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COVER STORY P3



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Crisafulli Government delivers election promise, securing Queensland timber industry's future

THE Crisafulli Government is delivering on its election promise to secure supply of enough Queensland timber to build one million homes by 2044.

Consultation has closed on the draft Queensland Future Timber Plan (QFTP) which sets out policies to secure the sustainable timber supply needed for the future, while also supporting a sustainable resource, creating jobs, driving advanced manufacturing, and backing regional economies.

More than 370 Queenslanders, including industry groups, conservation groups, Indigenous representatives, businesses, landowners and individuals have taken the opportunity to contribute to this landmark 25-year plan that will help shape the future of the forestry and timber industry in Queensland.

The timber industry was left without any direction or certainty after 10 years of decline under the former Labor Government, with both the Miles and Palaszczuk Governments promising studies and action plans that

were never delivered.

Just last year, Labor promised a \$200 million Sustainable Timber Industry Framework that was never properly costed or even funded.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, with the LNP's Queensland Future Timber Plan on track to be delivered next month. It's a key component of the broader Primary Industries Prosper 2050 blueprint which sets out to boost Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030.

The draft 25-year strategy for the forestry and timber industry was developed using a robust process with input from a range of sources. It will be supported by a detailed five-year action plan to set out the initial implementation process.

Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett said the decade-long decline and lack of certainty for the timber industry is over.

Project timeline



The project is now in the third phase. The review of the public feedback is underway. Image: Queensland Department of Primary Industries

"Labor would prefer to see Queensland homes built using imported unsustainable timber or other materials – rather than support our locally sourced hardwood and softwood timber and our world leading industry that employs Queenslanders," Minister Perrett said.

"The Crisafulli Government values the forestry sector;

it is sustainable, renewable and necessary to build one million homes over the next two decades.

"The timber industry has a major role to play in Queensland's growth and prosperity and in helping us meet our ambitious goal to boost primary industries value to \$30 billion by 2030," he said.

The 28-day consultation was part of an extensive engagement process that will culminate in the

release of the final QFTP and the first five-year action plan in late October 2025.

All feedback received from stakeholders during public consultation will be considered during this process. The draft Queensland Future Timber Plan is available on the Department of Primary Industries website.

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Queensland's vision for a thriving timber future

The Crisafulli Government's 25-year plan.

QUEENSLAND'S timber is a cornerstone of the state's renewable resources, sustainably managed to remain a vital asset for future generations. Forest and timber products fuel economic growth, providing homes, infrastructure, and cherished community environments. The Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050 aligns with broader economic goals to grow primary production.

Industry leaders are enthusiastic about the plan's potential. "We are deeply committed to our industry, our people, and our environment. This plan balances all three to drive sustainable growth," one representative shared. Another emphasised, "Forests capture carbon, and timber products from these forests have the lowest embodied energy of any building material." Stakeholders stress the need for long-term planning, noting that softwood plantations planted today won't be harvest-ready until the 2050s. They advocate for improved recovery rates, a shift to higher-value housing products, and exploration of opportunities in carbon markets, biofuels, and the circular economy. "Our timber is among the most sustainably produced globally, but we need public education about our sustainable forest management practices," another leader added.

Collaboration is at the heart of the plan, with industry and government working together to co-design, co-deliver, and co-invest to meet the needs of a growing population. The plan's principles include strengthening sustainable forestry for investment certainty, expanding timber



Queensland is rich in native and plantation forests. This plan will help the forestry sector grow and prepare for the state's future. Image: Shutterstock

supply for housing and infrastructure, boosting international competitiveness, reimagining timber's role in the built environment, and showcasing it during the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Additional priorities focus on streamlining regulations, fostering community trust through transparency, prioritising First Nations partnerships, investing in workforce skills, and ensuring lasting outcomes.

Forestry and timber are essential to Queensland's future, providing sustainable products and supporting a lower-emissions economy. Sustainably managed forests sequester carbon throughout their lifecycle, offering construction materials and environmental benefits. With Queensland's population projected to reach 6.4–8.27 million by 2046, timber will play a critical role in building urban and regional housing, bridges, railways, mines, and energy networks, alongside emerging applications like modular construction.

Urgent action is needed to address key challenges. Housing construction must

increase to meet demand, requiring 9–20 million cubic metres of timber by 2044 for 1 million homes, excluding infrastructure needs like 35,000 hardwood poles annually. Plantation supply, unchanged since 2017, requires expansion, with new trees taking 25 years to mature. Climate risks, such as natural disasters, threaten availability, while softwoods and hardwoods serve distinct purposes. As a net importer, Queensland aims to reduce reliance on lower-standard imports. Balancing prime land for forestry, housing, energy, and conservation is complex, compounded by regulatory challenges and workforce shortages in rural areas.

The industry snapshot highlights Queensland's diverse resources, spanning South East Queensland to the far north and inland. From 2019/20 to 2023/24, average annual harvests included 137,000m³ of public native hardwood, 161,000m³ of private hardwood, 1.9 million m³ of softwood, and 111,000m³ of cypress, totalling 2.3 million m³. Plantations cover approximately 200,000 hectares, primarily softwood,

while native forests span 30.38 million hectares across state, leasehold, and private tenures, with up to 0.1 million hectares harvested annually.

Key focus areas include securing a sustainable timber supply through optimised plantations, responsible native harvesting, and ethical imports; enhancing supply-chain competitiveness through innovation; simplifying regulations to build trust and efficiency; developing a skilled workforce; and advancing research to boost productivity and sustainability. Selective harvesting preserves habitats, while opportunities in engineered wood products, such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and medium-density fibreboard (MDF), and First Nations enterprises offer pathways for growth. Investment in silviculture science could improve tree growth and resilience, while modern construction methods, like prefabricated homes, increase demand for Queensland's high-quality softwoods, such as southern pines and araucaria. Extension services will bridge research and practice, supporting agroforestry and sustainable management.

Public consultation invited feedback to refine the plan, positioning Queensland's forestry and timber industry as innovative, sustainable, and community-focused, ensuring prosperity well beyond 2050.

On the cover: Forestry plays a vital role in the Australian economy, from growing and harvesting timber to milling and transforming it into high-value products. The Queensland Government is committed to supporting and strengthening the forestry industry, driving growth and sustainability across Queensland. Image: Shutterstock

FSC® Forest Week 2025 “Do one thing for forests”

HEALTHY forests are essential for life on Earth, yet they face increasing pressure from climate change, biodiversity loss and unsustainable land use. From 20–26 September, retailers, NGOs, forest managers, manufacturers and consumers across Australia and New Zealand will come together for FSC Forest Week to highlight solutions and inspire action.

This year’s theme, “Do One Thing for Forests,” calls on everyone to take steps that add up to meaningful change. For consumers, that might mean choosing FSC-certified products or spreading the word. For businesses, it’s sourcing and stocking responsibly. And for forest managers, it’s their ongoing commitment to maintaining forests to FSC’s rigorous standards. Together, these actions protect forests

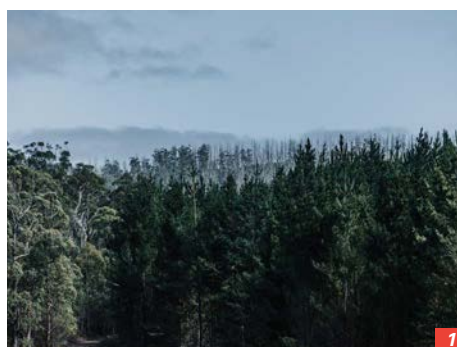
and the people and wildlife that depend on them.

Support for FSC Forest Week continues to build. In 2024, the campaign was backed by major retailers and NGOs, including Big W, Hallmark, Officeworks, Coles Group, ALDI, Mitre 10 New Zealand, Visy and WWF Australia. In 2025, even broader participation is expected, as organisations recognise the role FSC certification plays in meeting consumer demand for credible and sustainable supply chains.

Reflecting on the campaign, Melanie Robertson, CEO of FSC Australia and New Zealand, said, “FSC Forest Week is about turning awareness into action. From forest managers caring for FSC-certified forests, to businesses sourcing and stocking responsibly, to consumers choosing certified products, every action makes a

difference. Together, our community of certificate holders, members, licence holders and conscious consumers is driving responsible forestry to ensure forests thrive for generations to come.”

FSC ANZ is encouraging everyone to get involved during FSC Forest Week by looking for the FSC label when they shop and sharing the message online with the hashtag #FSCForestWeek. Every choice counts, and together, we can do one thing for forests.



1



2

1/ Australia and New Zealand have vast forests and world class sustainability regulations. Photo: ©FSC Australia and New Zealand / Andreas Weiss

2/ The Brazilian Rainforest is one of the many forests guided by FSC. Photo: ©FSC / Arturo Escobar

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A note from the Publisher...

ON Father's Day, the Minns Labor Government dropped a bombshell — the announcement of the Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

Enews (Issue #867) captured the immediate industry backlash, featuring strong responses from Mick Stephens (CEO, Timber Queensland), Diana Hallam (CEO, AFPA), Dr. Michelle Freeman (President, Forestry Australia), and Tim Lester (CEO, AFCA). Despite representing different parts of the sector, their message was united: this decision ignores science, dismisses truth, and threatens the future of renewable timber.

The Timber, Furnishing and Textiles Union went even harder, labelling the move “disastrous.” Their statement cut to the heart of industry frustration:

“After unions, forest scientists, major employers and industry associations put forward pragmatic solutions that would allow a koala park and protect jobs, the Environment Minister

has instead implemented a splashy oversized park and tried to short-change workers to pay for it.”

This is not the first time science has been sidelined. Back in Issue #854, *Enews* highlighted a breakthrough koala monitoring technology—thermal cameras mounted on drones, flown after dark above the canopy. This system delivers far greater accuracy than traditional daytime ground-spotting, where even seasoned spotters struggle to detect animals high in the treetops. Yet, somehow, the Minister expects the public to “spot” koalas while strolling or cycling on bush tracks.

This week, *Enews* is going deeper—speaking directly with frontline businesses about the real-world impacts GKNP is already having. We're also seeking comment from politicians across the three most affected electorates: Coffs Harbour, Oxley, and Clarence—all seats held by the Nationals.

And here's the kicker: the NSW Government has no plans to introduce legislation until 2026. In the meantime, it's using administrative powers to stop harvesting immediately. Around 176,000 hectares of State Forest within the proposed GKNP boundary have been slapped with an “interim moratorium.” Logging crews have been told to down tools, pack up, and vacate—despite binding logging contracts with the Government via FCNSW.

The fallout could be enormous. Ernst & Young, on behalf of AFPA, estimated back in 2019, the cost of tearing up these contracts could hit \$1.3 billion.

To offset the financial hit, NSW is quietly banking on one thing: the hope that the GKNP will qualify under the Federal carbon credit scheme. If accepted, this could provide some relief—but until then, it's a waiting game, with jobs, businesses, and communities caught in the

crossfire.

In contrast, the Queensland government has implemented a five-year action plan as part of its 25-year Primary Industries 2050 blueprint to guide the future development of the forestry and timber industry. The plan aims to provide sufficient renewable timber resources to support the construction of one million homes by 2044. Currently, Queensland imports timber to address its supply shortfall.

Michael Smith, our *Enews* writer from New Zealand, interviews Howard Snoad of Crusader Engineering about recent technology advancements in Biochar. The process involves sequestering carbon, reducing landfill, and producing a by-product that can be used in agriculture. This investment has specific environmental and agricultural implications. The full article begins on page 8.

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SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

13-14: Timber Construct 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/>

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

2026

MAY 17-19: SAVE THE DATE: Professional Woodworking Expo – NEC, Birmingham, UK. Dedicated event for woodworking professionals, the

Professional Woodworking Expo is the essential platform for joinery and installation businesses. For more information, contact Jess Hardisty: jess.hardisty@montgomerygroup.com

MAY 20-21: SAVE THE DATE: 5th International Forest Business Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland.

A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments. The conference aims to bring together leading timberland investment management organizations, investors interested in forestry asset class and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about new forest business frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact rafal@forest-analytics.com

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Crusader Engineering: offering continuous technological improvement and development

By MICHAEL SMITH

SINCE its inception in 1984, Auckland-based Crusader Engineering has evolved into an innovative design, mechanical and process engineering company exporting a range of excellent products worldwide. Timber & Forestry enews invited Howard Snoad, Director, to outline the company's biochar and timber treatment capabilities.

BIOCHAR PROCESS KILNS

Mr Snoad says Crusader Engineering "offers a proven, highly effective and simple way to help with the very complex issue of climate change – within our chosen field of timber processing and forestry.

"Our systems produce the incredible biochar – a charcoal-like substance created by the pyrolysis of biomass, which includes wood, bark, sawdust, etc. Biochar effectively locks in solid carbon and helps to rejuvenate precious agricultural lands, and reduce landfill volumes and disposal costs (including CCA-treated timbers) – plus it has a myriad of other great qualities.



1



3

"In combination with our expert technical Māori partners, we are highly experienced pyrolysis engineers at the forefront of research and development for an environmentally sustainable biochar future.

"We have successfully designed and built multiple robust, reliable and practical pyrolysis biochar kilns of all sizes for New Zealand industry – some powered by waste wood instead of fossil fuels.



2

- 1/ Bagged charcoal - biochar, created in a kiln.
- 2/ Standard industrial sized biochar kilns.
- 3/ A very small hobbyist's kiln that is ready to "fire up". The lower chamber is the burner box or fuel; the upper chamber is the pyrolysis chamber where the magic happens.

They include large industrial pyrolysis systems for urban wastes approved by local authorities; viable, large-scale modularised and transportable systems; or small hobbyist kilns.

"Our kilns are especially effective in areas dealing with a significant excess of biomass – such as forestry slash, timber processing sites and landfills.

"Timber processors often use their waste wood materials to power boilers for heat or power. However, we can incorporate the waste heat energy from the wood-fired pyrolysis kiln into the boiler process."

Mr Snoad is keen to emphasise that biochar is more valuable than just being used as boiler fuel. "Potentially it can become a revenue stream, while helping with climate change and positive public relations."

Further, he notes that

Pari Rikihana, a previous customer, has successfully teamed with Crusader. "Pari has been designing and running various pyrolysis systems for the last 20 years, so is very experienced with practical processes and general know-how in assisting our customers. He has worked with a number of prestigious entities including Massey University, Solid Energy and Rayonier, just

to name a few – as well as different councils around New Zealand.

"His work includes a proprietary plug flow reactor, primarily developed to process CCA-treated timber in our pyrolysis combustion chambers to meet New Zealand's arsenic emission standards – and to reduce CCA biochar/wood volumes, lock carbon in the ground, and reduce disposal costs at landfills.

"The reactor took Pari and his team many years and a significant monetary investment to develop – and included important assistance from Brett Oldfield, the owner of Combustion Control Limited here in Auckland."

TIMBER TREATMENT

Mr Snoad adds that Crusader Engineering is also an independent manufacturer of timber treatment plants

Cont P 9

From P 8

(TTPs). "We not only work with timber processors – but also, historically, with reputable international chemical preservative suppliers, keeping us at the forefront of plant design, and health and safety.

"Our world-class process control and management reporting software gives our clients the advantages of complete software (and hardware) autonomy and flexibility.

"We offer a custom service, supplying compliant plants that meet customers' existing and future requirements. They range from large automated and sophisticated 'turnkey' systems to small, manual self-contained plants for the smaller or remotely situated operator."

He adds that Crusader Engineering supplies quality, robust equipment, using superior componentry from



1/ **Timber treatment plant.**



2/ **Industrial pyrolysis combustion chamber.** All images: Crusader Engineering

reputable suppliers. "Our TTPs have proven to be excellent value for money, which is why we've had a good number of repeat business customers.

"We supply both aqueous and solvent (LOSP) based preservative TTPs, and have enjoyed exporting some 12 projects to Australia – and six more into Southeast Asia, Fiji, the USA and the United Kingdom over the years."

Crusader Engineering has also undertaken numerous

upgrades and additions to existing plant and software systems, and continues to offer ongoing and comprehensive customer support.

Mr Snoad says the firm has also developed a radio frequency (RF) technology for its LOSP solvent removal and recovery system from timber with very low moisture contents.

"Furthermore, with RF we can also dry biomass

down to similarly very low moisture contents to sterilise materials. An example of this is the proven ability to kill Legionnaires' disease in potting mix.

"Our philosophy remains one of continuous improvement and development, correctly believing that our future lies in offering the best and most up-to-date technology available."

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NSW Nationals response to Minns Government moratorium decision

THE NSW Nationals have slammed the Minns Labor Government for obliterating the North Coast timber industry, and costing thousands of regional jobs, with no guarantee it will be able to fund or establish the Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

Labor admitted the plan hinges on the approval of a federal carbon project to foot the bill but still imposed a moratorium on harvesting within the 176,000 hectare zone.

NSW Nationals Leader Dugald Saunders said it shows the government's intention has always been to shut down the industry, whether the park was delivered or not.

"What the Premier and Environment Minister announced this week is nothing more than a phantom project that is destroying the lives of up to 5,500 workers and their families," Mr Saunders said.

"Through the lack of answers we received in Parliament this week, it's abundantly clear this government has no plan to pay for the park and hasn't even thought about the severe ramifications it will have on multiple regional communities and sectors.

"In a coward move, Labor wouldn't even vote to follow through on its own commitment, regardless of the outcome of the carbon credit scheme, which proves this is far from a done deal."

Shadow Minister for the North Coast Gurmish Singh said there's no clarity on what the future for the region will look like.



1/ **The Hon. Tanya Thompson, Member for Myall Lakes.**



2/ **The Hon. Dugald William Saunders, Member for Dubbo.**



3/ **The Hon. Gurmish Singh, Member for Coffs Harbour.** All images: Parliament of NSW

"Even the moratorium is extremely misleading, because it indicates the government is leaving things open ended in case its koala park doesn't come to fruition," Mr Singh said.

"Labor has put the cart before the horse here, with no solid detail around how any of this will work, yet our communities are the ones being forced to pay the price."

It was also revealed during Question Time just ten weeks' worth of support will be given to the 300 workers directly impacted, with no consideration given to any related industries.

Nationals Member for Clarence Richie Williamson said his region will be gutted.

"While Chris Minns and Penny Sharpe have looked after their own jobs, they have laid off thousands of people without a second thought," Mr Williamson said.

"Since this cruel announcement was made on Father's Day, Labor has failed to provide any clarity on what the compensation package will look like, and how other impacted jobs and sectors will

be supported, which is nothing short of a bitter betrayal."

The decision will also further exacerbate the housing crisis, wiping out 40 per cent of the state's future hardwood supply and forcing the price of construction materials through the roof.

Nationals' Member for Myall Lakes Tanya Thompson said the government has grossly underestimated what will happen when timber mills dry up.

"The timber industry is the backbone of the North Coast and also provides so many of the things we rely on every single day. No timber means no paper, no power poles, no transport pallets, no wooden frames, and nothing to build the homes we so desperately need," Mrs Thompson said.

"This won't just cripple inter-generational businesses and

families in our communities but it will set off a chain reaction through other industries including building, mining and energy as well."

The plan also contradicts the Government's own data, after assessments by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) showed abundant koala populations thriving in state forests that have been selectively harvested for decades.

Nationals' Member for Oxley, Michael Kemp, said it was a choice based on politics not science.

"This decision completely ignores the fact the NSW timber industry is among the most sustainable and tightly regulated in the world. Unlike the myths by activists, it is the gold standard – renewable, recyclable, and essential in so many ways," Mr Kemp said.

"Yet what we're seeing here is Labor bending over backwards to pander to people's emotions and ignore the science, it's not based on any kind of evidence or logic and it's silencing the voices of our regional communities."

“THE GOVERNMENT HAS GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATED WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN TIMBER MILLS DRY UP

Timber businesses brace for uncertainty after Great Koala National Park announcement

THE NSW Labor Government's announcement of the Great Koala National Park has unsettled the Mid North Coast timber industry, with concerns mounting over timber supply, job security, and economic impacts. The sudden logging moratorium in state forests has left businesses seeking clarity amidst promises of transition support.

Martin McCarthy of Coffs Harbour Hardwoods voiced frustration over the lack of firm assurances. "Forest Corp have verbally told us we won't be affected, that our allocation will be made up outside the park," McCarthy said. "But there's no written evidence, so it's business as usual for now, but it's still unknown." He noted minimal direct government

engagement since a visit from Premier Chris Minns and Environment Minister Penny Sharpe months ago. "Since the announcement, there's been no further direct correspondence," he added. McCarthy also flagged broader industry challenges, particularly for firms like Pentarch, which he believes has lost 40% of its allocation. "If they try to make up that 40% from private property, it'll drive up prices in a competitive market," he said.

In contrast, Ian from Long Flat Timbers in Port Macquarie felt less exposed due to his sustainable, small-scale model. "We only get timber



Despite Coffs Harbour Hardwoods showcasing the timber industry's value during a visit from the Minns Labor Government (see issue #860), the abrupt Great Koala National Park decision has left the region facing uncertainty and economic concerns
Image: CC Wikimedia/Ibama

from local farmers, not state forests," Ian explained. He drew parallels from this decision to a past industry setback in the area, recounting how the closure of the local plywood mill in 1984—once a major employer producing materials for landmarks like the Sydney Opera House—devastated

the community. "There were 40 houses on this site at one point, and when the work dried up, everything disappeared—even the schools," he said. "This has happened before, and it has affected this mill before in the past." Despite this history, Ian remains optimistic about his operation's resilience, focusing on sustainable practices to weather potential market shifts.

The abrupt decision has left the industry on edge, with McCarthy calling it "a bit unknown at the moment." Martin estimates that negotiations will take 10 weeks and with the 2028 wood supply reviews looming, businesses want firm commitments to secure their future amid looming economic fallout.



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Tool time at Jubilee

Girls explore the world of timber and trades.

IN partnership with Empowered Women in Trades (EWIT), OneFortyOne recently welcomed 18 Year 9 and 10 students from Grant High School to its Jubilee Sawmill for a hands-on Tool Skills Day, an initiative designed to build confidence and spark interest in timber and trade careers among young women.

The event was facilitated through the PINE Community Grants Program, which connected EWIT with OneFortyOne to deliver a practical and engaging experience.

OneFortyOne Maintenance Manager Kyle Summers said the Tool Skills Day was a special opportunity to see beyond the gates and meet the Jubilee teams.

"This year, we worked closely with EWIT and Grant High School to tailor the event specifically for Year 9 and 10 students, recognising the value of introducing career pathways early on," Kyle said.

The day began with an empowerment session led by EWIT, helping students build confidence and self-awareness, and a presentation from OneFortyOne foresters Robyn Patient and Chloe Mackenzie. They then rotated through mechanical and electrical activities with Jubilee's maintenance team, using tools to build and test their creations.

A behind-the-scenes sawmill tour gave the group a close-up look at timber processing and



1/ 18 year 9 and 10 girls came to the Jubilee Sawmill for Tool Skills Day.
2/ Kate and Paige working on a mechanical activity.
3/ Kyle Summer, Maintenance Manager, spent time sharing and teaching the students.
4/ Taya and Kloe having fun finishing off their mechanical activity.
5/ The students were able to learn about a variety of tools in a practical setting. All images: courtesy OneFortyOne

the technology behind it, with the day wrapping up with a career pathways talk by Julie Tipene from SYC.

Students Chelsea and Aynslee shared their reflections on the experience.

"I enjoyed talking to the employees about how they got into their careers, their pathways and what they do

and don't like about their jobs," Chelsea said.

"The tour was also really interesting because we got to see how the wood was processed and see how the activities we did would relate to real jobs in the mill."

"I liked the mechanical activity, and when the people talked through what each part

was used for. Once you put it together, you could see that in action," Aynslee said.

"Also, seeing how much of the process in the mill is done by machines and electrical systems, it's not just about physical strength anymore. There are opportunities for all kinds of people."

Both students expressed interest in pursuing trade careers, with Chelsea considering cabinetry and architecture, and Aynslee planning to gain experience as a diesel mechanic before joining her family's business.

"I think this sort of stuff should be held very often," Chelsea said.

"It was really cool to see how it all works, and I think there'd be lots of interest for girls to explore different trades and pathways, even if they don't know what they want to do."

Kyle said the day was a valuable way to connect with a different group, especially in an industry with a long history of male representation.

"There's no shortage of ability - it's about making sure people can see what's possible," Kyle said.

"Opportunities like this give students a chance to explore different pathways they might not have considered and help break down the idea that trades and timber jobs are only for a certain type of person."

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“IT WAS REALLY COOL TO SEE HOW IT ALL WORKS

Trusting extensive scientific data or listening to screaming activists?

By the **HON MICHAEL KEMP, NATIONAL PARTY - MEMBER FOR OXLEY**

THIS Labor government's environmental policy doesn't look like it's being run by those in Macquarie Street, but maybe by rooftop protestors who contribute little to society and inner-city hypocrites who choose mining by consumption of the very products they campaign against.

These high-end activists are screaming "koala crisis", all the while happily living in high rise towers built from concrete and steel, wrapped in plastics, stuffed with furniture made from imported timber ripped from forests overseas with zero environmental standards. That's not conservation. That's hypocrisy.

The announcement to lock up the full 176,000 hectares in the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) will have devastating consequences for our local communities.

We have a Labor government that is being bulldozed at every turn by Penny Sharpe and activists running the show. All the while being cheered on by inner city independents like Alex Greenwich, Jacqui Scruby and Michael Regan. Politicians who prefer the city benefits of their own ruined environment.

It's the same old Labor. Same chaos with the unions. Same favouritism for Western Sydney. And once again, its



The Hon. Michael Kemp, Member for Oxley.
Image: Parliament of NSW

regional families paying the price.

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sustainable resource we have. It grows back, sequesters carbon while it grows, stores carbon as the product, breaks down naturally, can be recycled, and it even supports renewable energy and composting.

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environment than forestry ever could. But responsible and well managed mining isn't the enemy either. We need metals and minerals to drive our economy and our lifestyle.

Labor's own data paid for by the public tells a very different story from the activist fairytale.

Dr Bradley Law, the lead scientist from the Department of Primary Industries, was gagged for years. His 7-year study across 224 sites with 25,000 hours of monitoring found that regulated timber harvesting in state forests had no effect on koala populations, nor did land tenure.

The real dangers to koalas being wildfire, chlamydia, urban deforestation, vehicle strikes, and dog attacks. Forestry, which plants more trees than it takes, doesn't even make the top five.

And yet, instead of confronting those real

threats, Labor wants to lock up the GKNP which will only proliferate pests and weeds through chronic underfunding.

Improving technology gives us better counts, and the CSIRO estimating 287,830 - 628,010 koalas in Australia shows they may not be endangered anymore. Labor's own high-tech drone survey backs it up with more than 12,000 koalas in the GKNP assessment area alone. Most in state forests, not national parks.

The evidence is clear for Minns and yet he is still refusing to be transparent. Instead of trusting their own robust data, Labor relies on activist driven ideology and emotion.

They've weaponised the koala as a political mascot for votes in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. Worse still, the "Community Panel" designed to guide GKNP decisions was dominated by environmental

NGOs, mostly from Sydney, not locals. Only recently did Penny Sharpe start calling it the 'Community and Environmental Panel'.

While Labor demonises our local timber, they're opening the door to timber imports from countries that don't hold a candle to our environmental standards. So, in trying to "save" the koala, they're threatening to offshore thousands of Aussie jobs, and we already import \$6.8B worth of timber from countries where deforestation is rampant and unregulated.

State forests currently operate with modest Community Service Obligations, \$20M in total, or \$8.50 per hectare. National parks, by contrast, carry obligations of \$850M, or \$121

per hectare. These figures come from a 2019 report, and no updated analysis has been provided. That's a 14-fold cost difference per hectare, and taxpayers deserve transparency about whether these numbers have shifted.

The GKNP is nothing more than a glossy billboard for city votes, paid for with regional jobs. That's the hallmark of Labor: the same old game playing dressed up as environmental conservation.

If we're serious about improving the environment, just look at the facts. NSW already has 7.6M hectares of national parks compared to just 2M hectares of state forests. At a cost of \$121 per hectare, have national parks really delivered the outcomes we were promised? And what difference will locking up another 0.176M hectares for a name change actually make, for the environment, or for koalas?

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Dear Editor

“The fight will continue”

Richie Williamson speaks out on the Great Koala National Park.

WHEN *Enews* caught up with the Hon. Richie Williamson, Member for Clarence, straight after Parliamentary Question Time, he didn't mince his words: *'My phone has not stopped ringing since the announcement of the Great Koala National Park'*

Williamson said the calls came from businesses right across his electorate—many staring down serious financial hardship and desperate for answers. One operator, he explained, supplies timber residues to multiple industries. If that supply chain collapses, a host of downstream businesses and their employees could be left without a future.

At the heart of the debate is how the park will be paid

for. Williamson pressed the Premier directly on whether a proposed carbon credit scheme could bridge the enormous financial gap created by ending forestry operations and if it failed would the GKNP be cancelled or scaled back.

From the official Hansard record (11 September 2025 – GKNP):

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (11:43): My question is directed to the Premier. Last night in the upper House, the Government voted down an amendment that would have guaranteed the Great Koala National Park's creation without carbon credits being approved. Will the Premier guarantee the full Great Koala National Park will be created regardless of any carbon credit scheme being approved by the Federal Government?



The Hon. Richie Williamson, Member for Clarence.
Image: Parliament of NSW

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:44): The Government is committed to the Great Koala National Park. To answer the member's question, we have to deliver it. Part of the decision that the Government made was to put in a moratorium whilst those provisions were worked out. But the simple answer to

the question that the member has asked—for those who are unaware of the complexities of a potential trading scheme or a carbon offsets scheme—is that the Federal Government, via third parties that may be big emitters in New South Wales or across Australia, might want to buy carbon credits to offset those emissions. The net result of that means that hundreds of millions of dollars could become available to the New South Wales Government. It is a "could", I accept that. It is not up to me; it is up the Federal Government.

For Williamson, the uncertainty is staggering. He warned that the real issue is not just contracts and moratoriums—it's the long-term price tag. Maintaining the additional land as a National Park, he said, compared to continuing renewable forestry, comes with a difference in the order of **\$2 billion**.

"That's a very real and significant number," Williamson told *Enews*. "It's money the state simply doesn't have. And that's why this fight is far from over."

“THIS FIGHT IS FAR FROM OVER

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Timber QLD slams NSW Government

NSW Government misuse of carbon scheme while abandoning koalas and workers for green ideology and power.

THE peak state body for Queensland's timber industry has called out the NSW Government's announcement to declare a Great Koala National Park and rely on a native forest carbon method to fund it as a blatant misuse of the national emissions reduction scheme.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said, "The proposed carbon method put forward by the NSW Government, to bankroll its own park proposal, fails on so many levels it defies credibility and flies in the face of the integrity standards set by the Australian Government for the national scheme."

"First, it fails on the

additionality test, where the conversion of state forest to parks has been demonstrably common practice by state governments over many decades in the absence of a carbon credit."

"Second, it fails on the scale test, where the Queensland Government has written to the Australian Government making it clear they do not support this method and recognise the multiple



Mick Stephens, CEO of Timber Queensland. Image: Timber Queensland

benefits including timber production, recreation and ecosystem services from existing state forests as part

of their new timber plan."

"Third, it fails to address the science on superior long-term abatement from well-managed forests with sustainable timber harvest and substitution of emission intensive materials with wood products. In other words, the NSW method is likely to lead to lower overall abatement compared to the baseline of continuing state forest management," said Mr Stephens.

"There are also a myriad of other flawed design and measurement issues contained in the method, generating significant bias

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The Labour government is hoping to use the Carbon Credit Scheme to pay for the GKNP expenses. Timber Queensland is calling that out as a gross misuse of the scheme. Image: Shutterstock

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and uncertainty over the perceived carbon benefits, which should have triggered multiple red flags through the method prioritisation process."

These issues are outlined in the Timber Queensland submission to the NSW Government consultation process. A copy of the submission can be found here.

"The fact that the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage are yet to respond to the submissions received from their consultation in July suggests stonewalling given widespread critique of the method."

"Equally concerning is the potential wasteful use of carbon credits to fund the park where this is intended as a one-off hit for a political purpose with no additionality. This is market distortion at the expense of other genuine abatement. Any reputable Treasurer or economist should see this as deliberate gaming of the scheme and a misuse of significant public funds."

"This decision from the Minns Government

comes straight out of the playbook of the Labor left to restrict native forestry for Greens preferences to maintain power. However, it is clear there has now been significant over-reach in trying to push through a dodgy carbon method in addition to an ideological decision to create an unnecessary park to protect koala populations."

"Decades of scientific research from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, as well as recent work conducted as part of the park assessment, has shown no difference between koala numbers in state forests and national parks. In fact, there are clear examples of declines in koala numbers following conversion to parks as in the case of the Pilliga Forest."

"It is clear that the science and experience from well managed state forests is being ignored for a preservation ideology to the detriment of long-term koala populations. The key threats to koalas are disease, land clearing, wild dogs and road accidents."

"This decision will also have devastating impacts on native hardwood businesses and regional jobs. The sincerity

of the Labor left with support packages must be questioned when there is no credible public policy need to cease sustainable timber production in these forests."

"To the contrary, there is a definitive need for a carbon method that encourages forest thinning and sustainable timber harvesting as a tool to improve tree growth and productivity, forest health and long-term carbon outcomes in many public and private native forests. This is particularly the case in Queensland with many overstocked private forests that can benefit from improved active management," Mr Stephens said.

"The NSW method has no place in the scheme and should be withdrawn."

"Timber Queensland is calling for a public inquiry into the development of the NSW method, including the participation of the Australian Government and related parties, given serious concerns over the integrity of the method and the politically motivated process."

Timber Queensland have raised these concerns since January 2025.



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