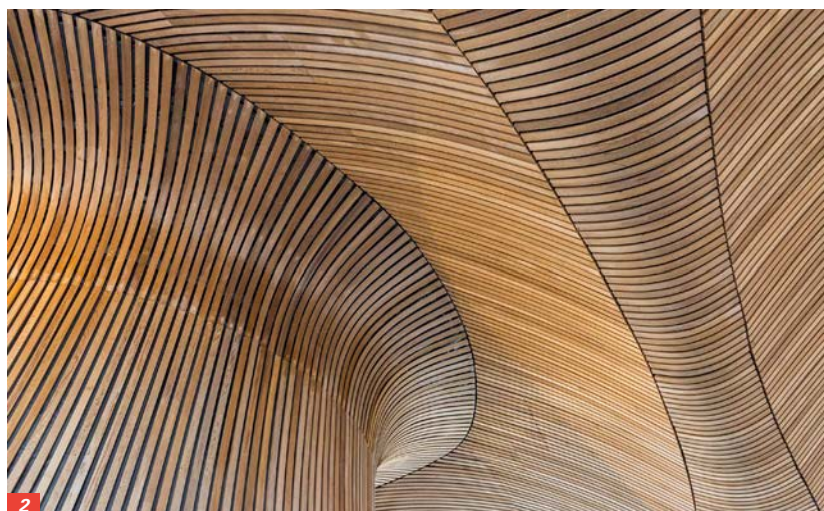
Ph: +64 9 416 8294 // Fax: +64 9 416 8296
Email: sales@holtec.org // Web: www.holtec.org

World conference on timber engineering 2025: a global celebration

THE World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE 2025), held from 22 to 26 June 2025 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, was a landmark for the global timber industry. WoodSolutions shared that it drew close to 1,000 delegates from 44 countries, including architects, engineers, and researchers, marking Australia's first hosting since 1994. Exploring the theme "Advancing Timber for the Future Built Environment," WCTE 2025, hosted by The University of Queensland and supported by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Advance Timber Hub, showcased Australia's leadership in sustainable construction. With Queensland preparing for the 2032 Olympics, the event highlighted timber's role in a carbon-positive future, emphasising its potential to reduce embodied carbon in urban developments globally.

WHAT IS WCTE 2025?

Established in 1984, WCTE is the world's leading scientific forum for timber engineering, held biennially across continents. Supported by the Queensland Government's "It's Live!" events calendar, the Brisbane event featured over 950 presentations and keynotes on material durability, biophilic design, and circular economy principles. The conference explored timber's scalability, from residential projects to high-rise structures, reinforcing its versatility. International delegates from Canada and Sweden shared insights on modular timber construction, offering scalable solutions for



1/ The Paris 2024 Olympic Village serves as a sustainable design model that students in the Australian Timber Design Competition can draw inspiration from. Image: Shutterstock
2/ The WCTE was all about exploring new innovations in timber engineering, hybrid timber buildings and making the most of timber as a resource. Image: Shutterstock

Australia's housing shortage. During the conference, WoodSolutions announced the Australian Timber Design Competition (ATDC) winners. The competition challenged students to design adaptable timber housing for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Athletes Village under the theme "Designing for Legacy," aiming to create dwellings that evolve into liveable neighbourhoods post-Games.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WCTE 2025

The conference blended technical innovation with

cultural flair. The gala dinner, hosted by comedian and architect Tim Ross, featured performances by the Australian Girls Choir, fostering global connection. The dinner announced ATDC winners—Charlie Bradley-Tasser, Tamara Birtasevic, and Ruiyan Li—for their sustainable housing proposal. Judges, including Grant Maher (Jabin Group) and Katie Fowden (Hyne Group), praised their "balance of cultural, structural, and environmental considerations."

Technical sessions showcased research like Dr.

Lech Muszynski's study on small-diameter Lodgepole pine, offering resource-efficient solutions. The ARC Advance Timber Hub, led by Professor Keith Crews, presented advancements in tall timber building design, positioning Australia as a global leader. A workshop on bio-based adhesives explored sustainable alternatives to synthetic glues, potentially reducing emissions in timber production.

A unique initiative, the WCTE 2025 Coral Tree project, supported the Reef Restoration Foundation's coral recovery program. Delegates were encouraged to visit the Great Barrier Reef, linking timber innovation to Australia's environmental heritage.

Additional workshops on and hybrid construction techniques and fire-resistant timber treatments drew significant interest, addressing bushfire risks with innovative coatings that could extend timber's durability in Australia's harsh climate.

AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS: LEADING THE CHARGE

From P 8

Australia's role was pivotal. Professor Crews, WCTE 2025 Chair, and Professor Greg Nolan, Deputy Chair, highlighted timber's potential for Olympic infrastructure, drawing on Paris 2024's sustainable model. The government's \$100 million investment in the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation has spurred research into cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glulam, increasingly adopted nationwide.

WoodSolutions emphasised the ATDC's role in fostering talent, with Kevin Peachey of Forest & Wood Products Australia noting it provided "an

opportunity for students to solve real-world sustainability challenges."

Pre-conference tours showcased projects like the Atlassian Central Tower, a 39-storey timber-hybrid skyscraper in Sydney, and the glulam-based Eric Tweedale Stadium. These projects, supported by technology transfers from Europe, highlight Australia's innovation.

The Gottstein Trust funded six early-career engineers, enhancing local participation. New research from Queensland University of Technology on timber's thermal performance in tropical climates could inform Olympic venue designs. Research from the University of the Sunshine Coast on timber acoustics further demonstrated Australia's expertise, potentially enhancing sound quality in large public venues with

sustainable materials.

WHAT WCTE 2025 HOPES TO ACHIEVE

WCTE 2025 aimed to advance timber's role in sustainable construction through technical standards and biophilic design. WoodSolutions highlighted the ATDC's focus on climate-conscious, culturally adaptive timber, with judges, including Jonathan Evans (Arbortect) and Steph Wyeth (University of Queensland), commending submission depth. For Australia, the event was a platform to shape 2032 Olympic infrastructure, with over 250 students attending to ensure the industry's future. Globally, it fostered knowledge-sharing, with future conferences set for Edmonton, Canada (2027), and Coimbra, Portugal (2029). Sessions on timber's carbon sequestration potential and lifecycle assessments

underscored its environmental benefits. A keynote on net-zero cities inspired delegates to integrate mass timber into urban planning, potentially transforming global skylines.

LOOKING AHEAD

WCTE 2025 positioned Brisbane as a hub for timber innovation. WoodSolutions underscored the ATDC's role in showcasing emerging talent, supported by a judging panel of industry experts. The conference's legacy will influence Queensland's Olympic planning, with timber proposed for athlete villages and venues. By fostering global collaboration and showcasing innovations like mass timber for seismic zones, WCTE 2025 cemented Australia's role in a carbon-positive future, inspiring architects and policymakers to prioritise timber in sustainable urban development worldwide.

“THE EVENT WAS A PLATFORM TO SHAPE 2032 OLYMPIC INFRASTRUCTURE”

Your Association Owned by You Here for You



Workplace Health & Safety



Industrial Relations



Tailored Timber Training



National Cadetship Programs

JOIN NOW



1800 822 621



www.ntha.com.au

PCE report: recommendations for afforestation in NZ

PART TWO. By MICHAEL SMITH

IN this follow-up to last week's article on the report *Alt-F Reset: Examining the drivers of forestry in New Zealand*, we look further at the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's key points and recommendations regarding future afforestation.

Commissioner Simon Upton's wide-ranging discussions include the role of the Emissions Trading Scheme, establishing new native forests, and managing fast-growing exotics as they transform into native forests over time (transitional forestry).

Mr Upton also gives consideration to exotic tree species, which "can complement radiata pine by offering diverse traits with different environmental benefits (and risks), as well as novel commercial and land use opportunities."

He says some exotics could act as a contingency species for timber production, should a biological disaster affect radiata pine – although we've yet to find a species that tolerates such a wide range of conditions as pine.

“YET TO FIND A SPECIES THAT TOLERATES SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF CONDITIONS AS PINE



Eucalypts in Marlborough: just one of a number of alternatives to pine showing promise. Image: courtesy PCE

Some alternative species have traits that offer environmental benefits – for example, strong interlocking root systems, which provide effective erosion control; or being tolerant of shade, and therefore suitable for continuous cover forestry.

Some are more susceptible to pests and diseases, or are more flammable than other species. "In many cases, the forest management approach will be a more significant driver of overall environmental impacts than the species of tree."

He adds that there are a range of management approaches being applied at a small scale, and which could be adopted more widely. Among them is agroforestry – the incorporation of trees within agricultural landscapes, which can include riparian plantings, shelterbelts and widely spaced trees within grazed areas.

"The integration of

appropriate trees within pasture can reduce erosion in hill country and improve animal welfare through the provision of shade and shelter."

Continuous cover production forestry is also worthwhile developing, given that it retains a high canopy cover hand in hand with low intensity harvesting. "This approach combines commercial values with long-term environmental values, such as biodiversity, erosion control and carbon storage."

And Mr Upton acknowledges the key role that Māori play in the forestry sector – making up a large part of the forestry workforce and owning large areas of exotic plantation forest (190,000 ha) and native forest (570,000 ha). "Many Māori landowners are managing commercial forestry and conservation forestry using te ao Māori principles" (a holistic world view that

focuses on interconnections).

Today, a large number are trying to use their land as a source of resilience for future generations. "This includes generating income and employment through commercial forestry, holding land for customary purposes, and contributing to the protection and conservation of forest biodiversity."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Perhaps the most contentious of the Commissioner's 15 recommendations is his call to reform the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) by phasing out forestry offsets for fossil emissions.

Mr Upton says the increased auction revenue from the ETS should be used "to fund targeted and locally appropriate afforestation in areas that need it most (e.g. permanent native forests on highly erodible lands; whenua Māori).

Carbon forestry is the most recent afforestation motivation, and "the risks it raises simply aren't worth running. Afforestation is being latched onto as a cheap, easy way for New Zealand to achieve its climate goals.

"It has been suggested that the NZ ETS could enable greater uptake of alternative forestry systems, particularly native afforestation. The reality is that under current regulatory and economic settings, almost nothing can compete with radiata pine."

He adds that, at the very least, the permanent forest

Cont P 11

From P 10

category in the ETS should require permanent forest owners to have realistic long-term management plans for their forests. Categories, with associated rules, should also be created for different types of permanent forests.

Mr Upton also recommends that the Government needs to ensure "the long-term physical risks to the nation's forests and the financial risks that may accrue to both the forestry industry and to the Crown are systematically monitored, communicated and managed".

In addition, the Ministry for the Environment "should investigate ways to ensure that forestry companies cover the costs of the environmental damage they cause" (e.g. the use of levies, other market mechanisms and revised regulation). And clear-fell



The Gisborne District Council is looking to apply stricter local rules for forestry.

Image: Geoffroy Lamarche, PCE

harvesting should be banned in areas where it is identified as high risk.

Further, the Commissioner recommends reviewing the application of the Forests Act to native forests that are established through assisted natural regeneration. Currently, "harvesting timber from existing or regenerating native forests on private land requires an approved plan or

permit, and only very small volumes of timber can be harvested.

"However, there are no restrictions on harvesting from planted native forests. This may disincentivise landowners interested in native timber production from supporting the regeneration of native forests – a far more cost-effective option than planting from scratch."

Mr Upton would also like to see more alternative timbers to radiata pine recognised as acceptable solutions under the Building Code – and "reviewing the membership of committees that approve these solutions to ensure they are comprised of independent experts."

"The committees that set and review the standards are structured in such a way that industry incumbents can prevent consensus and delay outcomes that would benefit or enable alternative species."

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



AUSWOOD

Premium Manufacturer and Distributor of
High Quality Timber and Building Products

1800 888 986 (free call) | e: info@auswood.com.au | www.auswood.com.au

FWPA pushes toward circularity

A new national standard for recycled structural timber

FOREST & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has released FWPA Standard G01: *Recycled Timber – Visually Graded for Structural Purposes*, Australia's first national guideline specifically developed for the visual grading of recycled hardwood timber in structural applications.

Developed in collaboration with industry, recyclers, engineers, and government, this new Standard marks a significant step towards supporting circular construction practices by providing a clear, consistent approach to assessing and grading recycled timber for safe and reliable structural use.

It complements existing standards for new sawn timber, while addressing the unique characteristics of reclaimed materials, such as signs of previous use (e.g., bolt holes, notches), ageing, features, and variations in appearance and performance.

NATIONALLY CONSISTENT GRADING CRITERIA

This standard provides clear, nationally consistent grading criteria tailored to recycled structural timber. It promotes detailed communication between suppliers and purchasers, encourages sample inspections, and



The new FWPA Standard G01 brings clarity and confidence in the use of recycled hardwood to the industry as the importance and uptake of sustainability and circularity continue to rise Image: FWPA

enables market confidence in recycled products through a quality assurance framework. The grades defined under this Standard are unique to recycled timber and should be used independently of existing standards (e.g., AS 2082 and AS 3818 series).

SUPPORTING CIRCULARITY

"This standard reflects FWPA's commitment to supporting circularity and environmental responsibility across the timber industry," said Boris Iskra, National Codes & Standards Manager at FWPA. "By providing a consistent approach to grading recycled hardwood, we're giving industry the confidence to produce recycled structural timber and specifier's confidence to

use this material in structural applications. It's a milestone in the broader effort to unlock the full potential of timber reuse in Australia."

The launch of FWPA Standard G01 follows the earlier publication of FWPA Standard G02: *Recycled Timber – Visually Graded Decorative Products*, which provides visual grading guidance for recycled hardwood used in non-structural and decorative applications. Like G01, the G02 standard was developed

“THIS STANDARD FILLS A CRITICAL GAP FOR BUILDERS AND ENGINEERS

with input from a diverse group of stakeholders and includes both mandatory and advisory provisions to account for the distinct characteristics of recycled timber.

Together, Standards G01 and G02 form a coordinated framework for the responsible reuse of hardwood timber, addressing both structural and aesthetic applications. They empower industry participants to make informed decisions that reduce waste, support sustainability, and build confidence in using recycled timber products.

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE WELCOMED THE RELEASE OF FWPA STANDARD G01

"This Standard fills a critical gap for builders and engineers seeking to incorporate recycled hardwood in structural projects," said Michael Kennedy, CEO of Kennedy's Timber. "It offers the clarity and confidence we need to promote more sustainable building choices."

To learn more and download the FWPA G01 *Recycled Timber - Visually Graded for Structural Purposes* click here.



FWPA.com.au

Driving industry advancement through strategic research & market development initiatives

New federal funding for councils to support housing delivery

"The Federal government's announcement that Councils are to receive \$1.7 billion early funding to assist with the provision of shovel ready housing projects is a key part of addressing the nation's housing puzzle," HIA Chief Executive Industry & Policy, Simon Croft said.

"These funds are an important investment and should predominantly be directed toward enabling infrastructure such as roads, water and sewerage to unlock residential land across a range of development settings.

"As all local governments, metropolitan and regional, are being encouraged to meet housing targets this is a key measure for investment

in infrastructure where it is needed most.

"Funding of infrastructure is a burden that has been unfairly placed on builders who then have little choice but to pass this cost onto home buyers. Councils have equally been struggling to fund the necessary infrastructure and this early funding from the Federal government can help ease this burden to enable the provision of more affordable housing delivery.

"The other key investment from this funding, should be directed towards supporting council planning areas to fast-track approvals. The current resource shortages across local councils, is one of the primary reasons for



The new funding to councils has the potential to greatly assist and alleviate some of the housing pressure by removing roadblocks to new builds.

Image: Shutterstock

protracted approval timelines being experienced across the country.

"HIA would also urge that this funding have a specific percentage directed towards regional areas.

"With regional Australia

now home to more than 8.5 million people and growing, it is important the funding be allocated proportionally to support the delivery of new homes in regional Australia.

"We need to build 240,000 homes every year just to meet demand, yet last year we fell 60,000 homes short. This funding can play a key role in supporting local councils to bring forward housing approvals to get keys in the door faster," concluded Mr Croft.

Job position to fill?

For as little as A\$10.00 per week, you can advertise your positions vacant on our dedicated eNews jobs web page.

Job ad: A\$30.00 for 3 weeks

Prices exclude GST.

[CLICK TO ADVERTISE](#)

timber
& FORESTRY *e*news

Contact Campbell McInnes at
campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com



Image: Shutterstock

Timber Ridge village: modular innovation in Vail

Sustainable housing rises in Colorado's mountains.

IN Vail, Colorado, USA, a groundbreaking timber housing project is taking shape, showcasing the potential of modular construction to address local housing needs. The Timber Ridge Village redevelopment, a \$165 million initiative, began seeing its first modular units installed on 30 June 2025, marking a significant milestone in Vail's largest town-owned residential project to date. This development, comprising 454 modular units across seven buildings, aims to provide 302 affordable rental homes for local workers, reinforcing timber's role in sustainable urban planning.

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION: EFFICIENCY MEETS SUSTAINABILITY

The Timber Ridge Village project leverages modular construction, a method gaining traction globally for its efficiency and environmental benefits. The units, prefabricated in Minnesota, USA, are transported to a holding facility in Wolcott, Colorado, before being craned into place in Vail. Vail Daily reported that a large crane positioned the first of these units on 30 June 2025, a process that streamlines construction timelines compared to traditional methods. This approach reduces on-site waste and energy use, aligning with global trends toward low-carbon building practices. By



With each of the modules built off-site and then shipped to Vail, Colorado the construction is able to streamline the building process. The on-site building window is also much shorter allowing the build to be much less affected by weather. Image: Shutterstock

assembling modules off-site, the project minimises disruption in Vail's busy mountain community, a key consideration given the town's tourism-driven economy.

The use of timber in these modular units underscores their sustainability credentials. Timber's natural insulation properties and carbon sequestration potential make it ideal for Colorado's alpine climate, where energy efficiency is critical. The project builds on Vail's prior success with modular construction, as noted by Mayor Travis Coggin, who highlighted the 2017–18 Chamonix Vail neighbourhood as a precedent. This experience informed Timber Ridge's design, ensuring structural integrity and aesthetic integration with Vail's scenic landscape.

ADDRESSING LOCAL HOUSING CHALLENGES

Vail, a renowned ski resort

town in Colorado, USA, faces acute housing shortages for its workforce due to high property costs. Timber Ridge Village aims to address this by offering 302 residences, ranging from studios to multi-bedroom units, exclusively for local workers. CBS News Colorado highlighted the project's scale, noting it as a critical step toward supporting Vail's community amidst rising living expenses. The development's focus on affordability could serve as a model for other mountain towns globally, where tourism often exacerbates housing inequity.

The project also navigates environmental challenges, such as a recent rockfall event above the site, prompted by extreme weather in February 2025. Vail's Public Works team is implementing additional mitigation measures, including slope stabilisation, to ensure safety. These efforts reflect a commitment to

balancing development with the region's rugged terrain, a concern for any timber-based project in mountainous areas.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Timber Ridge Village represents more than just housing; it's a testament to timber's versatility in modern construction. The project incorporates advanced timber products, such as cross-laminated timber (CLT), which offers strength comparable to concrete while reducing carbon footprints. The modular approach also allows for rapid scalability, a feature that could inspire similar initiatives in Australia, where housing shortages and sustainability goals are pressing issues. For instance, Queensland's preparations for the 2032 Olympics could draw on Vail's model for modular athlete villages, blending affordability with eco-conscious design.

The project's \$165 million cost, though significant, is dwarfed by Vail's \$189 million West Middle Creek development, indicating the town's bold investment in housing solutions. Community engagement has been central, with local leaders like Councillor Reid Phillips, a ski patroller, championing the project as a legacy for Vail's residents. As units continue to be installed, Timber Ridge Village is poised to redefine affordable housing in high-cost regions, showcasing timber's potential to build sustainable, community-focused futures.

Gas market review urged as rising energy costs squeeze timber and wood-fibre businesses

THE Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) welcomes the Albanese Government's announcement of a review into Australia's gas market regulations to ensure 'they're fit for purpose and deliver in the national interest', as timber and wood-fibre processors and manufacturers continue to battle high energy and other input costs, Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, Diana Hallam said.

"The rising cost of gas and electricity is a major risk to our processing and manufacturing supply chain with several major businesses on the brink as a result. We welcome this gas market review announced by Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Resources Minister Madeleine King and encourage it to work towards sufficient and more affordable gas supply going forward," Diana Hallam said.

The gas market review will examine the impact of:



1/ The Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM)

• The Gas Market Code

• Heads of Agreement with major east coast gas exporters

The review will also consider the role of market bodies and investment that aims to boost supply and put downward pressure on prices.

"Australian forestry and forest products businesses are the nation's 6th largest manufacturing sector and affordable gas, and electricity is essential to make production trees into the range of



1/ Hon Madeleine King MP, the Minister for Resources.

2/ Hon Chris Bowen MP, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Images: Parliament of Australia

sustainable and renewable everyday products we create – from timber house-frames to cardboard boxes," Diana Hallam said.

"In addition to energy, logistics and insurance costs are also rising – meaning some businesses are being forced to consider whether they continue manufacturing at all. Over the first term of the Albanese Government energy costs for a number of our members more than doubled – further increases of this magnitude are simply not sustainable.

"Our sector is responsible

for injecting \$24 billion into the economy annually. We directly employ 80,000 people and indirectly employ another 100,000 on top. Many of these jobs are the lifeblood of regional centres. It's vital to maintain the scale and integration of our sector - if the cost of one element in the supply chain becomes too difficult it will have a huge ripple impact across the rest of the sector.

"The Albanese Government must support manufacturing, and the gas market review is a good step to examine the impact of what is a major input cost, placing considerable pressure on our industry," Diana Hallam concluded.

The review is currently open for consultation from the public until 5pm August 15th. There is also an information webinar being hosted on the 10th of July which is open for registration. For more details click here.

Israel-Iran conflict threatens timber trade and exports

THE intensifying Israel-Iran conflict, marked by military exchanges in June 2025, threatens to disrupt the Middle East's burgeoning timber trade. As demand for timber grows in countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, driven by ambitious construction projects, exporters face potential risks to supply chains, costs, and market stability. While direct impacts on timber remain speculative due to limited sector-specific data, broader trade disruptions offer clues to possible challenges.

A key concern is the Strait

of Hormuz, a vital shipping route for global trade. The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) notes increased caution among shipowners, with vessel traffic dropping modestly (e.g., from 147 to 111 cargo vessels between June 9 and June 15, 2025, according to JMIC data). Although oil shipments dominate this route, timber cargoes could face similar risks.



The conflict in the Middle East threatens to disrupt shipping trade, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz. Image: Shutterstock

A hypothetical escalation, such as Iranian blockades or attacks, could force shipping companies to reroute vessels around the African Cape, inflating freight costs and

delaying deliveries. Rising insurance premiums, already up 24% for oil tankers, might extend to timber shipments, squeezing margins for hardwood exporters. Timber Industry News highlights that such disruptions could mirror past shipping

delays, though no confirmed timber-specific impacts have emerged.

Scion funding for continued NASA water, wildfire research collaboration

TWO Scion programs have received a second round of government funding for collaborative research with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – aimed at increasing water flow and wildfire knowledge and preparedness in New Zealand.

The \$2.35 million (excluding GST) from the government's Catalyst fund will enable Scion to undertake three-year research programs into observing water flows through forests and investigating wildfire and drought risks. Both programs are based on feasibility studies completed thanks to the first stage of Catalyst funding.

The water flows research builds on results from Scion's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment-funded Forest Flows program, which researched forest hydrology in study sites around New Zealand, including an 1800ha catchment in Northland's Te Hiku Forest. The new program, a collaboration



1/ Hydrology research program lead, Dean Meason.



2/ Fire and drought risk research lead, Shana Gross. Images: Scion

with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will focus on the Aupōuri Peninsula's Te Hiku region (Northland).

It will use data from multiple NASA satellite missions to generate a new way to accurately measure water use for different land uses and how it varies across the region. The program will also monitor how water moves across the region above and below ground.

Scion research lead Dean Meason says this research could provide new insights

for freshwater management at scales previously not thought possible. "This gives us the opportunity to address concerns about water use and availability and increase understanding of water use and water flow throughout Te Hiku."

The wildfire and drought risk study aims to build a publicly accessible near-real-time fuel moisture and fuel type system. Program lead and Scion fire ecologist Shana Gross says accurate data on the moisture content within living vegetation can provide information on how fire could

spread through vegetation and identify areas where insects and disease pose a risk to drought-stressed vegetation.

"This can lead to more accurate wildfire predictions improving warning systems and reducing economic and environmental loss due to wildfire and drought."

Scion is partnering with NASA's Ames Research Center, the Australian National University, the US Forest Service, Fire and Emergency NZ and the University of Canterbury on this program.

Both research programs will now collect field and remotely sensed data to build models for development of the near-real-time systems.

The partnership with NASA on both programs gives Scion's teams access to state-of-the-art technology and expertise to develop their research and build partnerships with a world leader in space research – and to help with solutions to climate change-driven challenges.

From P 15

Demand for timber, fuelled by construction booms in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, is also at risk. Global Wood Markets Info reports that these markets have driven a surge in hardwood

“EXPORTERS FACE POTENTIAL RISKS TO SUPPLY CHAINS, COSTS, AND MARKET STABILITY

imports, with Egypt's imports up 15% and the UAE's up 27% in recent years. However, economic uncertainty—evidenced by a 7.7% plunge in Egypt's EGX 30 index and a 1.5% dip in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange—could stall projects, potentially curbing timber orders. While US sawmills have reported reduced Middle East demand, it's speculative to assume exporters from other countries would face identical trends. De-escalation could stabilise demand, but

prolonged conflict might dampen investment.

Logistical hurdles add complexity. Airspace closures in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, and Israel, reported in June 2025, disrupt air travel critical for trade negotiations and site visits. Though timber relies on sea transport, delayed contracts or inspections could slow deals. This impact, while plausible, lacks direct evidence for timber.

Global trade uncertainties, including potential US tariffs on timber under

review in 2025, could further complicate pricing for Middle Eastern buyers. Though unconfirmed, such policies might indirectly reduce demand if costs rise. Exporters should consider diversifying into other markets to hedge risks. The Middle East remains a lucrative timber market, but its stability hinges on diplomatic progress. Proactive planning, such as securing alternative routes or markets, will be crucial to navigate this uncertain period.

JD expands their Construction and Forestry dealer footprint

As the John Deere Construction and Forestry business continues to grow in Australia, we are excited to announce the expansion of our dealer footprint across New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia. With this expansion, John Deere will now have over 60 locations nationwide, enhancing our ability to meet customer needs with greater accessibility, service, and support.

Effective 1st August 2025, Hutcheon & Pearce is appointed as the new John Deere dealer for Construction & Forestry equipment across Northern Victoria and the majority of New South Wales. This expansion builds on Hutcheon & Pearce's 70-year legacy supporting Australian agriculture and compact construction equipment. With a strong footprint of 20 dealership locations, the family-owned business is now extending its trusted service and support to customers in the construction and forestry sectors. Backed by one of the largest field service teams in the region, with over 230 qualified technicians, 100 plus service technician vehicles, a fleet of dedicated mobile service trucks, and an in-house remote support team who provide fast, expert support whenever and wherever it's needed.

Brandt Australia will become the new John Deere dealer for Construction &



With a massive expansion across Australia products like the John Deere 1910E Forwarder will be easier for customers to obtain. Image: John Deere

Forestry equipment for the majority of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. With their Australian Headquarters in Ballarat, Brandt is a family-owned company that has grown from a single John Deere Construction & Forestry dealership location in 1992 to one of the largest John Deere dealerships globally. Today, they have over 140 dealership locations worldwide, including 14 locations in Australia. Brandt's philosophy is centered around strong customer support, large parts stocks, large selections of inventory and highly trained equipment experts to configure, set up and repair equipment across the unique applications in which their customers operate. They have over 6,000 employees globally and have been serving construction and forestry customers for over 30 years.

RDO Equipment will continue their 60-year Australian legacy of innovation and industry partnership within Northern New South Wales, Queensland and Northern Territory. This consolidation will allow RDO to focus more intently on the end-to-end needs of customers across

John Deere's Construction, Forestry, Agricultural and Turf offering. They will continue to invest in facilities and field service teams. RDO will continue to deliver excellent customer service and remain at the forefront of aftermarket and technology support of customers

across the roads and civil infrastructure, earthmoving, forestry and agricultural sectors.

John Deere and our dealer network remain committed to delivering exceptional customer support throughout this transition. RDO Equipment will continue to provide sales, parts and service support as Hutcheon & Pearce and Brandt ramp up their Construction & Forestry operations effective 1st August. Impacted customers will receive direct communications from John Deere and our dealer partners.

This expansion marks a significant milestone in our commitment to supporting the Australian construction and forestry industries. With one of the largest dealer footprints in the country, John Deere is well positioned to deliver the equipment, service, and support our customers rely on, no matter where their next project takes them. We thank our customers for their continued trust and partnership as we grow together.

For more information on Deere & Company, visit us at www.deere.com.au



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

HEAD OFFICE

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd
PO Box 3001
Maraylya NSW 2765

PUBLISHER

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd

EDITORS

Nicky Ainley
Donyale Harrison
Jess Hockridge
editors@timberandforestryenews.com

ADVERTISING

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

ACCOUNTS

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

SUBSCRIBE

www.timberandforestryenews.com



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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

EMPLOYMENT

ADVERTISING PACKAGES

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

LATEST JOBS:

Click this link
to advertise
online...

PACKAGES:

Click this link
to learn about
advertising
packages...

BUY AND SELL -

New and Used
Machinery/Equipment

Click this link
to advertise
here & online...

ADVERTISING RATES

DISPLAY AD RATES

FULL PAGE: \$560

297mmH x 210 mmW

HALF PAGE: \$330

Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: \$250

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

QUARTER PAGE: \$220

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

BANNER ADVERTISING PACKAGES

• PREMIUM PACKAGE: \$195

FRONT PAGE publication module, email and website modules

◦ Front page module • 68mmW x 45mmH

◦ Top email banner • 1200pxW x 145pxH

◦ Home page website banner • 1000pxW x 120pxH

• STANDARD PACKAGE: \$135

PAGE 6 (or similar) module, email newsletter and website module

◦ Module • 93mmW x 63mmW

◦ Email module • 336pxW x 336pxH

◦ Website module • 720pxW x 744pxH

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

JOB / BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE & IN PUBLICATION

720pxW x 744pxH - all ads to be in jpg format

TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5%

24 WEEKS: 10%

48 WEEKS: 15%

All pricing is excluding GST and based on a weekly booking. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST. Banner advertising packages are a minimum 12 week booking.

DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 9.00am Tuesday prior to publication.

Supplied artwork: 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.

Supply hi-res jpg or pdf to our specifications. This is a digital publication, therefore **NO crop marks or bleed is required.**

Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE.

Go to www.timberandforestrynews.com/post-a-job/ to place a job vacancy. **Book by 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.** Job ads are for individual positions. If more than one position is to be advertised, separate ads will need to be created and advertised accordingly.

BUY & SELL ADS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE. Go to www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/ to place an ad. **Book by 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.**

PAYMENT TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

All other standard Terms & Conditions apply.

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

Have some news to share?

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

editors@timberandforestrynews.com

timber
& FORESTRY eNEWS

Contact Nicky,
Donyale or Jess today...