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More concerns emerge over INFM scheme

COVER STORY P 2



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Senators urged to examine potential 85-year gap

FWCA says new claims of a 100-year climate benefit make unanswered liability questions even more important.

FOREST & Wood Communities Australia (FWCA) is urging Senators to closely examine an apparent 85-year liability gap in the Improved Native Forest Management (INFM) carbon method before deciding whether to disallow it.

The call follows the Nature Conservation Council-led statement urging the Greens to save the INFM method and claiming that, over 100 years, only around 10 per cent of the carbon benefit would be converted into carbon credits, leaving around 90 per cent as an additional emissions reduction.

FWCA Executive Officer Steve Dobbyns said such claims make it even more important that Senators understand exactly how the method's 100-year promise works.

"A modelled carbon benefit over 100 years is not the same thing as a guaranteed carbon benefit over 100 years."

"Before Senators rely on claims that 90 per cent of the benefit will remain in the



FWCA Chair Steve Dobbyns is not holding back in thoroughly examining and questioning the INFM in the lead up to the Senate disallowance vote. He has brought up several key, essential and concerning points about the INFM which have not been addressed by the government. Image: FWCA

atmosphere as additional abatement, they need to know who carries the liability if the assumptions about leakage, permanence or fire prove wrong."

THE 85-YEAR QUESTION

The INFM has a 15-year crediting period but a 100-year permanence period.

Section 18 is intended to account for increased harvesting and leakage during

years 16–100. But its specific obligation to cancel ACCUs applies to:

"A project proponent that is a State or the government of a State..."

At the same time, section 15 expressly contemplates a project proponent that is not the State or State Government.

"The wording therefore appears to allow a non-State entity, potentially including a private investment entity, to become the approved project proponent without being captured by section 18's specific 85-year cancellation obligation," Mr Dobbyns said.

"This is not a minor drafting issue. Section 18 deals with increased harvesting elsewhere in public and private native forests, precisely the leakage that could undermine the claimed climate benefit."

The issue is more concerning because the exposure draft did not contain the same apparent gap. It restricted proponents to State Governments or designated State authorities and applied the post-crediting obligation to "the project proponent".

The final method opened the door to non-State proponents while expressly

“THE NCC IS ASKING SENATORS TO RELY ON A CLAIMED 100-YEAR CLIMATE BENEFIT

Cont P 3

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From P 2

framing section 18 around State-government proponents.

"Who asked for those changes, and why?"

PRIVATE INVESTMENT MAKES THE CHANGE MATERIAL

The Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation (ACBF) has publicly acknowledged its involvement in developing and promoting the INFM concept, including work with the INFM's lead developer Professor Andrew Macintosh at ANU.

Its Chair, former Treasury Secretary Ken Henry, continues to publicly champion INFM as a means of replacing native forest harvesting with carbon revenue.

FWCA is also aware of major institutional-investor interest in monetising forest carbon.

"We are not alleging that ACBF, an investor or any individual caused this drafting change," Mr Dobbyns said.

"But when private investment in forest carbon is clearly contemplated, Parliament is entitled to ask whether opening the method to private proponents while limiting the specific 85-year liability to State proponents was deliberate."

"If it was accidental, fix it. If it was deliberate, explain it before the Senate votes."

ERAC'S OWN ADVICE RAISES THE SAME QUESTION

The Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee relied on the years 16-100 safeguard when finding that the method met the Conservative Offsets Integrity Standard.

Its published advice says that if harvesting increases elsewhere in the State: "the proponent must cancel" the appropriate ACCUs.

But the final section 18 does not say simply, "the proponent". It expressly refers to a proponent "that is a State or the government of a State."

FWCA says Senators should ask whether ERAC assessed the final method

on the understanding that the 85-year safeguard applied to every permissible project proponent.

And what happens when the forest burns?

FWCA said today's claim of a 100-year carbon benefit also raises a separate permanence question.

"Protected from timber harvesting for 100 years is not the same thing as protected from bushfire for 100 years."

Under the broader ACCU Scheme, a significant natural disturbance such as bushfire must be reported. But previously issued ACCUs are not automatically cancelled simply because a forest burns.

Depending on the circumstances, the Clean Energy Regulator may require lost carbon stores to be restored or ACCUs to be relinquished. The scheme also applies a 5 per cent risk-of-reversal buffer.

"So, Senators should ask: if a major or repeated bushfire reverses carbon used to justify the project, who bears the cost of restoring that carbon and under exactly what circumstances are previously issued credits returned?"

"The NCC is asking Senators to rely on a claimed 100-year climate benefit. Senators are entitled to understand the risks and liabilities sitting behind that claim."

SENATORS SHOULD NOT VOTE BLIND

FWCA is asking Senators to obtain clear answers before voting:

- Can a private entity become an INFM project proponent?
- Does section 18's specific 85-year cancellation liability apply to it?
- If not, what equivalent mechanism accounts for State-wide leakage?
- Why were the proponent and section 18 provisions changed after consultation?
- Who sought or proposed those changes?
- Did ERAC assess the final wording knowing about the distinction?
- What happens to the claimed 100-year carbon benefit following major or repeated bushfire, and who ultimately carries that financial risk?

"The INFM is already contentious over additionality, leakage, baselines and carbon accounting. This apparent 85-year gap further undermines confidence in the methodology."

"We are not asking Senators to accept FWCA's interpretation without scrutiny. We are asking them not to vote blind."

"Individual projects could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in carbon credits while claiming climate benefits lasting a century. The legal and financial responsibility for delivering that promise must be absolutely clear before the Senate votes."

On the cover: The NCC is claiming that over 100 years only 10 per cent of the carbon benefit from the GKNP would be converted to carbon credits, however, FWCA urges senators to be aware of the liability if assumptions are incorrect. Image: Shutterstock

ACMA confirms receipt of complaint

Industry was not happy with the bias in ABC's Four Corners 'Timber Turmoil'

STEVE Dobbyns, Chair of FWCA, has received formal confirmation from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) that his broadcasting complaint about the ABC's Four Corners episode "Timber Turmoil" has been lodged and is under assessment.

In an email, ACMA outlined the standard process: it will review the complaint against relevant broadcasting codes, the broadcaster's response, and a copy of the episode if required. Assessment typically takes several weeks, with more complex matters potentially exceeding four weeks. Outcomes of complaint assessments are published periodically.

ACMA noted that if further investigation is warranted, the process could extend over several months, with results also made public.

The correspondence provides the expected procedural update and confirms the matter is now in the agency's hands.

"IF IT WAS ACCIDENTAL, FIX IT. IF IT WAS DELIBERATE, EXPLAIN IT"

Preventing musculoskeletal disorder risk in hazardous manual handling

MUSCULOSKELETAL disorders (MSDs) remain one of the most common work-related conditions in Australia. Tackling their causes improves workers' lives and delivers clear business benefits through fewer lost-time injuries and stronger productivity.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has developed practical guidance specifically for timber manufacturing sites. Titled *Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) Risk in Hazardous Manual Handling*, the document helps businesses address the physical demands of softwood processing while meeting legal duties under work health and safety laws.

MSDs linked to hazardous manual tasks include soft-tissue sprains and strains, disc damage, joint injuries to shoulders, wrists and knees, and conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome. Safe Work Australia data show traumatic joint, ligament and muscle/tendon injuries account for the largest share of serious claims. Body stressing such as repetitive movement, sustained or awkward postures, and forceful exertion, is a major contributor.

Hazardous manual handling is not limited to lifting. Australian law defines it as any task involving lift, lower, push, pull, carry, hold or restrain actions that include repetitive or sustained force, high or sudden force, repetitive movement, sustained or awkward postures, or exposure to vibration. On timber sites these risks commonly appear when workers clear timber



It is not just lifting that carries the hazardous manual handling label. Businesses need to be aware of movements that are repetitive, require pushing, pulling, or standing in awkward positions. Image: Shutterstock

blockages, move long or heavy pieces, perform high-volume low-weight tasks such as grading and strapping, push heavy trolleys, or handle materials stored at extreme heights.

AFPA recommends a risk-management process centred on participative ergonomics. Workers who

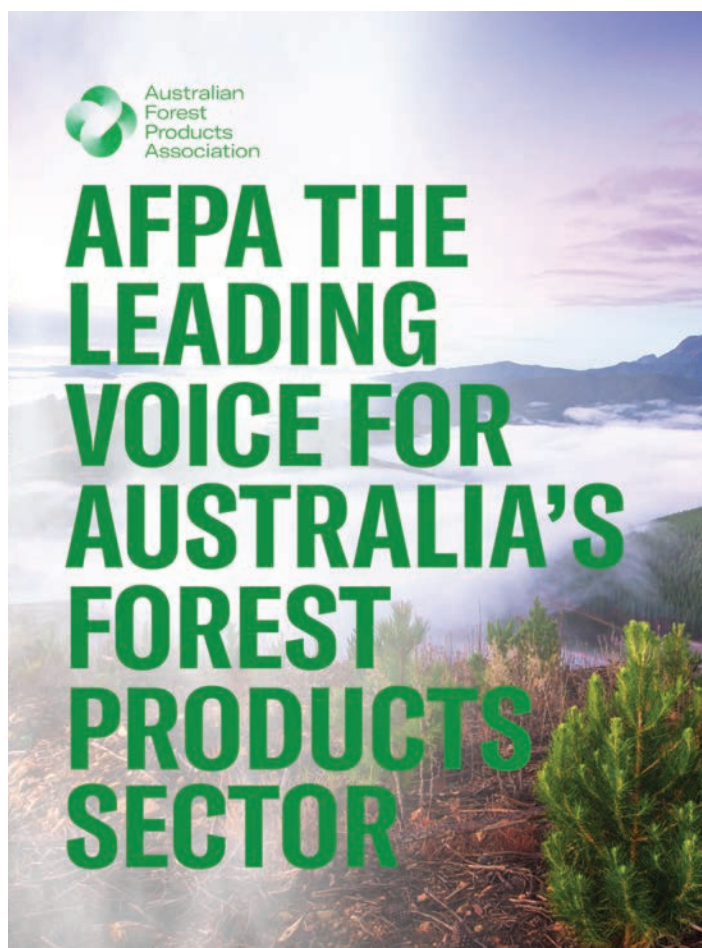
perform the tasks possess the best knowledge of the hazards. Small teams of supervisors and operators identify risks, assess them using tools from the model Code of Practice or WorkSafe Queensland's PERforM handbook, develop controls, and evaluate results. Management commitment and access to ergonomics expertise for complex problems is essential.

Controls follow the hierarchy of effectiveness. Elimination is preferred, examples include bearer pusher systems, process optimisation to reduce jams, overhead gantries, robotics for grading, and height-adjustable equipment. Where elimination is not practicable, substitution, isolation and engineering solutions such as reach poles, electric tug trolleys, vacuum lifters and bin lifters reduce exposure. Administrative measures (task rotation, storage-height protocols, two-person lifts) and PPE support higher-level controls but should not be relied upon alone.

Beyond physical factors, psychosocial aspects of work and individual worker characteristics also influence MSD risk and should be considered in prevention strategies. Early detection through onsite allied-health support, work-acclimatisation programs for new starters, and structured return-to-work plans further reduce the likelihood of chronic injury.

Proper induction, task-specific training in manual-handling principles, competency assessment and regular refreshers remain foundational. The AFPA guide aligns with the model Code of Practice for Hazardous Manual Tasks and international standards such as ISO 45001, offering the timber sector a clear, industry-focused path to safer manual handling.

View the full report here.



Big planting season lays foundation for future forests

ONEFORTYONE'S 2026 planting season has wrapped up, marking the start of the next generation of forests across the Green Triangle.

Supported by favourable seasonal rainfall, the Glencoe Nursery dispatched almost 6.5 million seedlings to forest growers across the region, including OneFortyOne's own estate.

Estate manager Marcel Griffiths said the planting operation was bigger than ever, with five planting crews working across 45 days, re-establishing 3,143 hectares of land, including OneFortyOne's recently acquired Limestone Estate in South Western Victoria.

"This year we sent 2,635,200 seedlings across the border to re-establish parts of Limestone Estate," Marcel said.

"This established new radiata pine forests across 1,470 hectares of the estate."

Nursery manager Craig Torney said the busy season needed a team effort across the supply chain.

"What stood out this season was the great communication across the entire



1/ The team includes Glencoe nursery staff, delivery drivers and five planting teams. Image: OneFortyOne

2/ Glencoe nursery supplied over 6.4 million seedlings this season to help reestablish forests across the Green Triangle. Image: OneFortyOne/Kate Hill

process, from the Glencoe Nursery team through to delivery drivers and planting contractors," Craig said.

"It's always rewarding to see the nursery alive with action, and everyone working together and powering through another season."

The nursery delivered a total of 6,467,500 seedlings, of which 5,597,855 were planted in OneFortyOne forests.

"The team did an amazing job coordinating an already full schedule while bringing Limestone Estate into the planting program," Marcel said.

"Their professionalism and commitment ensured a safe and efficient operation and laid the foundations for the next generation of forests."

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Forest and wood fibre values set to grow

THE upcoming Residues2Revenues Conference in Brisbane on 23–24 September centres on converting wood residues and forestry byproducts into valuable commercial resources. With new products such as bioenergy, biofuels, and renewable bioproducts; forest managers and sawmill managers will find the pace of value creation from wood residues has accelerated.

This event sold out last year in Rotorua, New Zealand. In recent times bioeconomy science innovators are using new chemical processes from Scandinavia and Europe to Australasia. The time is ripe for foresters, engineers and forest technologists to see where wood residues technologies are heading.



Lab team at Futurity with asphalt samples using lignin. Image: Futurity Bio-Ventures

Core conference topics feature large-scale energy transformation, next-generation biofuels, industrial heat transitions, pyrolysis, and operational recovery efficiencies:

- A key wood-to-energy project with great potential will be outlined by Miriam Blaine from HAMR Energy. They aim to take forest wastes for producing green methanol and sustainable aviation

fuel, backed by \$32 million from the Australian government.

- Jacob Kohn, from Futurity Bio-Ventures will outline the use of lignin for roading asphalt. They are set to harness lignin, the world's second most abundant natural polymer, to develop alternatives to fossil-based petrochemicals.
- Curtis Gibson from A&E Gibson will highlight the design and build of an innovative conveyor system for Seata Group, providing an integrated material handling solution suited to the demands of Seata's pyrolysis and gasification process. It forms an important part of Seata's pilot plant in Glenn Innes, NSW.

This popular 'Residues-2-Revenues' Conference is also a great place to network with your industry colleagues with mutual interests in lifting productivity for foresters and millowners alike for using wood residues.

For more information see:
<https://innovatek.co.nz/event/residues2revenues-2026/>



2026 residues2revenues\$

WOOD RESIDUES PRODUCT & PROCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

We have the potential to transform the forestry sector into a provider of biofuels, bioenergy and a range of renewable bioproducts. This event helps forest owners and managers, harvesting contractors, sawmills and wood manufacturing companies better understand the real value of wood residues and the opportunities in supplying this growing market.

**23-24 SEPTEMBER 2026,
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Go to our website or scan the code for more information.
www.woodresidues.events

Please contact Gordon Thomson for any enquiries on:
Email: gordon.thomson@fiea.org.nz Phone: (+64) 7 921 1384 Mob: (+64) 27 275 8022




SEPTEMBER

4: New South Wales & ACT Timber & Hardware Industry Awards – Doltone House, Sydney 6.30pm - 11.30pm.

Join us in celebrating the NSW Timber and Hardware Industry. For more information, visit <https://www.ntha.com.au/events/2026-industry-awards/> or contact tahlia@ntha.com.au

10: Forestry Australia Webinar 1 – ONLINE EVENT, 9.30am - 10.30am

AEST. Session One - Forest Fire Science: An Australian and US perspective.

Registrations close 9 Sep at 10am. To book, visit <https://forestry.memnet.com.au/MemberSelfService/EventBooking.aspx>

12: 2026 WFTN Cocktails for Charity – Cloudland, Brisbane, 1.30pm - 6.00pm.

Join us for an afternoon of networking, drinks and canapés as we come together to raise much-needed funds for a remarkable Queensland charity making a real difference in the lives of children affected by domestic and family violence. In support of Zephyr Education Limited. Further information, and ticket sales visit <https://events.ntha.com.au/events/nationaltimberhardwareassociationntha/2273829>

16: WoodSolutions and Timberinsight' Conference – Crown Perth, 8.30am - 5.00pm.

Full day conference and exhibition. Topic: Transitioning to timber and MMC. For more information and booking, visit <https://timberinsight.com.au/events/woodsolutions-built-evolution-transitioning-to-timber-and-mmc/>

22: Forestry Australia Webinar 2 – ONLINE EVENT, 11.30am - 12.30pm

AEST. Session Two - Prescribed Burning in Practice: Lessons from California and Western Australia. Registrations close 9 Sep at 10am. To book, visit <https://forestry.memnet.com.au/MemberSelfService/EventBooking.aspx>

23-24: residues2revenues Conference, North Quay, Brisbane.

We have the potential to transform the forestry sector into a provider of biofuels, bioenergy and a range of renewable bioproducts. This event highlights the real value of wood residues. To register or see the speaker program visit <https://innovatek.co.nz/event/residues2revenues-2026/#Registration>

OCTOBER

7-9: Forestry Australia 2026 Symposium – Rex Hotel, Canberra.

This Symposium will explore how the forestry sector can articulate and share its values and engage constructively with diverse audiences and stakeholders — from local communities and Traditional Owners, to politicians and policymakers, the media, and the wider public. For more information visit <https://www.forestry.org.au/2026-symposium/>

19-20: International Woodchip and Biomass Trade Conference – Singapore.

The conference will serve as a key meeting point for the global biomass community. For more information and to register, visit: <https://web.cvent.com/event/7fd17c6e-d403-4eb4-a6cd-ab69df757864/summary>

21: SAVE THE DATE: Timber Design Awards – Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks, Sydney. More details and ticket booking information to follow.

30: SA, NT & WA Timber & Hardware Industry Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide, 6.30pm - 11.30pm.

Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. For more information, visit <https://www.ntha.com.au/events/2026-industry-awards/> or contact tahlia@ntha.com.au

NOVEMBER

8-13: The Gottstein Trust's Understanding Forest Science Course – The Country Club, Launceston, Tasmania.

For those working in, or with an interest or association with the timber and forestry products sector, this unique course will provide an update on core aspects of forest science and aspects of management of the nation's public and private estates. Participants will also gain a better understanding of the national and international forces impacting upon forests. Bookings are now open. For more information, visit <https://gottsteintrust.org/> or phone Helen Murray on 0419 991 424

18: 2026 SIM-PAC Sustainability Awards – Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney.

The Awards recognise practical leadership in decarbonisation, circular economy, and sustainable industrial practice across the Asia-Pacific region. Further information will be available soon on the Awards website <https://www.sim-pac.live/2026-awards>

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The conversation shaping WA's housing future

WoodSolutions Built Evolution Conference.

WESTERN Australia needs more homes, delivered faster.

As housing demand continues to grow, industry and government are increasingly exploring modern methods of construction (MMC), prefabrication and advanced manufacturing to improve productivity, address workforce constraints and accelerate housing delivery. At the same time, there is growing focus on lower-carbon construction, local manufacturing capability and building systems that can deliver greater certainty, efficiency and performance.

Timber is emerging as an important part of that conversation.

From lightweight timber framing and prefabricated housing systems through to engineered wood and mass timber construction, timber is helping unlock new approaches to the way homes and buildings are designed, manufactured and delivered.

As Western Australia considers how it will meet future housing demand, understanding the role timber can play has never been more important.

That's why, on 16 September at Crown Perth, WoodSolutions and Timber Insight are bringing together the people leading some of the most important conversations in housing delivery, timber and modern construction at Built Evolution: Transitioning to Timber and MMC.

Craig Oatway, CEO, Timber Insight shared, "Western Australia has an opportunity to be at the forefront of



Delegates from Multiplex, Aurecon, Donald Cant Watts Corke, and Murdoch University observe a large-scale mass timber lift during the WA Innovation Executive Market Tour at Boola Katitjin, showcasing advanced engineered timber construction in action. All images: WoodSolutions

modern construction. WoodSolutions Built Evolution is about bringing together industry, government and the supply chain to explore what's working, what's next and how we can accelerate housing delivery while building capability across the sector."

WHY THIS EVENT MATTERS

Western Australia's housing challenge is driving increased interest in modern methods of construction (MMC), prefabrication and new approaches to housing delivery.

Across government and industry, organisations are exploring how to improve productivity, accelerate construction and build the capability needed to meet future demand. Timber is increasingly part of that conversation.

WoodSolutions Built Evolution provides a unique opportunity to hear directly from government representatives, industry leaders and project teams exploring these challenges, and what they mean for the future of housing and timber construction in WA.

HEAR FROM THE LEADERS DRIVING CHANGE

The program includes:

- Minister John Carey on accelerating housing delivery through innovation, local manufacturing and strategic investment.

- Michael MacGowan (HIA WA) on housing supply, market conditions and emerging opportunities across the WA housing sector.
- The Role of MMC in Affordable Housing panel featuring, HIA WA, Keystart, Offsite and AAA.
- Building the Future of Lightweight Timber Framing, featuring Kevin Peachey (FWPA), Rhianna Robinson (FTMA/USC) and Jon Shanks (TimberEd), exploring how research and industry collaboration are shaping the future of timber construction.
- Matt de Jong (Responsible Wood) on timber supply, carbon storage and verified sustainability.
- Tim Woods and Edwina Vulcz on the nationally recognised Precinct Project and its role in transforming plantation timber into engineered wood products and prefabricated construction solutions.
- Brad Ridolfi (Scott Park Group) on scaling housing delivery through timber prefabrication.
- Daryl Patterson (Building 4.0 CRC) on kit-of-parts construction and practical pathways to faster, more scalable housing delivery.
- Tom Rickerby (Wesbeam) and Ben Cox (NeXTimber) on locally manufactured engineered timber products and the rise of Australian mass timber.
- Ian Meachem (Constructive PD) sharing lessons from delivering mass timber projects in Australia.
- DevelopmentWA on enabling the next generation of housing through innovative and industrialised housing solutions.

Kevin Peachey, Program Head, WoodSolutions said, "As the built environment continues to explore modern methods of construction, timber is increasingly becoming part of conversations around productivity, prefabrication, sustainability and housing delivery. WoodSolutions Built Evolution provides an opportunity for industry

From P 8

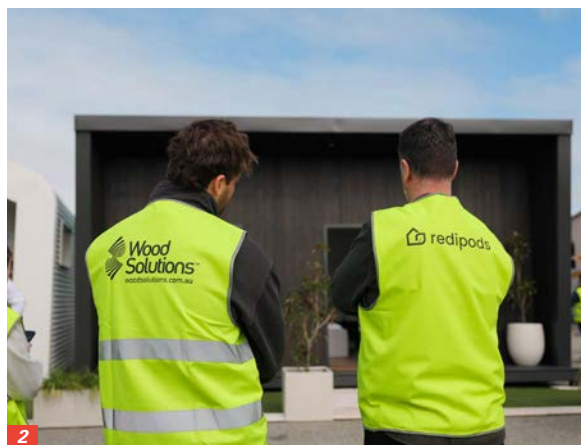
to come together, share knowledge and explore how timber can contribute to the next generation of homes and buildings."

WHY ATTEND?

Whether you're a builder, developer, architect, engineer, manufacturer or supplier, WoodSolutions Built Evolution offers an opportunity to:

- Understand the latest developments in MMC and housing delivery
- Explore where timber fits within emerging construction approaches
- Learn from real-world projects and case studies
- Hear directly from government and industry leaders
- Connect with decision-makers across the built environment

The event also features an all-day exhibition and concludes with the Australian premiere screening of *Our Future: Built by Nature*, highlighting



1/ Industry representatives from WoodSolutions and Redipods inspect modular and prefabricated housing systems during the WA Innovation Executive Market Tour, highlighting practical MMC solutions for faster housing delivery.

2/ An Offsite representative examines a fully insulated prefabricated timber wall panel during the WA Innovation Executive Market Tour, demonstrating the precision and efficiency of modern offsite construction methods.

landmark projects helping decarbonise the built environment, followed by networking drinks.

With less than three weeks to go, this is one of the final opportunities to join the conversation shaping the future of housing, timber and modern construction across Western Australia.



SECURE YOUR PLACE

Date: Wednesday 16 September 2026

Location: Crown Perth

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

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New pre-owned equipment, in stock and ready to go

FOR timber and forest industry businesses, materials-handling equipment is rarely an optional extra. Whether moving packs of timber around a yard, feeding production, loading and unloading vehicles or handling long and bulky products, the right machine can have a direct impact on productivity, safety and the efficient use of valuable space.

But when a machine needs replacing or additional capacity is required, lead times, budgets and the urgency of getting equipment into operation can all influence the decision.

That is where pre-owned equipment can provide a practical alternative.

HUBTEX Australia maintains a selection of new forklifts and sideloaders, as well as quality-approved pre-owned equipment in stock. With machines available for delivery across Australia, businesses can access specialist materials-handling equipment without necessarily waiting for a machine to be built and shipped from overseas.

For an industry accustomed to handling long, heavy and awkward loads, this can be particularly relevant. HUBTEX Australia's stock includes new and pre-owned sideloaders, multidirectional forklifts and other industrial vehicles designed for demanding applications. Pre-owned machines are typically inspected, serviced and, where required, refurbished before being offered for sale.

The appeal is not simply about getting a machine sooner. New stock equipment provides access to current technology, modern safety features and the ability to improve productivity without extended lead times. Meanwhile, a well-maintained pre-owned unit can provide proven handling capability while reducing the initial capital investment.

Multidirectional forklifts and sideloaders are particularly suited to applications where long loads need to be manoeuvred through restricted spaces. Their ability to move in multiple directions can help businesses make better use of available storage areas and improve handling efficiency, considerations



1

that are familiar to timber processors, manufacturers, logistics operators and other businesses dealing with long or bulky products.

HUBTEX Australia has more than 30 years' experience delivering tailored materials-handling solutions. Its timber-handling experience extends across applications involving products such as timber, chipboard, plywood, roof trusses, doors and kitchen worktops. The company's approach recognises that there is no single handling solution that suits every operation, with equipment selected around the specific requirements of the customer.

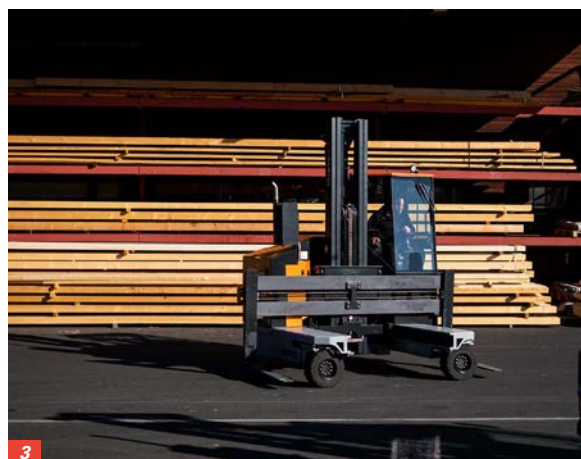
The availability of both new and pre-owned machines provides businesses with greater flexibility when planning their investment. Outright purchase, lease-to-buy and casual or long-term rental options are available, subject to machine availability and application suitability.

For businesses currently considering a replacement machine, adding capacity or simply looking for a more immediate solution, HUBTEX Australia's in-stock range is worth investigating.

Selected new and pre-owned HUBTEX machines will be featured through the



2



3

1/ HUBTEX DQ-X 45 multidirectional forklift handling long timber packs in a high-bay warehouse. The machine's ability to travel in multiple directions helps maximise narrow-aisle storage and safe retrieval of lengthy loads.

2/ HUBTEX DQ-X multidirectional forklift operating outdoors among long timber stacks. These machines are designed for the precise, space-efficient handling of bulky and lengthy loads typical of the timber and forest industries.

3/ HUBTEX Maxx 45 sideloader/multidirectional truck transporting long timber beams in a busy outdoor yard. Quality-approved pre-owned and new units are available for immediate delivery across Australia. All images: HUBTEX

magazine's Buy & Sell board. The HUBTEX ad will be linked to its website, providing readers with a convenient way to see what equipment is currently available. As stock changes regularly, businesses that do not see the right machine immediately are encouraged to contact the HUBTEX Australia team to discuss their requirements.

For an industry where keeping material moving is critical, having another pathway to capable equipment could be worth a closer look.

For further information, visit the **HUBTEX website: <https://hubtex.com.au>** or phone the team on 1300 365 621.

Skills Week marked by record enrolments in vocational education

NSW public schools are leading an increase in the number of students signing up to vocational education and training courses, which are helping them gain practical, job-ready skills for rewarding careers while also addressing critical shortages.

As the nation marked National Skills Week from 24 August, new National Centre for Vocational Education Research figures show that NSW VET in school commencements increased by 30.8% or 13,850 across all three school sectors to 58,785 in 2025.

This was led by a surge at NSW public schools, where commencements rose by a massive 36.5% from 29,005 in 2024 to 39,605 in 2025.

This increase in commencements has driven total VET in school enrolments at NSW public schools to a record high of 44,550 in 2025.

NSW Department of Education



More young people are recognising the value of practical, job-ready skills. Image: Shutterstock

Secretary Murat Dizdar said vocational education and training (VET) in schools gave students valuable skills, experiences and insight into the many pathways available to them after school.

"National Skills Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible work of our VET teaching workforce and the opportunities they create for students every day.

"By giving students practical, industry-

connected skills while they are still at school, VET opens their eyes to careers they may not have considered and helps them make informed choices about their future.

"VET is about giving young people a head start, building the practical skills, confidence and experience they need to move from the classroom into further training, further study and rewarding careers."

The lift in high school VET numbers has been supported by the NSW Government expansion of the Educational Pathways Program, and increased support for the Regional Industry Education Partnerships Program and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs).

SBATs allow students to achieve a VET qualification and their HSC at the same time as gaining valuable work skills through paid employment.

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Chain of custody certification

Why frame and truss manufacturers need to pay attention.

CERTIFICATION is no longer just a forest or sawmill issue. As builders, governments and consumers demand responsible sourcing, frame and truss manufacturers are being drawn into the conversation. FTMA Australia's recent membership of Responsible Wood, and Kersten Gentle's appointment to its board, signal that the sector wants a seat at the table.

In a recent FTMA interview, Kersten Gentle spoke with Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, to unpack what certification actually means and why it matters for manufacturers.

Responsible Wood is an Accredited Standards Development Organisation licensed by Standards Australia. It develops and maintains two key Australian standards: AS/NZS 4708 for Sustainable Forest Management, which includes 218 sustainability indicators, and the chain of custody standard that tracks timber from certified forests through the supply chain to the end user. "When there's a brand, a logo, it's legitimate, it's fair dinkum and you can trust that mark," Dorries explained.

PEFC, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, acts as the international umbrella. It recognises Responsible Wood and equivalent national schemes around the world, so Australian certified timber is accepted globally as sustainably managed.

Dorries argues that society's expectations have shifted. "We've now realised that we've got seven or eight billion people on a single planet and we can't keep on doing what we have been doing." Forests deliver



L to R: Simon Dorries (CEO of Responsible Wood - Image: Responsible Wood) and Kersten Gentle (FTMA - Image: FTMA) recently discussed the importance of applying certification across the entire forest-to-timber-product chain to support a sustainable timber industry. Image: Responsible Wood

biodiversity, drinking water and support communities. Certification was developed to stop deforestation and prove good management. Younger generations already factor sustainability into purchasing decisions, and the trend is only strengthening.

For the construction sector the stakes are practical. Green Building Council credits for sustainable timber are becoming mandatory in the next Green Star revision. "If you put timber into a commercial project, if you don't have certification, your product doesn't get in there and you don't get to be a supplier," Dorries said. Residential markets are expected to follow as larger builders respond to the same pressures.

Australia already leads the world. While the global average for certified forests sits around 10 per cent, every commercial production forest and plantation in Australia, the large-scale operations that supply the industry, is certified to internationally recognised standards. "We punch way, way, way above our weight," Dorries noted.

That near-universal certification makes chain of custody far more achievable for frame and truss plants than many realise. Most timber arriving from larger and medium sawmills already carries a verified Responsible Wood/PEFC claim. Manufacturers simply need an audited system to pass that claim on. Dorries

pointed out that group schemes can cut costs dramatically. An association such as FTMA could appoint a group manager to develop documentation, train members, run internal audits and coordinate external sampling. External audit costs can fall by 60–70 per cent because not every site is audited each year.

The benefits extend beyond market access. Certification demonstrates a genuine commitment to sustainability, strengthens the industry's competitive story against materials that make weaker environmental claims, and often surfaces useful improvements in workplace health and safety during audits. "We've got a genuine sustainable material and it's the certification backed up by good science, good standards that can demonstrate that and turn that into a genuine value for the truss and frame sector," Dorries said.

Responsible Wood is currently reviewing its Sustainable Forest Management standard. Public comment was open until shortly after the interview. The update strengthens deforestation provisions to align with the EU Deforestation Regulation, improves consideration of Indigenous peoples' aspirations, and formalises climate-change planning requirements for forest managers.

Certification is moving from optional to essential. With Australia's forests already fully certified, group chain-of-custody options available, and market requirements tightening, frame and truss manufacturers have a clear path to turn timber's natural sustainability story into verified commercial advantage. FTMA and Responsible Wood are already working on the practical next steps.

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Behind the label

Stepping inside FSC®-certified forestry.

BY the time forest products reach our everyday lives, it can be easy to lose sight of the forests, people, practices and decisions behind them. This year's FSC Forest Walk brought those connections into focus for businesses that support FSC, giving them a first-hand view of what responsible forestry looks like in Australia.

Each year, FSC Australia and New Zealand invite businesses to get their boots on the ground, stepping into a certified forest to meet the people responsible for its management. For FSC certificate and promotional licence holders, this experience provides them with a first-hand connection between the responsible sourcing commitments they make and the forests those commitments help support locally.

This year, the FSC Forest Walk took place at Taswood Estate in northern Tasmania and was hosted by Timberlands Pacific. The 54,000-hectare plantation estate is predominantly planted with radiata pine and provided the setting for representatives from some of Australia's leading brands, including Coles Group, Kimberly-Clark, Essity, Merry People, Bunnings, Opal, Winc, Uncle Bills and Visy.

The experience began with a smoking ceremony, creating a powerful sense of place and connection to Country. Mark Harriss of Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation invited us to engage and see an alternative view of self, industry and harmony with Country, burning local native plants to create smoke that moved across the participants.

Collaboration and self-ownership were a strong theme throughout Mark's



1/ Mark Harriss of Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation leads the smoking ceremony, burning local native plants to create a sense of place and harmony with Country.

2/ Harvesting in action at Taswood Estate: freshly cut radiata pine logs are stacked as machinery operates in the background under FSC certification.

All images: © FSC Australia and New Zealand / Jasper da Seymour

reflections, particularly the importance of working together in ways that are respectful and responsible to Country. He spoke about the importance of industries such as forestry operating responsibly and in harmony with the landscape.

Braving the elements was all part of the experience, with rain, mud-caked boots and low cloud drifting through the trees as participants witnessed

harvesting in action, something many had never seen before. They learnt how factors such as slope, terrain and environmental values influence the choice of harvesting method, from ground-based and tethered systems to cable harvesting. The team also explained the role of landscape management in forestry, a strategic approach that considers ecological, visual, cultural and sustainability values across the broader landscape, rather than within individual coupes alone.

Skies cleared just in time to provide a clear outlook over the Taswood Estate, showcasing the different age classes of the trees alongside areas of native forest managed for conservation under Timberlands Pacific's FSC certification. A wedge-tailed eagle soared in the distance right on cue as the Timberlands team explained how management focuses on nest protection, disturbance avoidance and landscape-scale habitat retention. This includes nest identification, constraint periods and

Forest Practices Plan prescriptions that establish mandatory protection zones around nests, with restrictions on harvesting, road construction and other operations nearby.

Site re-establishment was another key focus, with participants learning how establishing a healthy, well-stocked crop is critical to achieving good outcomes. Every tree is planted by hand and subject to quality assurance checks to ensure the new crop gets off to a strong start.

Reflecting on the morning's learnings, Sally Wilson, Landscape Specialist at Bunnings, said, "Seeing first-hand how responsible forest management is

“PARTICIPANTS WITNESSED HARVESTING IN ACTION, SOMETHING MANY HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE

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implemented across such a large estate was both impressive and inspiring. From planning and harvesting through to regeneration and habitat protection, it was clear that sustainability and environmental stewardship are at the forefront of every decision."

The smell of freshly harvested pine filled the air as we arrived at a thinning operation, where participants saw first-hand how this practice is used to remove suppressed or poorly formed trees, giving the more dominant, better-formed trees greater space and resources to grow and ultimately meet sawlog specifications. Carefully stepping between the pine trees, participants learned from an Operations Forester how to accurately measure tree diameter at breast height and use a hand-held laser to measure tree height. Getting hands-on with these tools gave participants a better understanding of the skill and attention to detail involved in managing a forest and making decisions that will shape its future.

Warming up by the fire over lunch at Scottsdale Football Clubhouse, we heard from Peter Coleborn, Dorset Council's Bikes and Trails Manager, about how forestry operations and mountain



1/ Timberlands Pacific staff explain how slope, terrain and environmental values shape harvesting methods and landscape management decisions, including nest protection for wedge-tailed eagles, habitat retention and the prescriptions that guide every operation.

2/ Representatives from Coles Group, Kimberly-Clark, Essity, Merry People, Bunnings, Opal, Winc, Uncle Bills, Visy and others come together at the close of the FSC Forest Walk.

biking coexist within the famous Blue Derby network. Coleborn's presentation reflected Timberlands Pacific's commitment to proactive engagement with neighbours and stakeholders. As part of its FSC certification, the company

“IT WAS CLEAR THAT SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY DECISION

is required to meaningfully engage with those who may be affected by forest operations. Timberlands Pacific approaches this with great enthusiasm, and in Derby this includes shuttle operators, tourism businesses, local government, mountain bikers and the broader community.

As the day drew to a close, we heard from participants about what the forest walk experience had given them, including Cassandra Wheat, Head of Product from Merry People, who said, "It was really insightful to see the scale of the operation, both physically and economically, which I hadn't fully appreciated before. I also really enjoyed seeing first-hand the measures in place to protect native flora and fauna, waterways and bird habitats."

Many travelled long distances to attend the event, showing just how valuable opportunities like the FSC Forest Walk are for our stakeholders. The day was a chance to recognise the work of certified forest managers such as Timberlands Pacific and to see what FSC's requirements look like on the ground. As the attendees headed home, we hope they took with them a stronger connection to the forests behind the products they source, and a renewed commitment to supporting responsible forestry through their supply chains.



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Silver flies tested as biological control for giant pine scale

A FOUR-year program has begun testing whether predatory flies can control giant pine scale, an exotic sap-sucking pest that Australian authorities can currently fight only by cutting infested trees down.

The project is worth more than \$2.45 million, including \$1.1 million from Australian Forest and Wood Innovations, and is led by Agriculture Victoria through the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. It is underpinned by a partnership with the Australian Forest Products Association and its members and runs until November 2029.

Giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) feeds on the sap of pine, fir and spruce, and heavy infestations dry a tree out and kill it. Infestations in Australia are confined to urban areas of Melbourne and Adelaide rather than the commercial softwood estate the industry is working to protect, and tree removal remains the only available control measure.



1/ Members of the giant pine scale research team in the Agriculture Victoria quarantine facility at AgriBio in Melbourne, where a four-year project worth more than \$2.45 million is testing predatory silver flies as biological control agents for the softwood pest.



2/ Inspection of a tree infested with giant pine scale, the exotic pest whose white waxy secretions on trunks and larger branches are the first sign of an outbreak. All images: Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI)

Earlier work funded by Forest and Wood Products Australia identified three predatory insects, silver flies from the genus *Neoleucopis*, as potential biological control agents. The new project evaluates those predators, maps current infestations and identifies priority release sites using remote sensing, with the aim of delivering a national management program that targets core infestations while rapidly detecting and controlling new and outlying infestations.

“INFESTATIONS IN AUSTRALIA ARE CONFINED TO URBAN AREAS

Paco Tovar, National Forest Biosecurity Manager at the Australian Forest Products Association, said the combination could contain the pest before it reached plantations.

“Biocontrol plus smarter surveillance could turn a runaway softwood pest into a manageable pressure,” Tovar said in the AFWI Highlights Report 2024-2026, released in Canberra.

Researchers at the Hellenic Agricultural Organisation in Greece, where the pest is native, and at the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International in Switzerland are working on the program alongside Australian forest health specialists ArborCarbon.

The work sits inside a wider AFWI forest resilience and biosecurity portfolio worth more than \$4.5 million, including more than \$2.2 million of the institute’s own investment. That portfolio covers climate-driven risk models for pine pests and diseases led by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, hardwood plantation pest management through Adelaide University, and pheromone push and pull systems and insecticide-treated netting as alternatives to broadscale spraying against Ips bark beetles.

A University of the Sunshine Coast study due to report in September is testing whether a previously unrecognised parasitic nematode strain has been undermining the inoculation programs growers run against Sirex woodwasp.

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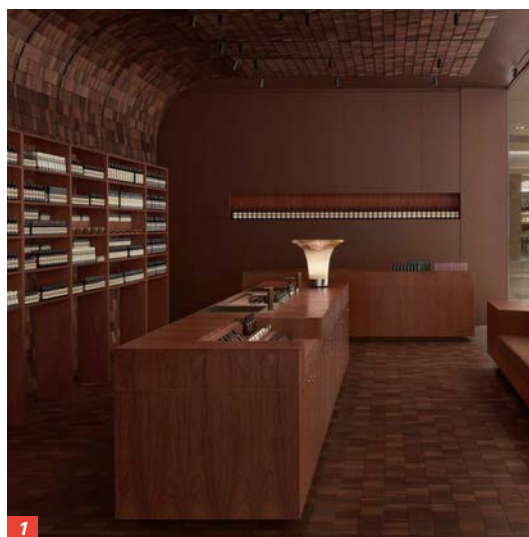
Celebrating timber excellence

Five standout finalists in the 2026 Australian Timber Design Awards.

THE 2026 Australian Timber Design Awards continue a proud tradition of recognising outstanding design that places timber at the heart of innovative, sustainable, and beautiful built outcomes. As finalists are celebrated ahead of the awards gala, five projects in particular demonstrate the material's remarkable versatility, from intimate retail fitouts and remote residential retreats to large-scale cultural venues and education facilities.

Together, The Cutaway at Barangaroo, Aesop Canberra Centre, Wilsons Cottage, Gosford Central, and Tonsley Technical College showcase how timber can respond to cultural context, environmental challenges, and the demands of contemporary use while locking away carbon and creating warm, human-centred spaces.

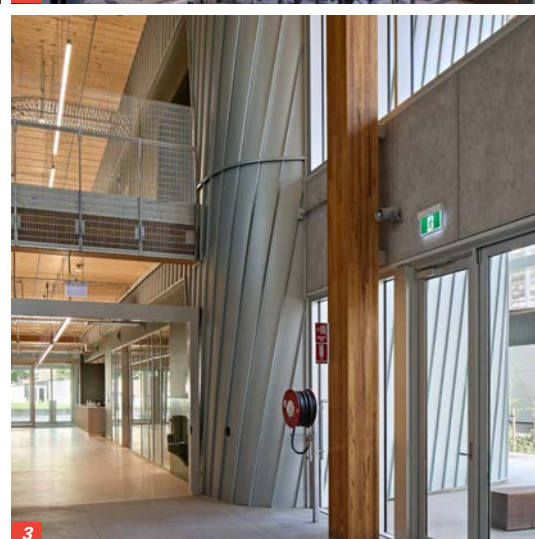
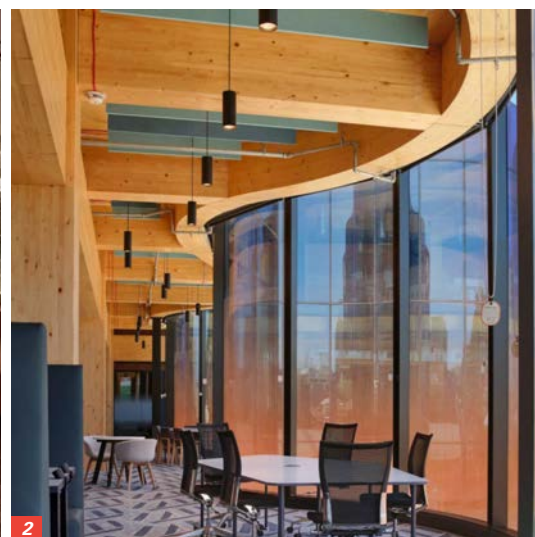
At Barangaroo Reserve, The Cutaway has been transformed from a raw subterranean concrete cavern into one of Sydney's most distinctive cultural and events venues. Designed by fjcstudio in deep collaboration with First Nations designers Shannon Foster of Bangawarra and artist Jake Nash, the fitout centres on 13 sculptural free-form timber trees that rise between seven and 17 metres. Each tree is assembled from 85 to 115 precision-fabricated glulam members, wrapping existing concrete columns and drawing inspiration from the Damun (Port Jackson Fig) and giba gunya (rock shelters). The result is a layered, cave-like interior that celebrates Connection to Country while delivering world-class acoustic performance, natural light through expansive skylights, and a



1/ Brick-pattern recycled Bluegum and Coastal Red hardwood wraps floor, walls and ceiling, creating a continuous, immersive timber envelope in Aesop's Canberra Centre store.

2/ Exposed mass-timber beams and a sweeping curved glulam structure frame collaborative learning spaces at the University of Newcastle's Gosford Central campus, Australia's first curved mass-timber façade.

3/ Locally manufactured CLT and glulam form the primary structure of South Australia's first full mass-timber education building, with the timber frame left expressed throughout the atrium and learning spaces. All images: supplied by Timber Design Awards



dramatic 14-metre sandstone wall as its enduring centrepiece. With approximately 150 tonnes of timber used, the project exemplifies how engineered timber can soften and humanise large civic spaces.

In the retail sphere, Aesop Canberra Centre offers a masterclass in material-led design. The store's immersive interior is crafted almost entirely from recycled Bluegum and Coastal Red hardwoods, supplied and detailed by Canberra-based Thor's Hammer. Brick-pattern parquetry panels, pre-assembled with precise two-millimetre gaps, extend seamlessly from floor to walls and ceiling, creating a continuous, textured envelope that feels both cave-like and refined. Layered with crimson-hued brass, Australian marble, and warm timber tones, the fitout responds directly to Canberra's landscape and the Griffin

planning legacy. By prioritising locally salvaged timber, Aesop reinforces its commitment to circular design principles and place-specific storytelling, proving that high-end retail can be both luxurious and regenerative.

On the remote shores of Lizard Island in Far North Queensland, Wilsons Cottage by James Davidson Architect demonstrates timber's capacity for sensitive, low-impact construction in a World Heritage setting. The compact reef house features a robust outer shell of shiplap spotted gum designed to weather gracefully into the mottled greys of the surrounding geology and vegetation. Materials were delivered by

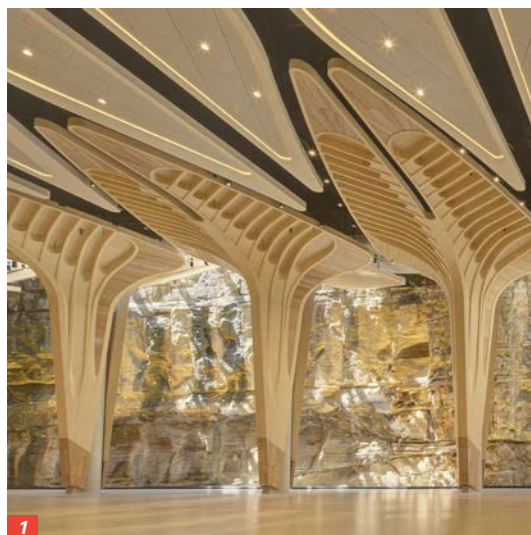
“EACH PROJECT ADVANCES THE CASE FOR TIMBER AS A MATERIAL OF BOTH BEAUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY”

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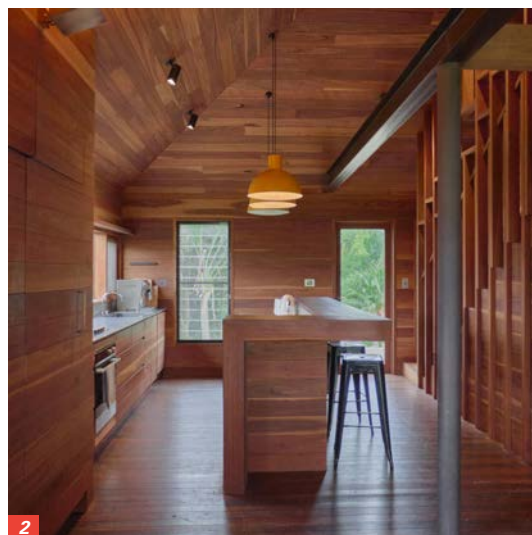
barge to a floating pontoon and then winched across the site using a flying-fox system, ensuring minimal disturbance to the pristine landscape. The trapezoidal plan organises an outdoor room framing Pacific views, a mirrored living space, raised bedroom and indoor-outdoor bathroom, creating a self-contained cabin that touches the earth lightly while offering genuine refuge.

On the Central Coast of NSW, Gosford Central, the University of Newcastle's new campus building, pushes the boundaries of mass timber construction. Featuring extensive cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glue-laminated timber (glulam), the three-storey facility includes what is believed to be Australia's first fully curved mass-timber façade. Exposed beams, columns, and soffits create a warm biophilic interior that supports collaborative learning, while the structure itself significantly reduces embodied carbon. Targeting a 6 Star Green Star rating, the building combines advanced engineering with civic presence, its wave-like timber and glass frontage already establishing it as a local landmark.

Finally, Tonsley Technical College in South Australia's Tonsley Innovation District marks a milestone as the state's first full mass-timber education building. Designed by Das Studio and delivered by Sarah Constructions, the facility uses locally manufactured CLT from NeXTimber (Timberlink) and glulam from Australian Sustainable Hardwoods. The exposed timber structure and services function as a teaching tool for students in advanced manufacturing, engineering, and construction trades, while locking away



1/ Thirteen sculptural free-form timber trees, each composed of dozens of precision-fabricated glulam members, rise against the original sandstone wall inside The Cutaway cultural venue.



2/ Warm spotted gum lining and joinery define the intimate interior of Wilsons Cottage on Lizard Island, a low-impact timber retreat carefully inserted into its World Heritage landscape. All images: supplied by Timber Design Awards

“TIMBER CAN RESPOND TO CULTURAL CONTEXT, ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES, AND THE DEMANDS OF CONTEMPORARY USE

hundreds of thousands of kilograms of CO₂. Achieving strong Green Star and WELL outcomes, the project demonstrates how domestic timber supply chains can support high-performance public infrastructure and sovereign manufacturing capability.

These five finalists illustrate the breadth of timber's potential in 2026.

Whether expressing cultural narratives through sculptural form, creating immersive retail environments from recycled hardwood, enabling low-impact living in remote locations, or delivering carbon-storing education and civic buildings, each project advances the case for timber as a material of both beauty and responsibility. As the Australian Timber Design Awards prepare to honour the year's best work, these entries stand as compelling evidence that thoughtful timber design continues to shape a more sustainable and human built environment.

Voting for the Timber Design Awards - People Choice Award, closes Friday, 4 September. Don't miss the last opportunity to vote for your favourite project!

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International Clean Air Day

The vital role of oceans and forests.

CLEAN air is fundamental to human health, ecosystems, and climate stability. Air pollution remains one of the greatest environmental risks to health, linked to millions of premature deaths each year from heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and respiratory illnesses. Fine particulate matter and other pollutants penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, contributing to chronic disease and reducing quality of life, particularly for children, older adults, and communities already facing disadvantage. The United Nations designates 7 September as the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies to raise awareness, promote practical action, and strengthen international cooperation on improving air quality. Protecting the natural systems that generate and purify our air sits at the heart of this global effort.

Oceans play a critical role in producing the oxygen we breathe. Through photosynthesis, microscopic phytoplankton floating in the sunlit surface layers of the sea convert carbon dioxide and water into organic matter and oxygen. Scientists estimate that the ocean generates between 50 and 80 per cent of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere, with phytoplankton responsible for the majority of this production.

Forests complement this work by cleaning air and storing carbon. Trees absorb gaseous pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and



Oxygen is essential for our survival and clean air makes a massive difference to our health and wellbeing. That's why forests and oceans are an essential resource that we must manage sustainably. Image: Shutterstock

sulphur dioxide through the tiny pores on their leaves and intercept particulate matter on leaf and bark surfaces. In urban settings, trees deliver particularly valuable local benefits. Research by the USDA Forest Service has shown that trees and forests across the United States remove millions of tonnes of air pollution annually, with the greatest health benefits occurring in cities where people are most exposed. Urban trees also cool the surrounding air through shade and the process of evapotranspiration, reducing the need for air conditioning and the associated emissions from power generation. These cooling and filtering effects make street trees, parks, and urban woodlands important tools for healthier cities.

In managed forests the benefits extend further still. As trees grow, they sequester carbon dioxide, locking carbon into wood, roots, and soils. When timber is harvested sustainably and used in long-lived products such as building materials, furniture, or structural timber, that carbon

continues to be stored in the built environment rather than returning immediately to the atmosphere. At the same time, responsible forest management includes replanting so that a new generation of trees begins sequestering additional carbon. This cycle of growth, harvest, storage in wood products, and regeneration supports both cleaner air and climate mitigation when forests are managed with care for biodiversity and long-term productivity.

Oceans and forests together form a powerful natural partnership for clean air. Oceans play a major role in the global oxygen cycle; forests filter pollutants and store carbon over decades to centuries. On International Clean Air Day, recognising and protecting these systems reminds us that safeguarding blue skies depends on healthy seas and thriving forests, alongside the policies, technologies, and everyday actions needed to reduce pollution at its source.



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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

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