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South Australia celebrates 150 years of forestry

COVER STORY P3



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National Skills Week 2025 – celebrating talent in the timber industry

NATIONAL Skills Week 2025 (August 25–31) – *Enews* is helping to celebrate the dedication and talent within Australia's timber and forestry industry, spotlighting the skilled professionals and emerging trainees shaping its future. This year's theme, Explore All the Options, highlights the diverse career pathways available through vocational education. The National Timber and Hardware Association (NTHA), a not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation established in 1998, is at the forefront, delivering nationally recognised qualifications, including Certificates III and IV in timber-related disciplines, business, retail, and leadership and management. NTHA's mission is to foster quality training outcomes, creating career pathways for learners and a skilled workforce for employers across Australia.

Among the inspiring stories is Declan Williamson, formerly a trainee at Masswood, a leading timber manufacturer of continuous finger jointing, curved wood with a 24m press, in New South Wales. Declan's passion for woodworking, sparked in high school, led



1/ Declan Williamson, when he was a trainee at Masswood.



2/ Eathin, joinery apprentice at Windoor Joinery.



3/ Schalk de Jager, studying a Certificate III in Timber Systems Design. All photos: courtesy NTHA

him to an NTHA traineeship. His commitment to learning, problem-solving, and teamwork earned him the 2024 New South Wales & ACT Timber & Hardware Industry Trainee of the Year award. "I'm proud my efforts were recognised," Declan shared. "I pushed myself to learn new skills and show enthusiasm daily." Declan has completed his formal training and is now the Timber Production Coordinator at Masswood, and he aspires to mentor future trainees and pursue a management role at Masswood, embodying the industry's bright future.

Schalk de Jager's story showcases resilience. A roof plumber in Western Australia,

Schalk faced a career shift after a wrist injury. Offered a role at Worldwide Truss and Frames, he transitioned to designing trusses and wall frames. Enrolling in NTHA's Certificate III in Timber Systems Design, Schalk has gained technical expertise and confidence. Halfway through the course, he's already applying his knowledge to navigate timber regulations and products, proving that setbacks, paired with the right training, can lead to transformation.

Seventeen-year-old Eathin's journey began with a work experience placement at Windoor Joinery, arranged by NTHA and his school, Kingswood High. In just four

days, Eathin's enthusiasm and skill secured him a full apprenticeship in joinery, which he began on July 14, 2025. "Eathin found his passion," said Michael D'Agostino, NTHA Field Officer. "He was thrilled to start his trade journey." Eathin's story underscores the power of school-based placements to ignite lifelong careers.

These stories celebrate the timber industry's vibrant talent pipeline. From Declan's award-winning dedication to Schalk's inspiring career pivot and Eathin's promising start, NTHA's training programs are building a skilled, passionate workforce, ensuring the industry thrives for generations to come.

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SA Forest Products Association celebrates National Forestry Day

SOUTH Australian Forest Products Association (SAFPA) is proud of the major milestone in South Australian history with 2025 marking the 150th anniversary of the state's forest and timber industries.

"150 years ago, it all began here in South Australia - commercial forestry! National Forestry Day has been a time to celebrate the rich history of the forest and timber industries... The industry delivers sustainable and innovative practices that shape our state as a leader in forest management, timber production and research," shared SAFPA on their celebratory social media post.

"From the first hectare of

trees planted in 1875 in the Bundaleer Forests in the Mid-North, the industry has grown to 176,000 hectares, directly and indirectly employing over 21,300 people, processing fibre that builds our homes, the pallets that move consumer products from manufacturer to shop, the pulp and appear products that are used in our everyday lives from toilet paper to cardboard boxes, to the potting mix that grow our fruit and vegetables", said Mr Nathan Paine, Chief Executive Officer of SAFPA.

"South Australia's forestry plantations are the foundation of our state's future. Our State has long been at the forefront of innovation and sustainable forest management,"



National Forestry Day has been running for four years and is a great way to celebrate the work and essential products and services provided by the timber and forestry sector. Image: supplied

National Forestry Day, "marks a proud reflection of the industry's enduring success and it's growing importance to the State's economic value chain, regional development and environmental sustainability", said Mr Paine.

South Australia's forestry estates:

- manage 176,000 hectares of

plantation estates

- directly and indirectly employs over 21,300 jobs
- process essential everyday wood fibre products
- plant an estimated 7 million softwood seedlings and 4 million hardwood seedlings every year
- store 4.64 million tonnes of CO2-e every year
- generates \$3 billion to the state economy

Forestry has been building Australia for 150 years and will continue to build our nation for the next generation to come.

On the cover: South Australia forestry has been active for 150 years and has grown and evolved into the sustainable and economic industry it is today. Image: Shutterstock

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Celebrating one of Australia's most important sectors

THIS week was Australia's 4th annual National Forestry Day – a day to celebrate the enormous and positive contribution Australia's forestry and forest products sector and supply chain makes to Australia and the world!

"National Forestry Day also aims to raise awareness about our industries among policy and decision-makers, elected representatives and the general public about the many and varied benefits the sector provides," Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Richard Hyett said.

"Everyone remembers the shortage of toilet paper during COVID - just look around your home and you'll see and realise

how important forestry is to everyday life. Timber house-frames, floorboards, furniture, benchtops, tissues and paper products. Even the cardboard box or wood-fibre packaging your latest delivery came in. It's all around us – and it's critical that we keep growing and manufacturing in Australia!

"Unlike many other everyday products, those made from timber and wood-fibre are environmentally friendly and fight climate change by locking up carbon. Think recyclable paper and packaging over single-use plastics or structural timber over steel and concrete."

Some quick benefits to keep in mind:

- Our full supply chain, from



tree growing and forest management, through to harvest, haulage and transport and the manufacture of different sustainable products is responsible for 80,000 direct and 100,000 indirect jobs

- The total economic output from across the sector totals around \$24 billion annually
- Carbon storage measurements vary, but your typical timber

house frame absorbs 9.5 tonnes of CO2-e from the atmosphere. When you include other timber and wood furnishings, the figure can grow to 25 tonnes of CO2-e

- Our national plantation estate stores 258 million tonnes of CO2-e – equivalent to the emissions avoided by 56 million cars driven for one year
- United Nations science recognises that native forests managed for sustainable timber production generate the largest carbon mitigation benefit

"[This week] we encourage all Australians to stop and reflect on the importance of our forestry and forest products sector and what it provides for the country and the world," Richard Hyett concluded.

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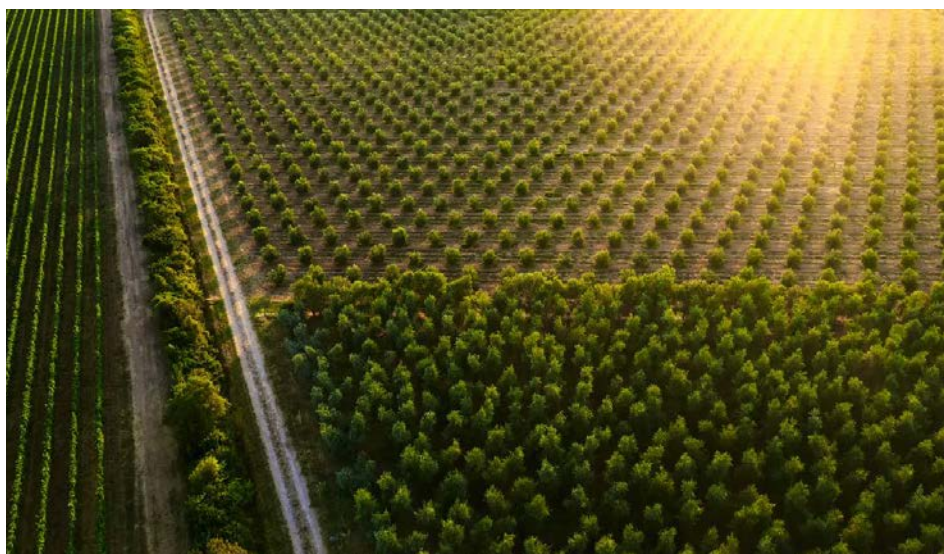
VIDA CANFOR

What does the EUDR mean for Australians?

THERE'S been no shortage of headlines about the EU's new deforestation rules and country risk ratings, but what do they actually mean for the Australian forest products sector?

This article breaks down what forest growers and wood producers in Australia need to know about the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), how certified timber is already well positioned, and why it's worth starting conversations now, especially if your products may end up in the EU market. With guidance from Responsible Wood and Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Australia's forest sector is in a strong position to adapt and thrive.

Australia's growers and wood producers are



Replanting harvested trees is an important step in ensuring the longevity and sustainability of both native and plantation forestry. Image: Shutterstock

already well positioned to meet the expectations of global markets, including the European Union. With strong national standards for sustainable forest management, well-established plantation systems, and internationally recognised certification through Responsible Wood and PEFC, we have a solid foundation for supplying responsibly sourced, sustainable timber.

The new EUDR is designed to ensure that

products entering the EU are deforestation-free and legally harvested. For most Australian operations especially those that replant or allow forests to regrow there is little cause for concern.

However, if you are supplying timber or wood products that may eventually be sold into the EU, it's important to start having open conversations with your customers about end markets and expectations.

Where needed, certification and clear documentation will support your products' eligibility and simplify compliance for your buyers.

The EUDR is aimed at ensuring certain products placed on or exported from the EU market do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020.

It supersedes the older EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) (in force since March 2013), which targeted illegal logging. The EUDR significantly expands scope to include not just timber, but six additional high-risk commodities.

The regulation applies to seven high-risk commodities: timber, soy, palm oil, cattle, cocoa, coffee, and rubber, along with many of their

Cont P 6

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derived products (e.g. furniture, chocolate, tyres, leather, paper). Any business trading these products into or within the EU must prove that they are deforestation-free, produced in accordance with relevant local laws, and fully traceable to the point of origin. This includes submitting geolocation data for where the commodity was produced and filing a due diligence statement (DDS) before placing it on the EU market.

For the Australian forest products sector, the good news is that certified timber is already well aligned with EUDR requirements.

PEFC and Responsible Wood have a longstanding commitment to halting deforestation through the promotion of sustainable forest management and products that do not contribute to forest loss.



The EUDR requires the origin of timber to be fully traceable including geolocation data. Image: Shutterstock

PEFC International has developed the PEFC EUDR Due Diligence System (DDS) which is designed to support PEFC chain of custody certified companies in demonstrating their compliance with the EUDR. It can be used by any certified organisation within the supply chain, no matter where the organisation is based or what

their EUDR obligations are.

The PEFC EUDR DDS simplifies complex

“**CERTIFIED
TIMBER IS
ALREADY WELL
ALIGNED
WITH EUDR
REQUIREMENTS**”

EUDR requirements by translating them into clear, understandable steps, using the familiar language of the PEFC Chain of Custody standard.

If you have questions about your specific circumstances such as land-use history, replanting decisions, or how EUDR applies to your supply chain Responsible Wood and PEFC are here to help. We're working closely with growers, processors, and exporters to provide practical guidance and ensure Australian forest products continue to be trusted and valued globally.

PEFC International (represented in Australia and New Zealand by Responsible Wood) offers robust systems for verifying legality, tracking origin, and promoting sustainable forest management.

For more information visit: <https://pefc.org/eudr>



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SEPTEMBER

2-3: Timber Queensland Biennial Conference

"Doing Timber Business in Queensland" – Brisbane.

Highly informative conference covering a variety of topics including: building farm resilience, Queensland's future timber plan, EUDR and illegal logging, timber, beef and carbon opportunities. building our future in timber, housing demand, modern methods of construction, timber mid-rise apartments and social housing. Plus, networking dinner and industry site tour. To register, visit <https://www.timberqueensland.com.au/education-events> or for more information you can email the team at 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 three 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. Tickets \$65. Visit <https://www.ntha.com.au/eventdetails/32982/wftn-cocktails-for-charity> to purchase your ticket. RSVP by Tuesday, 27 August.

18-19: SAVE THE DATE: THU 18 - Onetrak/Tigercat field demonstration day + AFCA dinner, 5.30pm. FRI 19 - Networking breakfast, 7.30am-9.00am & AGM, 9.00am-10.00am – QT Canberra. Click here to book breakfast or click here to register AGM attendance.

30: Hoo Hoo meeting and dinner, 6.30pm-8.30pm – Sydney, Club Ryde Ex. Dinner \$42. The Sydney Timber Industry Institute, AKA "Hoo Hoo International", have a few willing members that want to re-establish this great organisation. To RSVP, contact Heather Gattone on 0411 490 169 or email heatherbelle@iinet.net.au

2025 – Melbourne. The program includes timber framing innovations, timbers strategic return to the light construction market and High-performance timber products for modern construction, architectural excellence in wood design, fire safety for timber's critical performance barriers and much more. For more information and to register, visit <https://timberconstruct.org/>

OCTOBER

13-14: Timber Construct

20-22: International Woodchip and Biomass Conference and Networking Event – Singapore. Subjects covered include: global & Asian macro-economic outlook, pulp-woodchip end user, improving chip quality and export yields, carbonised pellets, biomass trends and much more. For full conference details and to register, visit <https://www.danaevents.co.nz/2025singapore/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: Conference Field Trip – Perth, WA. Follows on from the woodchip and biomass conference in Singapore. 2-day trip includes accommodation, breakfast, lunch, dinner and bus transport for site visits. Registrations or full field trip details, visit: danaevents.co.nz/2025singapore/fieldtrip

24: GTTIA – The Barn, Mt Gambier, SA. Gala dinner and awards ceremony. 6pm - pre event cocktails and 7.00pm - awards ceremony. Tickets available via the website: www.gttia.com and go on sale 3 September.

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Empowering the next generation of B2B sales professionals

How statistics and metrics can guide your business.

By **JASON HOWES & PAUL FULLER**

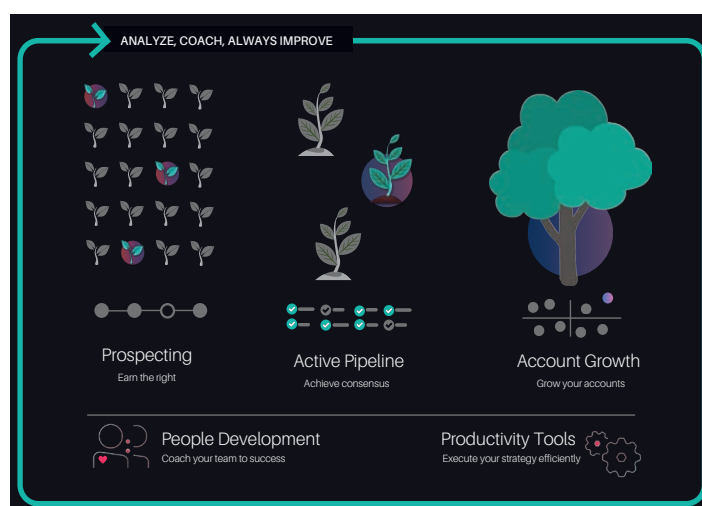
AT Arrow Executive Sales, we're proud to work alongside our partner Membrain, a leader in sales enablement technology, to bring the best tools to B2B sales teams across Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Operating in over 80 countries, Membrain has been recognised as a three-time Top Sales CRM winner, a Top Sales Tool for five years straight, and named Top Sales Enablement Technology for three consecutive years. Their platform is also a G2 Crowd High Performer in CRM, Sales Performance Management, Sales Coaching, and Sales Enablement. Together, we are committed to providing sales teams with the tools they need to move faster, work smarter, and drive sustainable growth.

Through our joint partnership, we've seen firsthand how the B2B sales landscape is shifting. The era of relying on outdated practices is over—those who don't adapt will be left behind. By empowering teams with modern technology and structured processes, we're helping businesses stay ahead of the curve.

CHANGE BRINGS OPPORTUNITY

The challenges sales teams face today—rising costs, lack of new business, and resistance to technology—are hurdles waiting to be cleared by forward-thinking leaders. The future belongs to those who embrace smarter strategies, better technology, and a culture of adaptability.



membrain have partnered with Arrow Executive Sales to bring a B2B growth platform to businesses who want to see their sales team excel. Image: Membrain

This is why we love working with growth-minded CEOs and leaders ready to take bold steps. The path to long-term success isn't always easy, but with the right people and focus, the results can be transformative.

THE BIG CHALLENGES FACING SALES TEAMS

Four key issues are holding businesses back:

- 1. Hiring based on experience, not potential** – Many companies hire salespeople based solely on years of experience. While experience is valuable, it doesn't guarantee the skills needed to grow accounts or bring in new business. Worse still, when businesses take a chance on fresh talent outside the industry, they often fail to provide proper onboarding. Without support, these promising hires flounder.
- 2. Leaders stretched too thin** – Sales leaders are being pulled in all directions—
- 3. Technology that doesn't deliver** – Too often, companies rely on clunky CRMs or basic ERP add-ons to save money and simplify processes. Instead, these tools create extra work for sales teams without delivering actionable insights. Salespeople often avoid using them, leaving leaders without critical data.
- 4. No clear sales or buying process** – Far too often, businesses lack a structured sales process. Critical know-how remains trapped in the heads of senior team members, leaving new hires

to fend for themselves. This not only leads to missed opportunities and inconsistent results but also hinders onboarding and ramp-up time for new team members. Capturing and documenting this knowledge is essential to create a repeatable process that supports new hires and ensures consistent performance across the team.

FOSTERING A GROWTH MINDSET AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE

Sales teams can overcome these hurdles and thrive with the right mindset shift—from seeing sales as a cost to treating it as an investment.

Hire for adaptability and potential

The future of sales is about hiring people eager to learn and thrive in a fast-changing environment. Instead of prioritising experience, look for adaptability, curiosity, and drive. These traits can't be taught but will take your team further than any impressive résumé.

Empower leaders to lead

Great sales leaders are coaches, strategists and motivators. Free them from admin overload by investing in tools that automate mundane tasks, simplify reporting, and deliver real-time insights. By reducing time spent on repetitive work, leaders can focus on guiding their teams,

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crafting strategies, and driving success.

Invest in technology that works for you

Technology shouldn't be a burden—it should be a game-changer. The best tools go beyond collecting data. They provide actionable insights, guide salespeople through structured processes, and embed training into the daily workflow. For instance, platforms like Membrain.com are revolutionising sales operations by simplifying the complex and enabling scalable success.

Create a scalable sales process

A structured, repeatable sales process is vital for growth. It creates a framework that allows both rookies and veterans to work more effectively and efficiently, delivering consistent results.

WHY INVESTING IN YOUR TEAM PAYS OFF

Sales teams are often overlooked when it comes to budgets. While operations, IT and finance marketing receive significant investment, sales are left to make do with minimal resources and outdated tools. This is a costly oversight—sales drive the front end of your business.

When companies invest in their salespeople—through training, coaching, and modern technology—the impact is transformative. Turnover increases, customer retention improves, and revenue grows.

Proactively supporting your sales team isn't just about boosting morale; it's a strategic move that directly benefits your bottom line.

Define and replicate what works, build a culture of learning and success, and equip your team with the tools they need to excel.

THE FUTURE OF SALES

The traditional approach to sales—relying on a few “star performers” and hoping for the best—is outdated. The future belongs to teams that blend relationship-building with structured processes and innovative technology.

Instead of cutting headcount and costs, why not invest in growing sales? When companies prioritise their sales teams with the right tools, training and support, the results are remarkable. Sales teams move faster, work more effectively, and deliver outstanding results. They transform into the backbone of the business, driving growth and creating long-term value.

So, ask yourself: are you ready to lead your team into the future of sales?

For a deeper dive into these strategies, watch our recent webinar, where we unpack

these ideas in detail and share real-world examples of what's driving success globally.

Discover actionable insights and innovative approaches to empower your team. The future is already here—ensure your sales team is prepared to lead the way.



Jason Howes of Arrow
Executive sales teams up with Paul Fuller, Chief Revenue Officer at Membrain to collaborate in a webinar to bring additional insight on tools for B2B Sales teams using the Membrain award winning CRM tools. To learn more on this topic, go to the webinar: <https://youtu.be/bSc70hgEXW0>, contact Jason Howes at 1300 903 527 or visit: www.arrowexec.com.au

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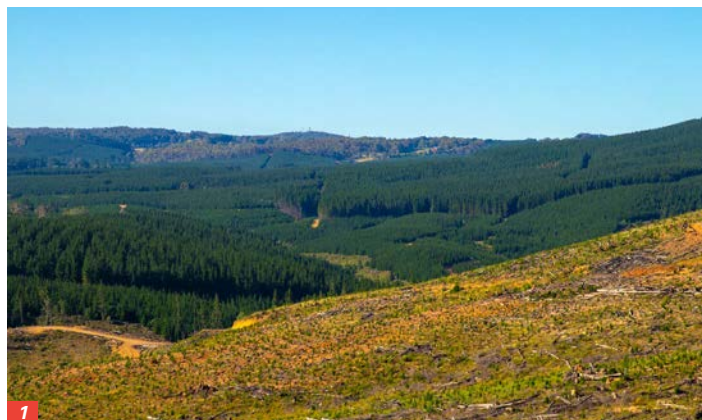
A commitment to sustainable timber and community prosperity

Celebrating National Forestry Day.

AS Australia marked National Forestry Day this week, Forestry Corporation of New South Wales (FCNSW) proudly reaffirmed its leadership in sustainable timber production and support of the nation's forest industries. As the steward of New South Wales' (NSW) largest softwood plantation estate, spanning 230,000 hectares, Forestry Corporation champions a future where Australia can increase its self-reliance and sustainability in timber resources. This commitment not only ensures a renewable supply of timber but also supports regional economies, job creation, and the housing sector, reinforcing the vital role of forestry in Australia's future.

GROWING THE FUTURE: 10 MILLION SEEDLINGS ANNUALLY

Each year, Forestry Corporation raises and replants more than 10 million radiata and hoop pine seedlings—an effort that sustains the long-term viability of the timber supply chain and supports thousands of regional jobs. These seedlings are carefully selected by expert tree breeders and nurtured for seven months in nurseries at Tumut and Grafton before being planted in winter to regenerate harvested compartments. With approximately 1,000 seedlings planted per hectare, FCNSW's commitment to reforestation ensures the continued health and productivity of NSW's softwood plantations. This sustainable cycle supports a wide range of industries, from structural framing and engineered wood products



1/ FCNSW is responsible for the management of NSW's largest softwood estate spanning 230,000 hectares

2/ Thousands work in the timber and forestry industry and National Forestry Day is not only about celebrating the industry but recognising all the incredible, dedicated people who make up the industry.

3/ Pine seedlings being carefully grown to replace every harvested tree.

All photos: courtesy FCNSW

to cabinetry, cardboard, and paper, all of which are essential to Australia's economy and daily life.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FROM SEED TO STRUCTURE
Forestry Corporation's

sustainable practices begin with the seedling and extend through the entire lifecycle of the tree. After 15 years, selective thinning is conducted to allow the strongest trees more space, light, and water to thrive. These early thinnings are typically used for pulpwood, processed into paper products and particleboard, ensuring no part of the resource is wasted. Radiata pine trees, grown in key softwood regions, reach heights of up to 35 meters over 30 to 40 years. At this stage, they are harvested for structural timber, widely used in housing construction.

On average, six mature trees are needed to build a single timber house frame. Every hectare of pine plantation yields enough timber to construct dozens of homes, making forestry a critical contributor to addressing Australia's housing needs. Analysis shows that the timber produced annually from NSW State Forests is sufficient to build more than 40,000 new homes—equivalent to all the houses in the regional centres of Bathurst, Orange, and Oberon combined. This output underscores the industry's role in supporting housing affordability and regional development.

TIMBER FOR TOMORROW

The economic impact of forestry is significant, particularly in regional areas. The industry supports thousands of jobs, from nursery workers and tree

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breeders to foresters and timber processors. These roles provide stable employment and drive economic growth in communities that depend on forestry. By maintaining a sustainable timber supply, FCNSW ensures that these jobs remain viable, fostering long-term prosperity in rural NSW.

BUILDING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION

Forestry Corporation's outreach efforts have been instrumental in helping the public better understand the science and economics behind forestry. Through community engagement, educational programs, and partnerships with schools and local organisations, FCNSW is reinforcing the importance of Australia's self-reliance in timber production. These initiatives highlight the rigorous scientific processes that underpin sustainable forestry, from seedling selection to forest management. By sharing these stories, FCNSW fosters greater public appreciation for the forestry sector and its contributions to both the environment and the economy. National Forestry Day provides a key opportunity to celebrate these achievements and educate communities about the vital role forests play.

HONOURING NATIONAL FORESTRY DAY

On National Forestry Day, Forestry Corporation tips its hardhats to the dedicated



1/ FCNSW takes caring for the trees very seriously and undertakes consistent measuring and data collection in their permanent sample plots.

2/ A NSW Forestry Commission camp.

professionals across the sector who work tirelessly to manage NSW's forests sustainably. From foresters and nursery staff to inventory teams and timber processors, these individuals are the backbone of the industry. Their expertise ensures that FCNSW can continue to deliver high-quality timber while maintaining the health of the state's forests.

LEAVING A LEGACY IN TIMBER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

For over 100 years, Forestry Corporation has managed NSW's state forest plantations, leaving a lasting legacy in

sustainable timber production.

Forestry Corporation Chief Forester Duncan Watt explains the importance of long-term planning in ensuring high-quality pine production. "Given our plantation crops are usually grown to around 30 years of age, understanding how they grow long-term is an essential part of the planning process," Duncan said. "We've been managing a comprehensive

“FCNSW IS BUILDING A LEGACY THAT WILL BENEFIT AUSTRALIA FOR CENTURIES”

network of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) for many decades. These plots are revisited and measured every few years to provide data across the entire landscape that allows us to predict what our plantations will look like in the future.”

Recently, the Softwood Plantations Forest Resources team established five new PSPs in the Bombala plantation. “The trees are marked up so they can be clearly identified and measured on the same part of the stem each time,” Duncan explained. This precision ensures accurate data collection, which is critical for forecasting timber yields and maintaining sustainable practices. David Booby, a long-serving member of the forest inventory team, exemplifies this dedication. With 36 years at FCNSW, David has witnessed the full cycle of pine plantations—from seedlings planted when he started to mature trees now ready for harvest. His work measuring the diameter of pine trees in PSPs contributes to the data that guides sustainable forest management.

Managing a sustainable forest resource for the future, Forestry Corporation replants every tree that is harvested. Their commitment to reforestation ensures that the timber supply remains renewable, supporting industries, communities, and the environment for generations to come. By balancing economic needs with environmental responsibility, FCNSW is building a legacy that will benefit Australia for centuries.



The largest manager of commercial plantations and native forests in NSW
Visit us at forestrycorporation.com.au

Public forest lockups aren't the solution

They limit community benefit and undermine sustainable forestry.

THE Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) is renewing calls for governments nationally to maintain more multiple-use public forests, better recognise their community amenity benefits and their critical provision for sustainably sourced timber and wood-fibre resources to build the nation, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, Richard Hyett said.



Australia's multiple-use native forests area is down to 3%, less than half what it was 30 years ago.

Image: Shutterstock

"The NSW Parliament has been inquiring into access restrictions to public lands and waterways. This is a timely opportunity to remind policy and decision makers of the benefits multiple-use public forests provide for the community, through recreation and other uses and through sustainable forestry. It's also an opportunity to call out the worrying trend

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2025 DANA - GINGKO

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- Details of 160+ dedicated woodchip vessel shipping fleet
- Global Biomass: w/chips, white/black pellets and PKS
- Global pulp-mill status/expansions/future: Market pulp trends
- A 'New Projects, New Products' panel

Optional 2 day field trip to Western Australia

Visits to:

- Eucalyptus nursery/plantations/harvesting
- Pine harvesting
- Pine Sawmill
- Bunbury Chip Export Port
- Albany Chip Export Port

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of more forest lockups and conversion to national parks," Richard Hyett said.

NSW has a very large conservation reserve network including a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve network encompassing more than 7.5 million hectares of national parks and reserves. In NSW alone over the past 30 years, more than 1.2 million hectares of state forests have been converted to national parks, meaning nearly 10 per cent of NSW's total area has become national park. At the same time, Australia's

total forest area grew by 2.8 million hectares from 2008 to 2021, while total multiple-use public native forest area, has more than halved since the mid-1990s, equating now to about three per cent of Australia's total forest area.

"This is miniscule compared with the European Union where 84 per cent of the Native (Natural) forest is available for sustainable wood production and it needs to be considered in that context," Richard Hyett said.

"Despite this, activists continue to demand that well managed multiple-use public native forests be locked up instead of demanding that under resourced National Parks be better managed to deliver the appropriate protections for biodiversity and threatened species for which they were created."

Multiple-use public forests provide an enormous array of

benefits, including:

- Sustainable timber and wood-fibre resources
- Recreational and educational opportunities for bush users
- An active management style that encourages carbon sequestration
- Flexibility to manage for fire, disease and other risks
- Often, better biodiversity and habitat outcomes

"In many cases, the revenue generated from activities in these forests, helps contribute to their conservation and ongoing management. We should also remember and acknowledge that many of Australia's private forestry estates are made available for recreational activities, broadening the benefits these forests provide to the community," Richard Hyett said.

Furthermore, the recently released Federal Government's Timber Fibre Strategy points to the growing gap between domestic sawn timber demand, for activities like housing construction, and domestic supply capacity – already exacerbated by reduced access to sustainable native forest timber.

"Sadly, multiple-use public forests have become a soft target for governments to satisfy misguided activists who irresponsibly demand that forests sit under lock and key. It's time for governments to better recognise the value of forests that are open for use, including sustainable forestry, and give them better consideration, rather than the lazy approach of lockups and conversion to national parks," Richard Hyett concluded.

"PUBLIC FORESTS HAVE BECOME A SOFT TARGET FOR GOVERNMENTS TO SATISFY MISGUIDED ACTIVISTS"

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Rethinking engineered panels

Harnessing plant-based residues for next-generation sustainable materials.

By **DR JOHANNES FEHRMANN & DR BENOIT BELLEVILLE. Part one.**

AS the engineered wood panel industry strives to decarbonise, reduce its dependence on virgin wood fibre, and move toward circular production systems, agricultural by-products are emerging as a viable alternative feedstock. Materials such as industrial hemp stems, corn stalks, rice straw and husks, and sugar cane bagasse, often treated as waste, are now being recognised for their structural and environmental potential. Recent research at the University of Melbourne (UoM) has explored how these residues can be converted into high-performance engineered panels using both conventional and innovative adhesives.

RESPONDING TO INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

Manufacturers of wood-based panels are facing growing challenges. Demand for these products is rising, while native forests and plantations are under pressure. Limited fibre supply, price fluctuations, and stricter emissions targets are all driving the need for new materials and smarter solutions.

Agricultural by-products present a compelling opportunity for the development of low-emission, plant-based panels. These materials are typically by-products of existing farming systems, requiring minimal



1/ Experimental particleboard made from processed hemp hurd

2/ Size comparison of fine (left), medium (center), and coarse (right) hemp hurd particles used in the research and fabrication of hemp hurd particleboard.

3/ Hemp particleboard specimen during internal bond strength testing.

All photos: Dr Johannes Fehrmann and Dr Benoit Belleville

additional inputs. Among them, hemp stands out for its rapid growth, often reaching maturity in just 90 to 120 days, and its capacity to capture large amounts of carbon both above and below ground. Other crops, such as corn, rice, and sugarcane, also yield significant volumes of unused or underutilised biomass. Collectively, these plant-based residues offer qualities well suited to producing panels for structural or non-structural applications and hybrid systems.

an opportunity to rethink the way we build, consume, and value carbon," said Dr Benoit Belleville.

FROM AGRICULTURAL WASTE TO FUNCTIONAL PANEL CORE

Dr Johannes Fehrmann's PhD research focused on industrial hemp hurd, the woody core of the hemp stem. This low-value part of the plant is often

underutilised or discarded after the more valuable bast fibres are removed from the outer stem. Hurd is similar to wood in composition but is much lighter and more porous.

Using the technical capabilities and equipment located at the UoM's particle processing and panel fabrication facilities, Dr Fehrmann milled hemp hurd chips into particles of different sizes. These were then combined with various commercial adhesives and hot pressed into uniform, low-density panels. With a density of ~300 kg/m³ these hemp panels

are significantly lighter than



"Transforming agricultural waste into engineered performance materials is not just a technical challenge. It is

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standard wood particleboard, which typically ranges from 650–750 kg/m³. The resulting hemp panels are among the lowest-density particleboards produced to date, offering clear advantages in transport, handling, and insulation potential.

WHY PARTICLE SIZE AND STRUCTURE MATTER

“Despite its known importance, the relationship between key particle characteristics such as morphology and size distribution and mechanical performance in plant-based residues remains underexplored”, says Dr Fehrmann. Recent work examining hurd particle size, backed by physical and mechanical testing, reveals its significant influence on panel behaviour. Each particle size range brings distinct benefits and trade-offs. Larger particles improve internal bond strength and reduce springback, helping panels better retain their compressed shape. However, they are more prone to moisture-induced swelling, as stored energy from pressing is released upon exposure to water. In contrast, finer particles compact more easily, producing smoother, more uniform panels. But their higher surface area leads to increased moisture uptake and adhesive demand. This can drive up production costs, especially since adhesives often represent a major expense. Designing high-performance panels means understanding and



1/ **Dr Benoit Belleville.**
2/ **Dr Johannes Fehrmann.**

managing these trade-offs to strike the right balance between strength, dimensional stability, and cost efficiency.

FROM LAB TO INDUSTRY-RELEVANT PROTOTYPES

To explore the bonding behaviour of different hemp hurd particles, Dr Fehrmann tested commercially available adhesives alongside novel bio-based options. He produced a series of panels by adjusting particle-to-adhesive ratios and changing hot pressing conditions to assess their effect on panel properties.

The research team at UoM



conducted a detailed analysis of each panel's physical and mechanical performance. Tests included stiffness, bending strength, internal bond strength, screw-holding ability, and dimensional stability under moisture exposure. The results provided valuable insights into how different particle and adhesive combinations influence panel

quality and suitability for practical use.

Future work will involve the research group conducting laboratory testing of acoustic properties, including sound absorption and transmission loss, alongside accelerated weathering tests to simulate long-term exposure to moisture, UV radiation, and temperature fluctuations. This approach will help deepen understanding of bio-based panel performance across a variety of applications, such as interior environments, acoustic uses, and outdoor conditions, among others.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the authors:

Expert Profile – Dr Benoit Belleville.

Expert Profile – Dr Johannes Fehrmann.

For more information on Dr Fehrmann's thesis: Fehrmann PhD Thesis.

For more information on the plant materials: hemp (1, 2, 3, 4) and corn (1, 2).

Part two next week.

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Image: AKD

From show ring to Olympic stage

Timber industry backs Prosper 2050 at Ekka launch

THE peak state body for the forest and timber industry in Queensland has backed the release of the Prosper 2050 blueprint at the Ekka show earlier this week. Speaking at the launch Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said, "What we like about the blueprint is that growing the primary industries sector for both food and fibre also creates direct downstream benefits for the built environment."

"This is not only about producing the best clean, green food across the state, but also the best timber as a renewable and green building material for housing and infrastructure projects." Launching the blueprint at the Ekka, set to become the



Launch of the Prosper 2050 blueprint for the Primary Industries sector at the Ekka RNA showgrounds. Image: courtesy Timber Queensland

site of the Athletes' Village and a major precinct upgrade for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, reinforced the case for Queensland timber as a cornerstone of iconic,

sustainable infrastructure that delivers value well beyond 2032.

"The launch of Prosper 2050 and the draft Queensland Future Timber Plan by the Primary Industries Minister during Ekka week is laying the groundwork for the timber industry to work collaboratively with the Government on long-term solutions to meet growing building demand."

"The announcement on the transformation of the Brisbane showgrounds and development of the Athletes Village at the Bowen Hills site as part of the 2032 Olympics represents a significant opportunity for such collaboration," Mr Stephens said.

"Queensland has a long and rich heritage of using durable and sustainable local timber for its housing and public building needs. Incorporating this heritage into new iconic projects such as the Athletes Village and sporting venues can showcase both modern innovation with timber building systems and their biophilic health benefits for athletes and future occupants alike."

KEY POINTS

- The Queensland Government has released its Prosper 2050 blueprint to supercharge the state's primary industries including agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
- Timber Queensland says the new 25-year blueprint will help deliver forest and timber industry growth with direct links to housing and infrastructure solutions.
- Launched at the Ekka, a future Olympic venue underscores timber's vital role in creating iconic, sustainable infrastructure that delivers value well beyond 2032.

"At the Paris Olympics for example, the Athletes Village and Aquatics Centre were both built using mass timber systems as part of a dedicated program for sustainability."

"Procurement policies that preference sustainable construction materials such as timber can play an important role in delivering future infrastructure solutions in terms of sustainability, on-site workplace safety and total project cost-savings through prefabrication systems."

"These opportunities will be fully explored as part of the proactive agenda with the Government for the forestry and timber construction industry."

Industry trends and opportunities from farm forestry incorporating timber and beef production through to housing demand and modern methods of timber construction will be a focus of the Doing Timber Business in Queensland Conference to be held in Brisbane from 2-3 September 2025.

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HomeGrown Grant and timber investment

ON National Forestry Day, two significant initiatives—the HomeGrown Territory Grant and a \$300 million plantation grant—highlight Australia's commitment to addressing housing challenges, boosting economic growth, and securing a sustainable timber supply. These programmes, celebrated by the Housing Industry Association (HIA), are driving home ownership, industry confidence, and regional prosperity, particularly in the Northern Territory.

"[The] announcement on the successful take-up of the HomeGrown Territory Grant highlights the importance of this key housing support scheme that is spurring economic growth and kickstarting home building across the Territory," stated HIA Executive Director Northern Territory, Luis Espinoza. Since its launch last year, the scheme has seen over 900 applications, helping more than 2,000 Territorians break into the housing market. A first of its kind in Australia, the HomeGrown Territory Grant offers \$50,000 for first home builders and \$30,000 for those seeking a fresh start.

"These home building incentives are welcome measures and something HIA strongly advocated for in the lead-up to the Territory election," Espinoza noted. "It is now pleasing to see this scheme going from strength to strength." The grants are crucial for individual households and for growing the Northern Territory's population and economy by enabling more people to achieve



The freshly announced grants will boost new housing and economic growth in the Northern Territory. Image: Shutterstock

home ownership sooner. "Housing is intrinsically tied to economic growth and vice-versa," Espinoza added. By supercharging the building industry through programmes like HomeGrown and FreshStart, the Northern Territory is seeing new jobs and increased housing supply, driving confidence in the sector and underpinning population growth. HIA is advocating for the scheme's continuation as a permanent fixture to provide certainty for the industry and prospective homeowners.

Complementing these housing efforts, the Albanese Government's \$300 million plantation grant was announced, aiming to bolster Australia's timber supply. "The Housing Industry Association (HIA) welcomes [the] announcement... in providing \$300 million to support Australia's future wood supply to meet increasing housing needs across the country," said HIA Managing Director Jocelyn Martin. Timber is a vital resource, with over 70% of Australian house frames constructed using

timber framing. With demand expected to grow by 50% by 2050 due to population increases, securing a sustainable timber supply is critical.

"Australia's forestry industry is a key part of Australia's national economy and is critical to supporting our local manufacturing sector and delivering more housing in both our cities and across regional Australia," Martin emphasised. The grant aligns with the recently released Timber Fibre Strategy, which outlines a pathway for the forestry industry's growth. "HIA remains committed to working with the government in delivery of the Timber Fibre Strategy, which will play an important role... in tackling our national housing challenges," Martin concluded.

Together, these initiatives strengthen the Northern Territory's housing market, support Australian economic growth, and ensure a sustainable timber supply, paving the way for a prosperous future.



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