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COVER STORY P6

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Green Timber Technology & White Picket Fence join forces to deliver new homes faster

GREEN Timber Technology (GTT), an Australian manufacturer of prefabricated building systems, has formed a partnership with integrated property group White Picket Fence in a move that will see its new homes constructed at double the pace. Amid the on-going housing shortage, the innovative modern construction method will enable White Picket Fence to increase its home-building capacity to up to 2,250 homes per year.

The strategic partnership will unlock White Picket Fence's ability to deliver a brand-new home through its building arm Brooklyn Homes in just three months - half the time of traditional construction methods.

Representing the largest partnership of its kind for GTT, some 100 homes are expected to be delivered by the partnership by the end of 2026.

"This exclusive MMC partnership marks a significant step forward in how quality homes are delivered in



1/ **Manufacturing - produces perfectly engineered components.**
 2/ **The GTT team including Peter Khaury from White Picket Fence (third from left).**
 3/ **Crane installation on site.**
 4/ **Internal view of completed home.** All images: GTT

Australia. White Picket Fence shares our vision for precision, speed and sustainability in home construction, values that sit at the core of GTT," said Pete Morrison, CEO of GTT.

"Together, we're bringing advanced housing solutions to life, combining modern design with manufacturing certainty. It's about giving homeowners a beautifully crafted home, delivered faster,

and giving builders a reliable way to scale with confidence. This collaboration showcases what's possible when innovation and craftsmanship come together, a true example of modern construction that doesn't compromise on quality or sustainability."

GTT makes precision-engineered wall, floor and roof systems from renewable timber. Using advanced

digital design, Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), and CNC-driven production, GTT produces perfectly engineered components that are flat-packed, transported and installed with millimetre precision.

Manufactured in a factory-controlled environment, the panels are of consistently high quality. The system allows an entire single residence to be manufactured within days and assembled onsite in weeks.

According to White Picket Fence, the alliance unlocks faster delivery of homes while delivering high-quality outcomes. Price certainty for home buyers is increased, and cost blowouts are minimised, with GTT securing its supply chain for up to 12 months in advance.

Leahy noted that the modular process decreases the number of trades required on-site, reducing scheduling conflicts and delays. It also means less reliance on weather conditions, enabling faster build times.

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Saving Victoria's Ash forests: a race against time

OWEN Bassett from Forest Solutions and Leigh Crocker from Ion Group Consulting are on a mission to save one of Victoria's icon forest species, but they can't do it alone.

Over the past two decades, Victoria has endured six short-interval bushfire seasons. These intense and recurring fires have devastated vast areas of native forest, leading to the catastrophic loss of mature Alpine Ash forests (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*). In some localised populations, where

bushfire frequency has been the most intense, this species is now standing on the brink of collapse. The remainder is at a

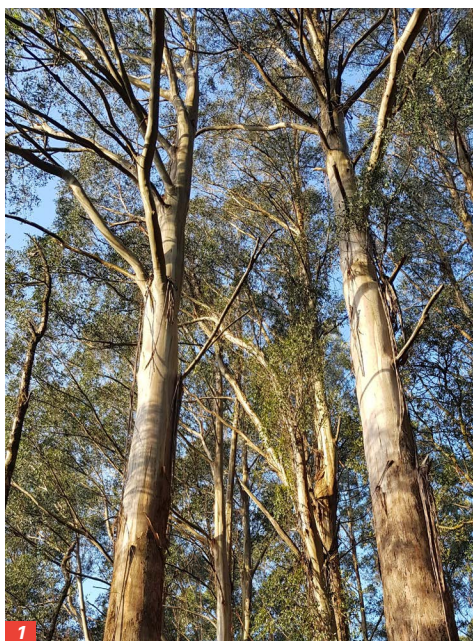
critical tipping-point.

"We must act now," warns Owen. Research tracking the extent of fire damage since

the extend of remnant mature

2003 paints a grim picture: 70% of the state's 380,000 ha of Alpine Ash Forest has already been burnt, leaving just 114,000 ha of unaffected mature forest. A further 80,000 ha remain immature and at immediate risk from future bushfires.

"It takes 20 years before an Alpine Ash tree is capable of producing seed," Owen told *Enews*. "The real danger is if another fire sweeps through the remaining untouched areas



1/ Mature Alpine Ash trees reaching for the sky.



2/ The result of fire devastation. All images: Owen Bassett

Cont P 4



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From P 3

forest will shrink even further and perhaps disappear, with current immature areas also collapsing. We are in serious trouble, and the call is to act before that happens."

Forest Solutions plays a vital role in this effort.

The organisation forecasts flowering events and predicts seed availability across forest canopies, critical for planning seed collection operations. Once identified, professional climbing collectors harvest seed-bearing branches from the crowns of Alpine Ash trees. Ground crews then gather and bale the capsules for processing, which involves careful extraction, testing, and storage.

When conditions are right,

these seeds are aerially sown over forests known to be on the brink of collapse, usually in the first winter after a bushfire. Alpine Ash seed remains dormant until it experiences 6-8 weeks of cold, a natural preparation for spring germination. Timing is everything, and precision forecasting of weather patterns is essential to success.

After the Black Summer

fires of 2020, 11,500 ha were successfully sown, yet there wasn't enough seed to cover the additional 8,500 ha that desperately needed it, after that fire. In fact, in aggregate over the past 20 years, we have lost 25,000 ha that could not be sown due, in part, to insufficient stores of seed.

Today, the challenge is greater than ever. A seed bank of 23 mt is urgently required

but the reserves simply aren't there. Each metric tonne of seed can regenerate around 2,000 ha of forest, but, producing that tonne costs roughly \$1 million.

Owen and Leigh are calling on private industry and philanthropic partners to step forward.

"We can no longer leave the financial and logistical burden solely to the Victorian Government," Owen said. "We need help to maximise preparedness, and we need it now."

For more technical information please contact Owen at Forest Solutions, owen@forestsolutions.com.au or to express an interest in providing financial support, please contact Leigh Crocker at ION Group Consulting, lcrocker@iongroup.com.au

On the cover: New life - Ash seedling popping through the undergrowth. Image: Owen Bassett



1/ **Precious Alpine Ash seeds, ready for storage'.**



2 & 3 respectively/ **Owen Bassett and Leigh Crocker.** Images: Owen Bassett

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NSW Reforms bill passed

Passage of the Planning Systems Reforms Bill is great news for the housing and associated industries.

"TODAY is a great day for the housing industry in NSW with passage of the Planning System Reforms Bill 2025 through parliament," said Brad Armitage, HIA NSW Executive Director.

"For too long, navigating the NSW planning system has been difficult, slow and costly. The reforms contained in the Bill will help streamline approvals, remove unnecessary red tape and provide more certainty for the industry."

"This Bill delivers more consistency and a proportionate, risk-based approach to development assessment. Why is it that a deck in a backyard is subject to mostly the same planning



Building better and with less red tape. Image: Shutterstock

approval processes as a football stadium? This new bill will make the process of getting an approval easier, allowing more shovels in the ground faster and ultimately more keys in doors," added Mr Armitage.

"These long overdue reforms will also enable more straightforward, low-risk developments to be considered as complying development, freeing up

councils to focus on more complex assessments."

"HIA has strongly advocated for the need for changes to the planning system and these significant reforms address some of the key obstacles the industry faces every day.

"HIA also acknowledges the role of the NSW Opposition in these reforms, whose bipartisan support

assisted in the development and passage of the Bill."

"There is still a lot more to be done and HIA looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the NSW Government on the implementation of the reforms," concluded Mr Armitage.

Enews is delighted to acknowledge bipartisan support for the safe

passage of this important bill, and we congratulate both sides of politics on working together to achieve this outcome.

This will help reduce red tape, overbearing complicated compliance and just a small amount of the high cost to building a home. It is therefore welcomed and appreciated.

“WHY IS IT THAT A DECK IN A BACKYARD IS SUBJECT TO MOSTLY THE SAME PLANNING APPROVAL PROCESSES AS A FOOTBALL STADIUM”

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Parametric wildfire insurance gains ground amid escalating climate risks

THE 2025 Forestry Australia Conference in Adelaide brought together forest scientists, plantation owners and managers, and forestry broking partners to tackle the industry's most pressing challenges – reducing carbon emissions, adapting to climate change and managing escalating bushfire risk, while adding greater value to the supply chain through the use of timber products.

During a session on global weather perils and wildfire risk, Descartes Head of Business Development for Australia and New Zealand, Lynn Roehrig – alongside Descartes Lead Underwriter ANZ Thibault Calvet – underscored the growing threat climate change poses to forestry and agriculture.

Extreme temperatures and shifting weather patterns are intensifying the frequency and severity of wildfires, making them one of the most significant emerging risks to land and property. Recent years have seen natural catastrophes and extreme weather events cause an average of \$4.5 billion in annual insurance losses. Projections suggest nearly half a million Australian homes could be uninsurable against fire within 30 years.

While seasonality influences wildfire ignition and spread, climatic forces such as El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole now drive fire activity year-round. From the 95,000 hectares lost to bushfires in Tasmania this year to the record global forest losses of 2024 – not to mention the Black Summer bushfires that cost farmers up to \$5 billion

and the tourism sector \$2.8 billion – the pattern is clear: the threat is accelerating.

THE RISE OF THE SUPERCOMPUTER

Traditional risk models, reliant on historical data, struggle to predict wildfire behaviour under rapidly changing climate conditions. They often overlook the evolving physical dynamics of land use and vegetation.

To address these limitations, Descartes has turned to next-generation data modelling, harnessing artificial intelligence and advanced computing power to generate more accurate risk insights.

Last year, Descartes was granted three million computing hours by the French state-owned computing authority GENCI to run complex, physics-based simulations of wildfire risk.

Using GENCI's High Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure, Descartes produced between 10,000 and 100,000 stochastic simulations – each representing a potential year of wildfire activity across specific regions. These models integrate meteorological data (such as fuel moisture and wind speed), topography, vegetation and human factors to capture the intricate interplay of conditions that lead to wildfire ignition and spread.

This collaboration with GENCI has enabled Descartes

to deepen its understanding of wildfire behaviour and pioneer innovative insurance solutions in markets where traditional insurers are retreating due to mounting uncertainty.

A NEW LINE OF DEFENCE

With conventional insurance capacity shrinking – through raised deductibles, wildfire exclusions or outright withdrawal – many forestry, agricultural and property clients are exploring alternative

ways to manage their exposure. Parametric wildfire insurance is emerging as a practical and data-driven solution.

Unlike traditional indemnity policies, parametric cover provides fast and transparent payouts based on independently verified triggers such as satellite-detected burn areas, temperature thresholds or weather data. It can operate alongside existing property programs to bridge recovery gaps and enhance financial resilience.

Globally, parametric solutions are

increasingly being used as a first line of defence against catastrophe and weather-related losses. They have proven effective in applications ranging from carbon credit protection to property-level wildfire cover.

For an industry facing unprecedented climate pressure, parametric insurance represents not just innovation, but necessity. For further information click [here](#).



1/ Lynn Roehrig & Thibault Calvet.
2/ Lynn Roehrig presenting at the Forest Australia conference.
3/ Audience at Forestry Australia Conference. All images: courtesy Descartes

NOVEMBER

19: Webinar – ONLINE. 1:30pm – 3:00pm (AEDT).

Navigating Australia's illegal logging laws - For Importers and Processors. Click here to join.

25: Gender Equality Webinar – ONLINE. 1:00pm – 2:00pm (AEDT). The 10 Gender dynamics still holding women back – and how to navigate them. Click here to join.

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Mature Redwood Plantation,
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and Export Operation
followed by dinner @ 3030
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Continuing business impacts from GNKP

Enews spoke with David Gibson of AE Gibson & Sons and the serious impacts of the GKNP to their business operations.

AE GIBSON & Sons has been operating since 1896 and remains a proud fifth-generation, family-owned Australian business, making it the country's oldest and most experienced supplier of sawmill equipment. Based in Kendall on the NSW Mid North Coast, the Gibson team are specialists in high-tech processing equipment, robotics, setup, training, and on-site servicing. Over the decades, they've delivered upgrades and overhauls for most sawmills across New South Wales and as far afield as New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea.

Enews recently spoke with David Gibson about business, life, and the challenges facing the industry. He explained that the company began to feel a downturn around 20 months ago, following the initial announcement about creating a koala park while maintaining a viable hardwood industry. That statement alone, David said, was enough to unsettle

“THIS YEAR, WE HAVE NO NEW WORK SCHEDULED. IT'S THE QUIETEST I'VE EVER SEEN



L-R: Richard Brown, Adam Gibson, Troy Krogh, Curtis Gibson, Christian Gibson, David Gibson, Liz Vanderent and Robert Mudge. Image: courtesy AE Gibson & Sons

business owners and slow investment in new technology and upgrades. “At AE Gibson, we don't just install, train, and service equipment,” he said. “We're also a manufacturing business, so we can do it all.”

However, since the announcement of the not-so-great GKNP, activity has virtually come to a halt. “We've lost 15 staff,” David shared. “These people aren't just employees, they're family, part of our local community, and highly skilled in what they do. The loss of each one has been deeply felt.”

Traditionally, the Christmas period is Gibson's busiest time of year, preparing installations while clients' mills close for the holidays. “I remember

being a young man, loading a truck on December 19, the day of our Christmas party, so the install team could be onsite the next day,” David recalled. “This year, we have no new work scheduled. It's the quietest I've ever seen.”

In response, AE Gibson & Sons has diversified into prefabricated building systems, using its expertise in robotics and automation to explore new markets and maintain past momentum.

The company has also been working closely with Timber NSW, which continues to challenge misleading claims about deforestation. “Harvesting crews are heavily regulated,” David said. “Replanting and regeneration

are essential to our industry's survival. Renewable practices, conservation, and waste management are part of what we do every day.”

Reflecting on the 2019 bushfires, David recalled how flames roared through the nearby National Park and reached the edge of his parents' property. “It wasn't until the fire hit the Forestry trails, and Forestry Corporation and volunteer firefighters joined forces that we were able to save the property and a local plantation,” he said. “Many of those volunteers come from the timber industry. If they're gone, who will step in next time? Will people from Sydney come up to help?”

Enews is grateful for David's time and openness. At the time of our call, he and his family were unpacking boxes after moving to Queensland, where David will coordinate new projects and stay close to clients. AE Gibson & Sons sees opportunity ahead, with the Queensland Government's 2050 plan supporting the timber industry, expanding plantations, and committing to increased renewable timber supply to meet the state's growing housing and infrastructure demand.

Enews reached out to Marcus Bastiaan of Specialty Doors regarding hardwood supplies, prices and impacts now and in the future.

THE ripple effects down the supply chain are already being felt and they're only set to intensify over time. Enews spoke with Marcus Bastiaan, Director of Specialty Doors,

whose Australian operations rely heavily on locally sourced hardwoods.

Like many businesses' dependent on hardwood supply, Specialty Doors has

already been hit hard as prices have surged by 40% since the announcement of the not-so-great GKNP, and quality has noticeably declined.

However, Marcus warns

that the real impact is still to come. “The real crunch will hit in about 12 to 18 months,” he explains, “because there's still

Cont P 9

From P 8

a lot of stock currently being seasoned and kiln dried. That material won't enter production for another six to twelve months."

Marcus recalls what happened when Victoria's native forestry operations closed: "At first, hardwood prices jumped 68%, then climbed to 110% of pre-closure levels." He believes the increase would have been even higher without the stabilising effect of NSW's timber supplies at the time.

Pack lengths, once stretching over 3 and up to 5 metres, are now shrinking, with quality also slipping, leading to more wastage and frustration

in the manufacturing process. To offset the growing shortfall, particularly in key species used for beautifully stained doors, Specialty Doors has turned increasingly to imported timber.

One example is Eucalyptus grandis, exported to Chile in the 1980s and now being reimported as Kiln Dried (KD) hardwood. "We bring in around 20 to 40 tonnes of this product each month," Marcus says. "It's helped replace the gap left by dwindling supplies of Tasmanian Oak and other key Australian species."

The company also imports American Red and White Oak to supplement its range.

Marcus emphasises that Australia's forestry sector



Marcus Bastiaan. Image: Specialty Doors

is among the most highly regulated and sustainable in the world, and he's deeply concerned that increased reliance on imports could shift demand to unregulated

regions, with serious consequences for global forests.

While Specialty Doors has managed to secure its supply for now, Marcus notes that the cost of raw materials continues to rise, and those costs inevitably flow through the entire construction sector, from residential to commercial and

industrial projects. "And once building costs go up," he adds, "so do insurance premiums and we all know the direction those have been heading."



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What the public doesn't know about the people who fight bushfires

EVERYONE looks forward to summer – except perhaps the first responders who shield Australians from bush fires. Australia is one of the most fire-prone country on earth, and its first-response defenders face between 45,000 and 60,000 bushfires every year.

The good news is Australia has some of the best firefighters on the globe. However, staying on top of the risk is a heavy responsibility, and time is no-one's friend, according to Tijmen Klootwijk, from Forestry Corporation of NSW...

More than 80% of Forestry Corporation of NSW's staff are trained to fight fires to a national standard. And those 500 team members do more than protect the forests. They routinely protect the public and the public's private property – in step with the State's lead fire agency – the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Forestry Corporation is a highly valued part of the four-pronged team responsible for controlling fire in NSW, which includes the NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, plus the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

While Forestry Corporation comes to the lineup to protect its forests, it is also vital protection for the broader community. This team includes Tijmen Klootwijk – a forester by trade – and a passionate fire manager for the pine plantations in the State's central west. He studied Forestry at university, has worked in pine plantations most of his career, and learned early that the biggest threat to pine



1/ **Tijmen Klootwijk, Forestry Corporation of NSW.**
2/ **An ariel view of a NSW Fire front.** All images: FCNSW

plantations is fire.

A BUSINESS OF TWO HALVES

Radiata Pine trees are intolerant to fire. If they are burnt, the trees must be removed and new ones planted. Conversely, native eucalypts can withstand some fire and regenerate afterwards. It means Forestry Corporation's team is highly motivated to extinguish fires within the precious 30-minute

threshold of any initial sighting.

"As a fire authority we respond to fires that are near to State forest land to stop them reaching the plantations," Tijmen said. "This means in small communities we are often the

first responders to arrive to fires and work alongside the RFS to protect communities and private property." "For us, a good fire is any fire that is out."

The timber that comes from renewable pine plantations is the foundation for house construction. If trees are destroyed by fire, supply will be pressured – driving building prices up to the public. "Plantations take 30 years to reach final harvest, which a fire can destroy in one day. Without any mitigation or intervention, plantations simply wouldn't reach maturity to deliver the products we value and use."

THE MISCONCEPTION

It means as forest managers, this estate is big business with serious consequences.

Forestry Corporation manages more than two million hectares of State forests – including Australia's largest renewable timber production and plantation estate across 220,000 hectares.

"We are a business of two halves. We are a forestry business producing timber to build 40,000 homes every year. We also manage the land – which includes managing fire – and we achieve both with the same people," Tijmen said.

It means over summer everyone within the organisation doubles down, does more hours, and is on high alert – particularly between October and March. There isn't a forestry employee who doesn't stiffen if there is even a suggestion

“FOR US, A GOOD FIRE IS ANY FIRE THAT IS OUT

Cont P 11

of a whiff of smoke in the air or on the horizon.

FIRES START FROM NOTHING

Fires can ignite from a whisper of opportunity – a lightning strike, a stray campfire ember, or a spark from machinery.

“State forests are open to the public to enjoy and what’s unique to this tenure is that you can drive your four-wheel drive vehicle, your motorbike, ride your horse, bring your dog into the forests, fossick for gems, and forage for mushrooms,” Tijmen said.

“However, when we declare the Plantation Fire Threat Period (PFTP) – when the risk to the plantation from fire is elevated – we no longer permit people to have campfires or solid fuel fires in the forest.” “At that point, our fire response arrangements ramp up, so that we have staff at the ready 24/7. On days with elevated fire risk, we will also halt operations in the forest and operate our fire towers to watch for any smoke.”

“We have duty officers on seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Those officers are part of many across the State who assess the weather for the next day, and for the next four days ahead of that, and coordinate any fire response.” “When we see a shift, and the risk of fire is increasing, we will take several actions, to elevate our readiness. Our staff operate on a one-in-three-week fire standby roster.



1/ **FCNSW Mobile command vehicle.**
2/ **FCNSW Staff and RFS.** All photos: FCNSW

They are on for seven days and rotate like this for up to six months”.

“We also have a network of five fire towers in the region operated by our team. They are now augmented with remote sensing cameras that scan the horizon and alert us if they detect smoke in their field of vision”.

“Fire towers are very effective at identifying smoke early. They cover a far greater area than just our forest – they cover the whole region.” The numbers support Tijmen’s comments. “We did some assessment last year, and of the fires we detected

from those towers (which were also reported to the RFS) 58% were detected by Forestry Corporation before they were reported through [000]”.

“Importantly, the fires that start in remote areas and have the potential to become bigger and more complex, are often first reported by our network of fire towers enabling in-time suppression.”

NO HOLDING BACK

Forestry Corporation’s firefighting training is nationally recognised, and training camps are held in the off-season every year. What

is also vital in the firefighting effort is the Corporation’s heavy plant and collaboration between key agencies is critical aerial firefighting assets.

The bulldozers and excavators – which are used for harvesting trees or building roads – become critical to the response effort when fire strikes. Heavy equipment can rapidly create bare earth soil breaks, known as control lines, and soil, via the separation of continuous fuel, is the most effective way to snuff out fire.

“It’s all about rapid detection, rapid response, and a heavy weight of attack at this time of year. We will throw everything at it. It’s common for our firefighting helicopter, our 4WD and heavy firefighting units and our dozers to all be responding to a fire at the same time.”

Throughout our response, we will also be in close contact with the RFS making sure the whole effort is coordinated,” Tijmen said.

“Forestry Corporation’s Map App- designed inhouse is on I-pads that all staff carry with them. It provides all the organisation’s geographic information spatially (in real time). Staff can drop a pin of an incident location or draw a control strategy for everyone to see at a moment’s notice”. “Drones with heat detection technology are also quickly becoming vital for getting eyes into difficult terrain, or for detecting persistent hot spots that are invisible to the naked eye post-fire”.



Business Grants

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

Enews has partnered with a professional grant writing business. Watch this space as not all grants are made public. We will publish grants for various states/

territories for our industry here in Enews. Our connection might be available to assist you with eligibility criteria, grant writing, application process and

lodgement. They have a high success rate, so contact us if you would like to make an appointment. Contact: editors@timberandforestrynews.com

GKNP - Grant closing soon

FOR businesses impacted by the announcement of the GKNP, this grant may provide some assistance but you need to act now as it closes on Dec 8 and there is a limited pool of funds! If you need assistance, contact us and we will arrange for a free consultation with our grant advisor.

FORESTRY INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN SUPPORT PROGRAM

Supports businesses impacted by the moratorium on timber harvesting within the proposed boundary of the Great Koala National Park.

The objectives of the Program are to provide financial support to impacted businesses that have had the majority of their hardwood or by-product supply cut from sawmills that have had a reduction in their wood supply as a consequence of the moratorium on harvesting in the Great Koala National Park.

The required outcomes of the Program are that impacts on the operations of impacted businesses are reduced by the financial support provided by this Program.

The scope and types of initiatives offered by the grant opportunity aim at including short term targeted support to offset the increased costs



The moratorium on timber harvesting in the GKNP has deeply affected businesses. This grant will assist some of those most affected by the announcement. Image: Shutterstock

on impacted businesses of hardwood and by-product goods and freight, reducing the immediate financial burden caused by supplier impacts.

To be eligible for grant funding, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- You are an impacted business that (directly or indirectly) sources at least 50% of hardwood or by-products from a sawmill or contractor that has had the majority of their hardwood or by-product supply cut through reduced wood supply agreements as a consequence of the moratorium on harvesting in

the Great Koala National Park

- You have a contract, agreement or other supporting evidence of supply (direct or indirect) from a sawmill or contractor that has had the majority of their hardwood or by-product supply cut through reduced wood supply agreements as a consequence of the moratorium
- You operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or company in Australia
- You have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
- You are registered with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

GRANT DETAILS

Provider: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
Amount: Up to \$100,000
ROUND 1

Opens: 7 October 2025

Closes: 8 December 2025

Location: NSW

Who Can Apply:

Businesses impacted by GKNP moratorium

Co-Contribution Required:
None specified
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/forestry-industry-supply-chain-support-program>



The Komatsu 895 Firefighter, the game changer for fire management

Komatsu 895 Forwarder fitted with the demountable RL21 firefighting unit integrated into the log bunk including;

- 20,000 Litre custom designed water tank
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- Two water cannons delivering 450 L/min up to 40m range

The 895 ready to fight fires or back to work in under two hours

Editorial correction

Enews apologises for story in Issue 875 “GKNP ACCU funding doesn’t stack up”.

THE story discussed the Improved Native Forest Management (INFM) Method proposed as an ACCU by the NSW government, and concerns from various parts of the timber sector regarding the basis of the proposed method.

Within the story, *Enews* linked to the recent Land Use Review and Comparison report completed by Indufor for the Central West and Murray Region Forestry Hubs. We suggested that data revealed in this report could be interpreted in ways that questioned the economic basis of the proposed method.

This was intended to be an editorial comment that compared the report’s findings of comparable economic and

environmental benefits for Timber Plantations and Environmental Plantings across NSW and northern Victoria to the NSW Government’s forecast economic benefits of the GKNP, however it was worded in such a way that this intention was not at all clear.

The Land Use Review and Comparison report itself focuses solely on investigating competing land uses in the regions covered and makes no mention of the INFM method, nor does it concern itself with the GKNP.



Occasionally, we get it wrong. Working together, we can find a solution. Image: Shutterstock

The linkage was made by Enews with no input from MRFH or CWFH and we apologise for drawing a conclusion that is not supported by the facts of the report.

In our coverage of the GKNP,

we are having to read and synthesise many reports weekly, as well as conducting original interviews and keeping abreast of other coverage of the issues. Occasionally, we will, as here, get it wrong. We will always admit such errors and do our best to clarify the facts of each

story, because this issue is too important to get wrong.

The online issue has been updated accordingly, our sincere apologies to the teams at the Central West and Murray Region Forestry Hubs for our mistake.

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Image: Freepik

Who benefits from housing intensification?

Research to explore New Zealand's intensification boom and potential impact housing reforms are having on inequality.

UNIVERSITY of Auckland researchers have received a \$853,000 Marsden Fund grant to answer one of New Zealand's biggest housing questions: who actually benefits from upzoning?

Associate Professor Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy and Distinguished Professor Peter Phillips are leading a team of researchers to investigate the social and economic effects of large-scale zoning reforms, including Auckland's Unitary Plan. They are working to understand how upzoning (housing intensification) has affected communities and neighbourhoods, and whether it has widened or reduced inequality.

"Where we live and grow up matters for a variety of life outcomes," says Greenaway-McGrevy, "so it's important to think about how zoning reform can change the geography of opportunity."

Auckland's 2016 reform upzoned about three-quarters of its residential land, allowing medium- and high-density housing in areas previously limited to single-house zones. Earlier Marsden funded research by Greenaway-McGrevy and co-authors found the move sparked a surge in housing construction and helped ease rental pressures.

But while the reforms succeeded in boosting supply, he's now interested

in uncovering the socio-economic effects.

"On the one hand, the potential for upzoning to exacerbate inequalities within cities raises real concerns. On the other, widespread reforms may also enable housing options in neighbourhoods that were previously inaccessible to many households," says Greenaway-McGrevy.

"There remains an acute lack of evidence on the effects of widespread zoning reforms on spatial inequality because, until recently, such reforms



Associate Professor Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy. Image: University of Auckland

have been rare. Yet investigating and understanding the outcomes is critical to evaluate the potential impacts of current policy proposals and to inform the ongoing design of zoning changes."

Using evidence from New Zealand's

groundbreaking zoning reforms, the study will provide the first robust case studies on how large-scale upzoning affects neighbourhood composition, opportunity, and social mobility, offering insights for policymakers in NZ and abroad.

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- NEW ZEALAND UPDATE • ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES
- ALONG WITH OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS



SIM-PAC sustainability awards

AT the upcoming Asia Pacific awards being held on 17 November, we thought we would highlight one of the finalists from the Timber industry.

PORTA – OWNED BY BORG GROUP SINCE NOVEMBER 2024

Porta is leading the way in circular product design, transforming urban wood residues such as particleboard, timber offcuts, pallets, and frame and truss timber into new high-quality particleboard. This circularity journey ensures valuable materials remain in use while meeting rigorous strength, quality, and traceability standards. Key highlights of Porta's sustainability leadership include Responsible sourcing: PEFC™, Responsible Wood, and FSC-certified timbers. Healthy buildings: Global GreenTag certified products ensuring safe indoor environments.

Renewable energy: Biomass heat, more than 47,000 solar panels, and onsite batteries powering facilities. Water and waste efficiency: Advanced recycling systems reducing landfill impacts. Porta is redefining lifecycle design in building materials and helping deliver a low-carbon, circular economy.

TIMBER INDUSTRY PRESENTERS AT SIM-PAC LIVE

Presenters include: **Matt de Jongh** - sustainability manager from **Responsible Wood** is presenting on the future of sustainably managed forests and the

role of sustainable wood in decarbonisation.

Clarissa Brandt – Strategic relations & Communication Manger from **Timber Queensland** is presenting on more mass timber buildings for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.



1/ **Matt de Jongh, Responsible Wood.**
2/ **Clarissa Brandt, Timber Queensland.**
Images: supplied



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RW Annual Report 2024-25 released

Responsible Wood has released their annual report of activities covering 2024-2025. Within the Chairperson's report, Dr Tony Bartlett ASFM says 'Responsible Wood continues to deliver high quality management of Australia and New Zealand's PEFC endorsed forest certification scheme as well as contributing strongly to PEFC's governance and global work programs.'

The annual report includes information on standards and accreditation, certification and endorsement, updates



on forums, events, community programs partnerships and awards across Australia and New Zealand

Click here to download the report.



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QUARTER PAGE: **\$220**

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW
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Have some news to share?

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