

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

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 870 // 2 October 2025

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

GKNP effects hit saw and haulage specialists

COVER STORY P4



**Building the next
generation of sales
professionals!**



Start your 12-month
program today.
SCAN THE CODE TO LEARN MORE



LATEST JOBS:

- Saw Doctor
- District Manager
- People & Wellbeing Specialist
- Mechanic/Electrician/Wood Machinist/Boiler maker/Fitter
- Trainer & Assessor

Click to apply

**Enabling
sustainability**

Look for the PEFC
and Responsible
Wood labels.

Learn more.



**Responsible
Wood**
FW-10-1



**EMPOWER
YOUR BUSINESS
WITH NTHA**

- Legal & HR - sorted
- Recruit the right people - fast
- Safer sites, smarter teams
- Industry updates



Giant Pine Scale removal efforts

Work to keep the pest out of plantations continues.

THE Advertiser reports that 1500 trees are to be removed at Hope Valley Reservoir in a bid to slow the spread of Giant Pine Scale.

Native to the Mediterranean, the scale is a significant threat to South Australia's \$3 billion softwood plantation industry and has been spreading around the Adelaide region in recent years. Some 1400 trees have already been felled in a bid to control its movements, but this is the most significant measure taken to date.

Pines, firs and spruces are all susceptible to the scale, which causes defoliation, dieback and death. Most other trees are not affected by the scale. At Hope Valley Reservoir, all infested trees will be removed and then an additional 50m exclusion zone will be cleared of susceptible trees.

“ PINES, FIRS AND SPRUCES ARE ALL SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE SCALE ”

While the impact on the area will be significant, it is hoped that by removing such a significant outbreak, the risks of the pest spreading into plantation forests will be significantly decreased.

Giant Pine Scale is a large, wingless, yellow insect up to 12mm long. They produce a dense, white, cotton-like wax secretion that can be spotted in between the tree bark corrugations. It prefers the lower part of the tree, both on the trunk and branches, but may travel into the canopy or exposed roots. They have a three-year lifecycle and each female insect carries up to 400 eggs. An infestation showing ten or so secretions in the first year may grow to hundreds or thousands in the second and

cover a third of a mature pine by the third.

PIRSA asks residents of the area to look out for signs of early and advanced infestations and

report anything suspicious to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The line is open 24/7. If possible, suspected trees should be fenced off and any fallen branches should be kept with the tree or bagged for disposal. Residents are also asked not to park under the trees, as scale can use cars to hitchhike to new areas.

Previous infestations in South Australia and Victoria have been controlled through similar approaches.

The reservoir is managed by SA Water, which will be replanting with native species that are not affected by this scale.

To read the full story, click [here](#).






1/ Giant Pine Scale on a pine cone.

2/ The tell-tale wax secretions of the Giant Pine Scale.

Images: courtesy PIRSA

Preserve your Project, Preserve Timber

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

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

www.kopperspc.com.au
1800 088 809

Time to check

Clocks, fire alarms and polite phone times all need updating.

IT'S that weekend again: the one where Australia goes from three standard time zones to five. Daylight saving begins at 2am on Sunday 5 October, when for most of us the clocks will jump forward to 3am.

In Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, time doesn't change, but you will need to remember that other states have moved to Summer time when you are making business calls.

So 9am in Brisbane will be

10am in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, 9.30am in Adelaide, 8.30am in Darwin and 7am in Perth.

New Zealand went over to Summer time last weekend, so remember to add an hour to the time there this week, regardless of where you are in Oz.

Don't forget that this weekend is also the traditional weekend to give your fire alarms a clean with the vacuum and check each battery by holding the test



If your alarm is high up like the one in my studio, use a tool or garden stick to test rather than standing on the top step of the ladder. Image: Donyale Harrison

button until it beeps. For everyone who changes their battery alarms or back-up battery in wired alarms over in spring, this is your reminder to

grab a 9V or three before the weekend.

Daylight saving ends in Australia and New Zealand on 5 April 2026, and there will some who say not a moment too soon.

If you're one of the people who always struggle around the start of daylight saving, you're not alone! Researchers from the University of California have found that shifting the clock has worsening implications for stroke and obesity, on top of the previously discovered increases in accidents, heart attacks and car crashes (click here to read the paper). So Queensland, the NT and WA can all be a little smug this week!

“GIVE YOUR FIRE ALARM A CLEAN AND CHECK THE BATTERY.”

GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS

2025 Gala Dinner

Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards

Tickets On Sale 3 September

Friday October 24 2025 | The Barn | Mount Gambier | South Australia
For Bookings Visit www.gttia.com

The not-so-great GKNP

Business impacts from the sudden announcement continue to be felt across the NSW Mid-North Coast. This week, *Enews* speaks with saw and haulage specialists.



THE announcement of the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) and the immediate 12-month moratorium on timber harvesting in State forests within its assessment area continues to impact on

the timber industry and related businesses in New South Wales.

In the past two issues of *Enews*, we spoke with several timber businesses and



regional politicians about the consequences of the 8 September announcement. Shock has been the most common word used, with people going home on Friday night planning for the future, only to learn on Sunday that there was no point for many to go to work on Monday.

This week, we speak with related industries, including several saw specialists and a major haulage firm. They not only represent dozens of direct jobs that have been impacted by the announcement, but are major sources of income for other businesses in their communities.

All this is at risk if the region's hardwood timber industry is closed by the GKNP. *Enews* will continue reporting on news from the region in following issues, affected readers are encouraged to contact us to get their stories out.

SAW SERVICES HIT

Enews caught up with Shaun Kennedy, the driving force behind Holiday Coast Saws and Sharpening Service, based in Kendall just south of Port Macquarie. From

1/ Shaun Kennedy specialises in keeping saws in their best condition. He says the list of flow-on effects caused by the GKNP will hit regional communities hard.

2/ Kennedy recently hired a local firm to re-do the signage on his work vehicle and notes that the wider timber sector is a major source of income for businesses like these.
All images: supplied

his workshop – and via his mobile operation – Kennedy keeps businesses running smoothly, offering a reliable pick-up and delivery service stretching from Forster all the way to north of Grafton on a fortnightly rotation.

What sets Kennedy apart is his personalised approach and deep understanding of the unique needs of every business he services. Around half of his work comes from the logging, sawmilling, and timber processing sectors, but he has also built a strong client base among manufacturers, kitchen companies, and other industries. This broader mix, he admits, is giving him some hope that his business can survive the uncertainty created by the not-so-great GKNP proposal. "Fingers crossed this

AFPA THE LEADING VOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

Cont P 5

From P 4

doesn't go ahead," he said.

Already, the impact of the decision is rippling across the region. Kennedy is deeply concerned about the toll it will take – not just economically but also on people's mental health and wellbeing. "The anguish and grief haven't begun to hit yet," he warned.

The flow-on effects are wide-reaching. While Kennedy focuses on precision resharping, every saw has a lifespan and will eventually need replacing. That means the manufacturers supplying those saws, along with their employees, will also feel the squeeze. For Kennedy, the GKNP isn't just a threat to forestry – it's a domino effect set to shake entire communities.

As an example of this, he recently hired Kendall-based Camden Haven to redo the signage and stickers on his mobile servicing vehicle: so many of these extra jobs for local businesses supporting companies working in the timber sector will be lost if hardwood log supply disappears permanently.

Chris Carré is the managing director and sawmill solutions advisor at Phoenix Supply Company, a business that

manufactures and supplies new saws, employing seven staff. With more than 25 years in the industry, Carré said he had never witnessed anything of this scale before. He estimated the proposed GKNP would slash around 30% of Phoenix's operations, with no clear path to replace the lost work.

"Our largest customers are the sawmills," Carré explained, "and right now, that's all up in the air." He described the situation as a series of broken



Many of the saws Kennedy sharpens are for timber mills, which are currently quiet or struggling to source log supply in the wake of the sudden moratorium on harvesting.

promises from the NSW Labor Government, with long-standing forestry contracts

Eagle sees another blow looming.

Central Saws manufactures its saws in Australia, supplying distributors nationwide and even exporting overseas. While he isn't yet sure of the exact impact, Eagle is under no illusions: "This will hit us," he said.

After conversations with several mill operators, he observed that many in the industry are feeling "flat and despondent."

Eagle added bluntly, "The Government just doesn't care."



1/ Chris Carré, managing director at Phoenix Supply Company, says the sawmills are the business's major customers and describes the moratorium as a "broken promise" from the NSW Labor Government.



2/ Dale Eagle says that Central Saws has already weathered the blows of native timber harvesting closures in Victoria and WA and that the GKNP will hit the company.

Cont P 6

Enabling sustainability

for the next generation...

Click to learn more.

responsiblewood.org.au

Every certified timber product carries the story of a healthy forest. Look for the PEFC and Responsible Wood labels.

Responsible Wood

RW/1-10-1

From P 5

TRUCKS STOPPED

Cherie Baynham is the office manager at Greensill Bros, a proud second-generation family business based in South Grafton. Operating since 1952, Greensill Bros runs six forestry crews alongside a fleet of truck drivers, employing around 80 people across harvesting and haulage.

Baynham notes that while the business is second generation, the next generation is ready and waiting to step up.

Their haulage division delivers logs under contract for FCNSW, transporting to various mills as directed. Beyond this, Greensill Bros plays a key role in recycling timber by-products: they transport mill waste as far north as Cape Byron to supply a sugar refinery, deliver sawdust to cattle yards for bedding, and later collect the mixture of sawdust and manure to redistribute to macadamia plantations as a natural fertiliser.

"Simply put, we take the waste, put it to good use, then recycle it again," Baynham explained. "It's a cycle that benefits everyone – but now these operations are under threat."

To keep their fleet running, Greensill Bros relies on an in-house team of six mechanics for day-to-day servicing, while major repairs are handled by Westrac and a dedicated haulage service provider looks after the trucks.



1/ Cherie Baynham from Greensill Bros with one of the group's haulage trucks. She says two full harvesting crews have been stood down since the GKNP announcement.

2/ Workers have been confiding their fears for the future to Cherie Baynham, with jobs across the supply chain at risk. All images: supplied



Baynham said, "but the stress is already taking its toll."

She emphasised that the industry has always been willing to adapt and had accepted that some areas would be locked up – but not the entire forest estate. "At no stage have the Greens been willing to compromise," she added.

The uncertainty extends beyond forestry. Industry

connections have confirmed that long-standing grazing rights within State Forests have also been revoked. These grazing arrangements not only supported local cattle producers but also helped reduce fuel loads, lowering the risk of catastrophic bushfires.

"Several of our crews double as volunteer firefighters," said Baynham. "But if they can't stay here due to job losses, who will be left to protect these forests in a major fire?"

FCNSW has been in contact with the business and discussions are underway regarding stand-down payments for the next 10 weeks. While no funds have yet been received, Baynham is hopeful support will come through. Still, she acknowledges the pain is real.

"We haven't lost everything, like some operators, but we've lost about 40%," Baynham said. "That's hurting us here and now. The fight continues."



A Greensill Bros truck on an early morning run in happier days. Image: courtesy Greensill Bros/Facebook

Since the announcement of the GKNP, the business has already been forced to stand down two full harvesting crews, with a third at risk. With heightened competition for work in other areas, the impact is being felt across the region. Cherie also warned that timber prices will rise sharply – likely continuing for at least six months – which will drive up the cost of housing and infrastructure projects.

At a recent Forestry BBQ Day on the north coast, one long-time worker shared his personal fears with her, saying: "I've been working for Dennis in the harvesting industry for over 30 years. This is what I love and what I know. But

I left school early, I struggle with reading and writing, and while I'm the expert in my crew – what am I supposed to do now?"

Baynham added that many operators have followed in the footsteps of their fathers and grandfathers, learning the trade on the job. "Our people are passionate," she said. "They're out at sunrise every morning, dealing with the heat, the ticks, leeches and snakes – because they are passionate about the work and what we do."

But the GKNP announcement has left workers reeling. "People are still hanging on, hoping the decision might change,"

On the cover: Shaun Kennedy of Holiday Coast Saws says half his work has been from timber businesses that are now shut out of supply by the GKNP. Image: supplied

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](https://www.danaevents.co.nz/2025singapore/fieldtrip)

[co.nz/2025singapore/fieldtrip](https://www.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

JUNE 9-11: SAVE THE DATE: Woodex Trade Exhibition – Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. Africa's premier trade exhibition for timber, woodworking machinery, tools, and forestry. WoodEX for Africa has evolved into a true international event, consistently attracting visitors and exhibitors from more than 20 countries. Visit www.woodexforafrica.com for more information.

A CUT ABOVE...

Do you crosscut timber packs at ± 1 mm accuracy?

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

Or produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths?

HOLTEC has a solution for you!



Our scope of supply:

- Mobile and stationary chainsaws
- Timber crosscut stations
- Log cutting stations
- Circular saws
- Mechanisation
- Sorting lines
- Scanning and optimising systems
- Special systems

For more information contact:



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

National Safe Work Month

Even more than usual, the focus is on safety in October.

EVERY October is National Safe Work Month in Australia, which makes this week the perfect time to revisit the risk assessment processes at your workplace.

With this year's theme being Safety: every job, every day, Safe Work Australia has set up a week-by-week set of resources to guide discussions and activities that you can use in National Safe Work Month and beyond.

Week 1 starts with identifying hazards and involves finding things and situations that could potentially cause harm to people. Harm can be physical, psychological or both. For businesses that already have a risk register, it's a good chance to show the importance of regular reviews to see if any circumstances have changed.

In Week 2, the task is to



A full range of resources is available from the website. Image: supplied

assess risks, followed by Week 3: control risks and Week 4: review controls. Each comes with a set of resources that are designed to engage the whole workforce in the process.

One key goal of the month is to remind workers that they are not only entitled to safe workplaces, but that they are key parts of ensuring that safety culture. Accordingly, owners and managers are

encouraged to have employees and contractors heavily engaged with events through the month and allow them to lead discussions where appropriate.

Resources including desktop backgrounds and customisable posters are available on the website and all workplaces are encouraged to down tools and meet up for a SafeTea event, where

everyone can discuss WHS, with reminders, requests and rewards for exemplary safety all encouraged.

To download National Safe Work Month the resources and learn more about workplace safety, click here.

October is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In addition to fundraising for research, screening is encouraged this month for anyone who is behind on their regular screens or who has noticed recent changes in their breasts. While the disease is more common in women, about 1% of cancers occur in men, and these are often found later, as they are unexpected.

For more on screening and opportunities for funding world-class breast cancer research, click here.

Friends worth having

ONE quirk of our parliamentary system is the existence of Parliamentary Friendship Groups. These exist over the lifetime of a particular parliament and are "a non-partisan forum within Parliament for members from various parties to discuss and advocate for a domestic cause or interest."

Last week, the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry, Timber and Paper Products was officially re-established in the 48th Federal Parliament as a non-partisan friendship group to support the full supply chain of Australia's forestry and forest products sector

Co-chairs of the group are Senator Raff Ciccone, Labor

Senator for Victoria, and Senator Ross Cadell, National Party Senator for New South Wales

Diana Hallam, CEO of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), said, "We are thrilled the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry, Timber and Paper Products has been re-established. The group is made up of parliamentarians from different sides of politics and represents important and stable, cross-party support for our sector in the Australian Parliament.



Senator Raff Ciccone (L), Labor Senator for Victoria, and Senator Ross Cadell, National Party Senator for New South Wales will co-chair the Friendship Group. Image: supplied

"I especially congratulate Senators Ciccone and Cadell on their appointments as co-chairs for the group. Over successive federal parliaments the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry, Timber and Paper Products has proudly represented industry through

dialogue with stakeholders like AFPA."

Hallam noted that forestry was a core industry in many electorates around Australia, as well as being vital to the nation in terms of sovereign capability, creation of essential products and the growing

environmental and climate contribution the sector provides.

Here's hoping these friendships will count as the sector tackles all our current challenges!

New grant applications round opens

THE Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, brought several pieces of good news to last week's AgXchange Australia 2025 on the Gold Coast.

One was that applications have opened for the latest batch of the Support Plantation Establishment program grants.

The Minister described the grants as "part of our \$300 million investment to strengthen, support and continue a sustainable forestry sector now and into the future."

"The program is also contributing to Australia's net zero targets as new plantations can also be registered for the ACCU scheme."

Minister Collins positioned herself firmly in favour of

more farmers engaging in plantation opportunities now that farm forestry schemes across Australia are moving out of testing phases and into implementation.

"On-farm plantations are also supporting productivity while providing shade and shelter for livestock and crops, improving soil and water quality and enhancing the biodiversity," she told the audience.

Grant applications for Batch 6 of Round 3 close on 5 November. You can find the details on how to apply and more information by clicking here.

Following on from the report of OneFortyOne and HAMR Energy's MoU to collaborate on the supply of sustainable biomass



The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at AgXchange. Image: courtesy Julie Collins/Instagram

for renewable methanol production in Australia and New Zealand in last week's *Enews*, Collins also emphasised the Albanese Government's support for bioenergy.

"Providing feedstocks for

bioenergy will open up new commercial opportunities for so many while simultaneously reducing emissions in our aviation, our maritime and our transport sectors," Collins said.

"The Clean Energy Finance Corporation predicts that a bioenergy industry in Australia could be worth \$36 billion by 2050."

Accordingly, she announced that the government will soon kick off consultation on the development of a National Bioenergy Feedstock Strategy.

This new strategy will help establish a coordinated national direction for the sustainable development of bioenergy feedstock production in Australia, Collins said, encouraging all stakeholders to look out for the announcement and get involved.

RENEWABLE
SUSTAINABLE
RELIABLE
SECURE

P: 07 3147 8790
E. sales@vidawood.com

Parental leave issues deterring women

New research shows that parenthood is a major barrier to women in construction.

FOR several decades now, forestry has been making a conscious effort to attract and retain women into the workforce, and recent data shows that metrics from equal pay to representation of women at all levels of employment are in general above average in the sector.

Not so at the other end of the timber supply chain. Construction faces significant challenges attracting women into its ranks and retaining them once there. A new report from researchers at the University of Sydney, funded by the NSW Government's Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program, shows that parental leave is a major barrier for many women seeking a career in construction.

Key findings include

- Negative experiences of parental leave are common and have become a major barrier to retention of women in the sector.



1/ **The Building Better Workplaces Toolkit has been designed by NAWIC to address many of the issues uncovered in the report.** Images: supplied

2/ **Atika Anwar, National Association of Women in Construction co-president.**

- Support and policies lack clarity and consistency, with many women missing out on paid leave beyond the government scheme.
- Work practices are a significant constraint with long and inflexible work hours entrenched across the industry.
- Small businesses dominate the sector, limiting access to employer-funded parental leave.
- Despite 77% of employers offering flexible work, only

14.3% of employees work part-time.

- Without proper planning, women often return to lower-skilled roles or leave the industry entirely.

The report calls for urgent, coordinated action from employers, unions, and industry bodies, including:

- All companies should endeavour to extend their paid parental leave
- Mandating essential amenities on all construction sites, including toilets, lactation

rooms, and sanitary products.

- Reducing standard working hours and offering flexible return-to-work options.
- Developing national guidelines tailored to apprentices and SMEs.
- Creating an industry-funded parental leave scheme for small businesses and sole traders.

Atika Anwar, National Association of Women in Construction co-president, said, "Just 13.6% of Australia's construction industry is female – and only 3% of trade workers are women. Construction has the highest gender pay gap of any Australian industry at 28.3%.

"We have to change the way we operate – and changing the industry's approach to parental leave is a good place to start."

To find links to the full report, lived experience testimonies and the NAWIC online toolkit to help businesses address the issues, [click here](#).

HIA calls for Job Ready scheme

THE Federal government's new incentives for apprentices began in July of this year, but National Centre for Vocational Education and Training (NCVER) data lags the real world by six months. The newly released March figures make for sobering reading.

"The total number of apprentices in training declined by 3% over the last 12 months, which is a great concern to the building industry and is compounding the nation's construction skill shortages," said HIA chief executive industry & policy, Simon Croft.

"The most significant

falls were in bricklaying (down by 17%), and roof tiling (down by 13%), closely followed by plasters and painters. New apprenticeship commencements in the March quarter of this year were down in all trades."

Even more worryingly, March marked the second consecutive quarter when slightly more than half the cohort withdrew from their apprenticeships rather than completing them. Granted, in many cases this is because they have found work in the sector or moved to a different sector that suits them more, but neither of these things

helps with the fully qualified construction trades Australia urgently needs to address the housing crisis.

"In light of these figures, HIA is proposing that fresh thinking is needed to reverse the decline in apprentice numbers and these dropout rates," Croft said.

"We are calling for a new three-pronged approach, including:

- The creation of a national network of specialist Australian Technical Colleges for year 10-12 students;
- A national Job Ready Scheme to provide a try-a-trade

skills prior to entering into apprenticeship; and

- Financial incentives for employers to take on apprentices.

"Job Ready programs or try a trade programs trials, have shown to produce higher completion rates by preparing them for a career in the construction industry. A national targeted program would have the benefits of not only ensuring that young people can experience the industry before committing to a career, while employees will have access to better prepared employees."



Komatsu with Bigger Crane & Smart Forestry

The Komatsu 895.3 offers new larger Komatsu 205F Crane with G85H Grapple supported by Smart Forest technology;

- XT Transmission.....for 307kN torque
- Reinforced Frame.....for heavier loads
- Enhanced Load Space.....for increased productivity

The new 895.3 for higher productivity in tough conditions

Smart cameras deliver fire protection in state forests

FIRE season is underway across NSW and, after several years of above-average rainfall in most regions, there are heavy fuel loads in our forests.

With memories of Black Summer still fresh, the Minns Government has invested up to \$1.4 million over five years to roll out Australia's largest early detection smart camera network mostly across central and southern NSW.

In a partnership between Forestry Corporation NSW and US-based Pano AI, early fire detection cameras will be installed across the State forest fire tower network improving firefighting response across NSW State forests, National Parks and privately owned land.

Powered by artificial intelligence, these cameras scan the landscape, tracking changes in pixel colour, which allows them to detect smoke columns and deliver real-time alerts to fire crews.

Fire towers have long been integral to forest safety, with Forestry Corporation being the first to report 58% of the fire events it has called in as emergencies. But humans are limited to working daylight hours and in safe conditions, which means there are occasions on which the towers are unstaffed due to high winds, or it being out of season.

"Some of our biggest losses have come from fires that started overnight where the fire towers are unstaffed," said Jamie Carter, Forestry Corporation's land and management & innovation manager. "If you are not at the fire within 30 minutes of it starting in the pine plantation,



1/ **Jamie Carter, Forestry Corporation's land and management & innovation manager.**

2/ **Each installation consists of two cameras that provide a 360° view, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.** All images: courtesy FCNSW

as general rule of thumb it can already be more than five hectares in size and too large for you to be able to minimise that spread quickly."

The Pano AI cameras can be deployed on existing fire towers or other high vantage points and work 24/7, including during the worst weather. Each installation has two cameras, delivering 360° monitoring at all times – living up to the name 'Pano'.

The images feed directly to a cloud server which is continually monitored by AI looking for signs of smoke. The AI also monitors other sources of information, including satellites, emergency services and

customer-provided feeds. When smoke is identified by the AI, the information is sent for human confirmation and an incident report goes out to all the response agencies.

The live feed is also accessible by all those agencies, including satellite views and additional information from third-party partners such as the BOM, helping them to plan and coordinate responses. For example, whether or not to use an air approach will be informed by wind speed, visibility and how far from an access road the fire is. Importantly, responders can go back on the feed to see the start of the fire, which is

information most emergency calls can't provide, as well as see how quickly it is spreading.

"Beyond the safety of people, the next biggest single risk is that pine trees can burn at the rate of \$2 million to \$3 million an hour," Carter said. "There are very few other risks to this business of that scale."

"That's why we are so focused on having our resources on-scene at the

ignition point within 30 minutes. The things that most commonly cause ignitions are lightning, stolen or dumped cars being set on fire in the forest, or landholder burns that are close to the forest and escape."

Forestry Corporation NSW and Pano AI are installing the cameras at 22 strategic locations in major softwood growing regions, covering 1.2 million hectares of land with most located in Southern NSW, the Central West and a few sites in the Mid North Coast.

In areas where the camera fields overlap, the AI can triangulate the exact location of the fire even more precisely, saving minutes that may later be critical in keeping blazes small.

Key regions monitored by the cameras include Tumut, Moss Vale, Bombala, Walcha and Bathurst, including three wind farm development zones near Bathurst and Tumut.

Research shows that

From P 12

80–85% of the area monitored by Forestry Corporation's fire towers also includes surrounding private property and public lands, providing a significant and wide-reaching community benefit.

"These cameras will assist our firefighting agencies to protect critical forest plantation assets as well as neighbouring communities, national parks and privately-owned agricultural land, coming online soon before the start of the summer bushfire fire risk period," said Tara Moriarty, Minister for Regional NSW.

"By integrating AI-powered detection into our fire tower network, we're enhancing traditional firefighting methods with cutting-edge technology that delivers real-time intelligence and faster response times.

"This rollout directly responds to the NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry's call for greater investment in remote fire detection following the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires. It's a proactive step toward building a more resilient future for our state."

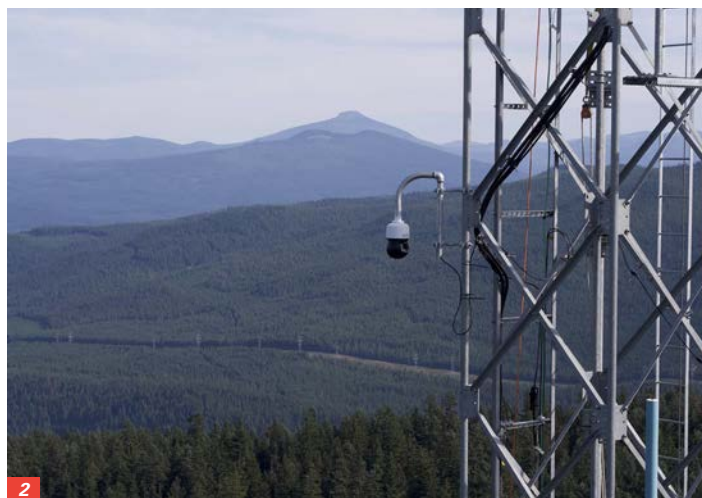
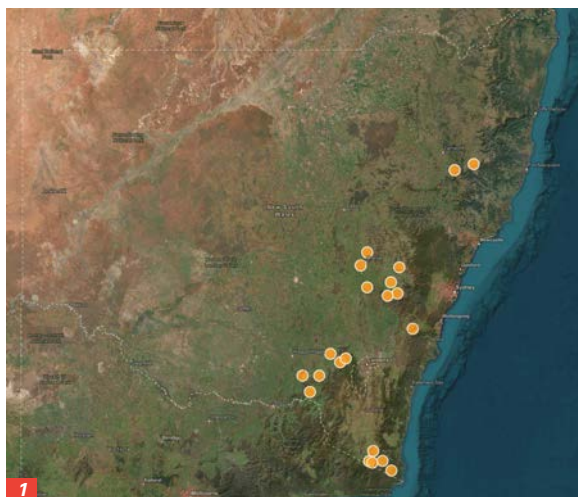
The technology has been extensively trialled in the US, South Africa and Europe and trained to local conditions here in Australia.

"This is a significant milestone after four years of trialling and refining our approach to early fire detection," said Carter.

"Following the significant impact of the 2019–2020

Black Summer fires where 25% of the pine plantation estate was burnt, Forestry Corporation has focused on aligning technological advancement with the needs of the NSW softwood estate."

"This solution provides a critical



1/ There are 22 NSW installation sites, with most on existing fire towers, one on a comms tower and three on Met masts.

2/ A Pano AI camera installed at Oak Grove Butte, Ripplebrook, in the US Pacific Northwest state of Oregon.

edge in the crucial first 30 minutes after ignition, which is hugely important from a firefighting perspective. This technology won't replace our highly skilled fire tower operators, but it's a powerful addition to our early detection suite. We're proud to lead the way in this field."

Some 65,000 hectares of softwood plantation were affected by those fires, significantly affecting the 40,000 new homes each year

that rely on timber from State forests.

Local MP for Monaro, and Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan said, "Our softwood plantations are a vital asset for communities like Bombala and Tumut, not to mention

“PROVIDING GREATER FIRE PROTECTION MEANS PROTECTION FOR LOCAL JOBS

their importance in providing building materials across NSW. Providing greater fire protection means protection for local jobs as well as for neighbouring lands and assets.

"This is exciting new technology and it is great to see it being rolled out to help our firefighters get

a step ahead in taking on bushfires."

Hardwood forests will also benefit significantly from the monitoring: five million hectares of native hardwood forests were impacted across NSW during Black Summer, and some of those areas will now be monitored by the cameras. Additionally, the digital recordings of fire initiations will help experts like Jamie Carter, who is one of a handful of nationally accredited fire behaviour analysts in Australia, to develop better understandings and predictions around fire behaviour.

"Pano's solution is trained on billions of images from diverse landscapes, microclimates, and seasons across Australia and internationally," said Andrew Prolov, Pano AI's head of Australia GTM.

"By combining AI detection with advanced geospatial insights, it will help Forestry Corporation understand the full context of each fire detected."



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

Tariffs highlight need for local timber

TUESDAY saw a flat 10% tariff imposed on softwood timber imports into the US. This additional measure comes on top of standard country-by-country tariffs, meaning Australian timber exports to the US are now 20% more expensive than they were at the start of the year. A 25% tariff was also proclaimed on imported upholstered wooden furniture and cabinets.

Australia has a significant wood and wood products deficit with the US, so we can reasonably expect this to be an issue raised by Prime Minister Albanese at his (currently scheduled) upcoming meeting with the US President.

However, the rationale behind the move – protecting American forestry – has local resonance. Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Chief Executive Officer, Diana

Table 1. Export logs and wood products to the US and all trading partners

Year and in million AUD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Export to the US	\$7	\$7	\$11	\$13	\$12	\$10	\$14	\$13	\$12	\$8
Total Export to ALL	\$1,655	\$1,878	\$2,087	\$2,316	\$2,330	\$1,770	\$1,429	\$1,615	\$1,531	\$1,517
% Export to the US	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%

Table 2. Import logs and wood products from the US and all trading partners

Year and in million AUD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Import from the US	\$144	\$124	\$150	\$162	\$141	\$120	\$139	\$141	\$96	\$93
Total Import from ALL	\$2,104	\$2,092	\$2,205	\$2,595	\$2,277	\$2,182	\$2,705	\$3,458	\$2,545	\$2,657
% Import from the US	7%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%

Table 3. Trade balance of logs and wood products Australia and the US

Year and in million AUD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Trade balance on logs and wood products	-\$137	-\$117	-\$139	-\$149	-\$128	-\$110	-\$125	-\$129	-\$84	-\$85

Source: ABS/ABARES, S&P GTAS

Australia is a net importer of logs and wood products from the US. Tables: courtesy FWPA, click here for link

Hallam said, "It's important that the federal and state governments here recognise that our forestry and forest products sector is just as important to Australia as the American industry is to the United States. And the threats the Americans face to their industry from imports are akin to what our industry faces

from imports."

Hallam said that over the past 12-months, new home builds have been improving, yet domestic timber sales are not. Imported product is a big factor: ranging from 25% of the local market as a base level up to 40% in times of high demand.

"I'm sure many Australians would be stunned to know that there are houses being built here today using timber that is shipped halfway around the world from countries such as Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia," said Hallam.

"While we aren't calling for tariff increases on imported timber and wood products, we do believe Australian consumers should be better informed about what they're purchasing. That's why we advocated for country of origin labelling ahead of the 2025 federal election along with other measures to strengthen local industry," Hallam said.

"We are also working with the Australian Government's International Trade Remedies Forum (ITRF) and will continue to as the impact of these new US tariffs is felt across the globe."



GLOBAL LEADER IN PARAMETRIC INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

20+ PERILS FROM NATCAT TO EXTREME WEATHER RISKS

PROTECTING TIMBER PLANTATIONS & CARBON CREDIT INVESTMENTS THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

BENEFITS:

- LARGE CAPACITY AVAILABLE ✓
- CUSTOMISED PROTECTION 🛡️
- TRANSPARENCY 🔍
- TIMELY CLAIMS PAYMENT 💰

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT US AT

<https://descartesunderwriting.com/contact-aus>

40 Years

ANNIVERSARY



TIMBER TRADER MAGAZINE INCLUDES

- SPECIAL FEATURES • A DEDICATED FABRICATOR SECTION
- ARTICLES WRITTEN BY OUR 3 ENGINEERS • SAFETY • HR
- NEW ZEALAND UPDATE • ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES
- ALONG WITH OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS



Timber triumphs

The 2025 Built by Nature Prize highlights the best in timber building and sustainability.

BUILT by Nature is a European-based network focused on driving the timber building transformation and decarbonising construction.

With members ranging from architects to developers, engineers to academics and asset managers to financiers, the network engages all parts of the construction supply chain. This is intentional, the goal is to show what can be done with sustainable timber



1/ *La Maison de la Réserve is designed to be entirely disassembled and re-used at end of life.*

2/ *Many components such as windows were recycled from other builds and bioclimatic features include a solar chimney that ventilates without additional power.* All images: courtesy Frédéric Denise, Archipel Zero

construction, help people learn how to replicate pioneering projects at scale and reassure the financing teams that investing in this innovation is safe.

As part of this work, the group has announced the 2025 Built by Nature Prize, celebrating excellence in timber building projects that align with the Principles for Responsible

Timber Construction.

A shortlist of 28 projects has recently been announced

Cont P 17

Job position to fill?

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

Job ad: A\$30.00 for 3 weeks

Prices exclude GST.

[CLICK TO ADVERTISE](#)

timber
& FORESTRY *e*news

Contact Campbell McInnes at
campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com



From P 16

and *Enews* will be looking at several of these over the coming weeks in the lead-up to the winner being revealed on 16 October. To see the full list and learn more about Built by Nature and the Prize, click here.

LA MAISON DE LA RÉSERVE ECOLOGIQUE

Located in the northern suburbs of Paris is the Ecological Reserve of Épinay-sur-Seine. The reserve is an experimental park designed to encourage biodiversity through minimal human impacts on the area. Its two-storey education centre spans 610m² in total and is constructed from local wood, straw, earth and cellulose, with 28% recycled materials.

The timber frame is clad with chestnut shingles and integrates reused windows, flooring and fixtures. The architect, Frédéric Denise of Archipel Zero, intentionally designed the building for disassembly at end of life. There are no concrete footings and bolted assemblies mean that walls, floors and roof parts can one day be re-assembled elsewhere or re-used in new buildings, while the site will be able to return to nature, showing no signs a building once stood there. The only significant earthwork was for 65m³ rainwater storage tank.

The building's bioclimatic features include solar chimneys, Trombe walls (passive solar heating) and green façades, which cool through summer. These minimise energy use and allow for year-round comfort with minimal added technology.

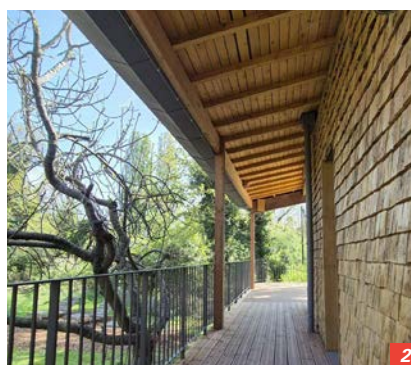
La Maison de la Réserve Ecologique is a multi-use space designed for everyday use by visitors, who can engage in nature-related games and craft activities, and then regular meetings and events,

including workshops on lowering your environmental impact, learning about gardens and composting. Every Thursday, toddler sessions run to introduce the littlest children to the wonders of nature. Wide entrances and ramps mean the vast majority of the building is accessible to wheelchairs and prams.

Archipel Zero was founded by Frédéric Denise with a philosophy rooted in zero concrete, zero carbon, zero waste projects. Natural materials are at the heart of the practice's designs, along with deep connections to the environment – both human and natural – surrounding each building.

The 'Archipel' in the practice's name illustrates its approach. Each part of the building process – the owner, the designer, the user, the builder and more – may be an island, but they are united into an archipelago through the project, and so the more they engage with each other, the stronger the identity of that project is.

La Maison exemplified this approach. During construction, multiple workshops were held talking about the challenges of eco-construction, re-use and biodiversity. Locals, including children, were invited to try out several of the construction methods, such as rendering straw bales. They were also able to see the build going up from close quarters as the safety fencing was open mesh, allowing park visitors to watch the structural timbers and panels be bolted together above the network of delicate screw piles.



1/ The chestnut cladding on the building's exterior was made of local timbers.

2/ Building on screw piles without concrete foundations meant that only one tree had to be removed for the entire construction and the rest remain healthy in situ.

The interior expresses many of the construction materials openly: bricks are left uncovered on one wall and the silver solar chimney intake snakes across the ceiling as it delivers its ventilation benefits across the whole building. Wildlife habitats are built into the exterior and a pair of tits have already raised chicks in one of the birdhouses.

Some 200 tonnes of carbon are sequestered in the building, while the passive heating and cooling cuts ongoing energy costs by 50%.

As the judges' notes say, "The project addresses biodiversity loss and urban detachment from nature by serving as an intermediary between the city and ecological reserve, while acting as an educational gateway for all.

"Sequestering carbon while employing local reuse networks and social enterprises, La Maison de la Réserve represents a new prototype for low-impact, circular architecture."



Timber Media
AUSTRALASIA

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

HEAD OFFICE

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd
PO Box 3001
Maraylya NSW 2765

PUBLISHER

Timber Media Australasia Pty Ltd

EDITORS

Donyale Harrison
Jess Hockridge
Nicky Ainley
editors@timberandforestryenews.com

ADVERTISING

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

ACCOUNTS

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

SUBSCRIBE

www.timberandforestryenews.com



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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

EMPLOYMENT

LATEST JOBS:

- Saw Doctor
- District Manager
- People & Wellbeing Specialist
- Mechanic/Electrician/Wood Machinist/Boiler maker/Fitter
- Trainer & Assessor

Click to apply

Click this link to advertise online...

ADVERTISING PACKAGES

PACKAGES:

Click this link to learn about advertising packages...

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

BUY AND SELL -

New and Used Machinery/Equipment

- FOR SALE - SCM Superset NT Moulder

Click for info

click this link to advertise online...

ADVERTISING RATES

DISPLAY AD RATES

FULL PAGE: 297mmH x 210 mmW **\$560**

HALF PAGE: Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW **\$330**
Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW **\$250**

QUARTER PAGE: Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW **\$220**
Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

BANNER ADVERTISING PACKAGES

• PREMIUM PACKAGE: **\$195**

FRONT PAGE publication module, email and website modules

- Front page module • 68mmW x 45mmH
- Top email banner • 1200pxW x 145pxH
- Home page website banner • 1000pxW x 120pxH

• STANDARD PACKAGE: **\$135**

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

- Module • 93mmW x 63mmW
- Email module • 336pxW x 336pxH
- Website module • 720pxW x 744pxH

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

JOB / BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE & IN PUBLICATION

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

TERM DISCOUNTS

12 WEEKS: 7.5% 24 WEEKS: 10% 48 WEEKS: 15%

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

DEADLINES

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

Supplied artwork: 12noon Tuesday prior to publication.

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

Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE.

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

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

PAYMENT TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days. All other standard Terms & Conditions apply.

CONTACTS

Media releases and editorial:

Donyale Harrison // Jessica Hockridge // Nicky Ainley
e: editors@timberandforestryenews.com

Display ad bookings:

Campbell McInnes // e: campbellm@timberandforestryenews.com

Accounts:

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

Have some news to share?

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

editors@timberandforestryenews.com

timber
& FORESTRY eNEWS

Contact Donyale,
Jess or Nicky today...