

# YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

## A COMPETITION FOR SHARP, YOUNG MINDS

Entries close 15 October, 2018



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Responsible Wood 

Increasing the domestic wood fibre supply in Australia. **What do you think?**

### Scoping the issue:

In collaboration with HQPlantations, Forest and Wood Products Australia, and Responsible Wood, *Timber and Forestry enews* is **running a thinking and writing competition for smart young minds in the forest industry.**

Competition entries must be current undergraduate or post graduate students at universities or other training institutions, or those who have had no more than five years' working experience.

There has been a lot of hot air, committees, meetings, and talking to government ministers and officials, but still tangible progress on increasing the domestic wood fibre supply in Australia can be measured in microns.

Sure advocacy, planning and policies are sensible and need to be part of a long-term strategy, but the situation has now assumed real urgency.

Great ... a national forestry plan in the making, perhaps by the end of the year. A big step forward and just reward for those who have worked hard to bring this about. But will it lead to action on the ground? Action that is desperately needed right now – and the signs of this happening anytime soon are not good.

Is it a question of Nero fiddling while Rome burns? Here are some of the related issues:

- No significant new softwood plantations have been established for many years.
- Fibre supply from native forests is flat and will most likely get worse over the next few years from government-owned forests, notably in NSW and Victoria.
- Rapid population growth, a housing backlog and residual construction likely to stay over 250,000 dwelling starts a year, are overarching factors on the demand side.
- Imported timber product volumes, especially of more sophisticated lines, are increasing and will need to continue to do so. However, with the Australian building and construction industry relying more and more on imported softwood timber products, climbing Northern Hemisphere demand may spell bad news for future imported softwood supplies.

Australia needs to quickly crystallise its thinking and actions about moving much more decisively to be able to supply its own softwood timber and other wood fibre demand from domestic sources.

### Action needed:

So is this really a tale of woe? And what can be done to address this challenge and get more domestic wood fibre into the supply bucket?

In association with HQPlantations, Forest and Wood Products Australia and Responsible Wood, *Timber and Forestry enews* wants some left-side-of-the-brain radical and innovative ideas aimed at confronting the looming wood fibre crisis.

Yes, okay plant trees like demons, we all know that, **but what else can we do?** Hijack passing Kiwi log boats on their way to China, migrate to Europe, start building tent cities, look for new sources of fibre supply, work privately-owned native forests more competently. Probably plenty of other ideas as well.

### Competition rules:

We want your ideas, and we will to pay for them! Here are the rules:

1. Not more than 1000 words.
2. Calibri 12 font 1.5 spacing.
3. Your name and contact details (phone and email) plus a head and shoulders image.
4. Send entries to John Halkett at: [johnh@timberandforestry.eneews.com](mailto:johnh@timberandforestry.eneews.com) by **15 October 2018**.

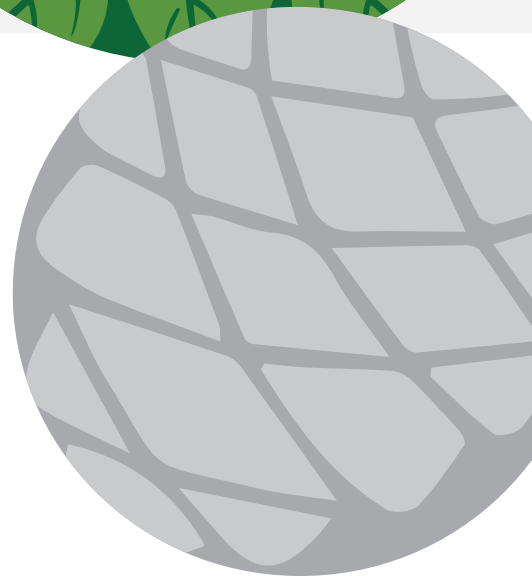
### Prizes and a summer job too:

Yes, cash and book prizes for the best three entries – **\$1000 for first, \$500 for second and \$250 for third, plus a set of books for all three places.**

Judges will be Brian Farmer, CEO, HQPlantations, Ric Sinclair, managing Ddirector, Forest and Wood Products Australia, Simon Dorries, CEO, Responsible Wood, and John Halkett, co-publisher, Australia *Timber and Forestry enews*.

**In addition, the winner will also be offered two months' employment in Queensland over the summer by HQPlantations.**

The winner will be presented with a cheque and books by the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Anne Ruston at a suitable industry event. The cost of return air fares will be covered by *Timber & Forestry enews*.



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Most certainly entries from New Zealand are very welcome and may well provide some enlightened views from across the Tasman where the forest sector is a substantial part of the country's economy.

Also for Kiwis we will be running a separate competition focused on a critical issue confronting the Aotearoa industry.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR IDEAS.**

