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Tassie timber in spotlight as campaign links communities

COVER STORY P10



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Lendlease partners with Stora Enso to build sustainable construction materials in Italy

GLOBAL property and infrastructure group Lendlease has built a partnership with Helsinki-based Stora Enso to develop sustainable timber construction products in a bid to slash the embedded carbon from its buildings.

The partnership will see the two companies accelerate the use of environmentally friendly construction products through collaborative research and the development of sustainable timber products.

A new studio will be built in Milan, where Lendlease has \$7.9 billion in urbanisation projects under way, to develop the sustainable timber products and facilitate their rollout across the company's European



1/ The mass timber 25 King office in Brisbane has shown to reduce carbon emissions by 74% or 5000 tonnes.

2/ Tony Lambardo... partnership evolution of a relationship developed over 10 years.

3/ Lars Völkel... digitalised solutions to speed up construction industry's transformation.

development projects, which together are worth \$52 billion.

The studio, dubbed Podium MX, will be based at the company's Milan Innovation District, which is being developed into a site for

building technology projects and is to be powered by renewable energy sources.

"This global partnership between Lendlease and Stora Enso represents a natural evolution of a relationship stretching back more than

a decade between our two companies," Lendlease global CEO and managing director Tony Lombardo said.

"Stora Enso is an undisputed world leader in the development of products that have a lighter environmental footprint," he said. "This is particularly relevant for Lendlease given we've set ourselves the challenge of achieving the most aggressive emissions reduction targets for the real estate sector globally – net zero carbon emissions by 2025 and absolute zero by 2040."

The partnership follows 10 years of collaboration between the two companies on eight sustainable timber buildings, of which the 25 King office in Brisbane – the tallest and largest engineered wood office building in Australia – has been shown to reduce carbon emissions by 74% or 5000 tonnes.

Sustainable timber contains less carbon than traditional building materials such as

Cont P 3

NEW STUDIO TO BE BASED IN MILAN



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Acting FIFWA CEO up for the challenge to protect Western Australia's forest industries

LABOR veteran and qualified solicitor Adele Farina has been appointed acting CEO of the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia, commencing on October 11.

The appointment comes as current FIFWA executive director Melissa Haslam begins maternity leave.

Adele Farina joins FIFWA after an extensive career in politics. During her time as Labor MP for the South West region from 2001-2021, she served as parliamentary secretary to three different ministers and chaired several significant committees, including the statutory review of the Forest Products Act.

Ms Farina studied art and law at the University of Western Australia and has worked closely with regional communities and industry through the 2001 decision to end old growth logging in the state.

FIFWA chair Ian Telfer said Ms Farina's appointment marked the beginning of a significant chapter in the industry.

"Adele's knowledge and skillset will be a great asset for industry, and we are pleased to have her join us," Mr Telfer said.

From P 2

steel and cement, according to Lendlease, and can play a key role in reducing the construction industry's environmental footprint.

Commenting on the partnership, Lars Völkel, executive vice president of Stora Enso Wood Products



Adele Farina... supporting sustainable forest industry.

Ms Farina said she looked forward to the new role ... being part of the state's sustainable and renewable forestry industry.

"I truly believe in the sustainability of this industry, one which employs more than 6000 people, predominantly in regional communities," she said.

"There is no doubt that I begin this role at a challenging time, but I am keen to focus on the future, and intend on drawing on my experience and knowledge to work with industry and

“SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY THAT SUPPORTS OVER 6000 PEOPLE

division, said: "We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with Lendlease, a true frontrunner in sustainable building solutions. Together we will lead the transition towards more circular, innovative and digitalised solutions to help speed up the construction industry's transformation."

softwood plantations.

The industry says a \$50 million Just Transition Plan offered by the state is inadequate, and industry will be pushing for more. The lack of detail behind the announcement has caused terrible uncertainty for businesses.

This current state government signed off on the sustainability of the current forest management plan through the mid-term audit in 2018. In the lead up to the last election both major parties supported the sustainable native timber sector, so the backflip by government has sent shock waves along the industry chain.

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Pathway through a ‘perfect storm’ must be paved with compliant wood products

Crucial the supply chain continues to apply due diligence on timber products

GAVIN MATTHEW

AUSTRALIA continues to be impacted by a ‘perfect storm’ of ongoing high domestic and global demand, disruptions, and supply constraints for all building products (including our renewable timber products) putting increased pressure on supply chains but also creating new opportunities.

However, it is important to discuss how participants in our supply chain should apply due diligence to their supplies of timber products and the claims made within Australian markets.

With most timber products



Gavin Matthew... the timber product manufacturing sector produces many innovative, reliable, and renewable products that should be recognised as preferred building materials in a low emissions future.

ending up in structural applications, it is crucial that these structural products meet

the requirements of relevant manufacturing standards, are fit for purpose, and have a defined compliance pathway within the National Construction Code (NCC).

“STRUCTURAL PRODUCTS MUST MEET ALL RELEVANT STANDARDS”

An example of appropriate due diligence and branding requirements relates to machine graded pine (MGP) timber products. MGP timber products are well known and understood in the Australian market and consumers can have confidence about the veracity of claims made about them, if that timber is produced in sawmills that use a ‘qualified’ MGP grading method.

Having a qualified grading method requires significant investment in grading equipment, in

initial destructive testing of products to confirm structural properties and the ability of the grading method to be accurate and responsive, in ongoing verification of timber product properties, and in periodic evaluation of the grading method used.

Machine stress-grading under Australian Standard AS1684 uses a machine to measure properties that predict stiffness and strength of each piece of timber. Some machine-grading equipment directly measures the stiffness of the piece and uses correlations to predict its modulus of elasticity (MOE) and strength on edge in order to sort into a stress grade. Other types of machine grading equipment use multiple sensors to predict modulus of elasticity and strength.

Irrespective of the type of grading equipment, the targets for MOE and strength are carefully selected to control the other structural properties of the sorted timber (e.g., tension, compression, and shear strength). In addition, skilled personnel, camera, or other grading sensors assess the utility of each piece. All this information is combined to determine the final grade.

Each piece is branded with the grade at least once per length. However, many mills brand more frequently on each piece to facilitate grade recognition if the timber is



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Cont P 18

As people from the regions we care for the environment: we live in it and we live off it

IT is fashionable for the commentariat to try and frame the Nationals as anti-environmentalist energy dinosaurs; the last political party holding out against a tide of public opinion wanting to embrace an economy not reliant on fossil fuels.

The truth is much more prosaic.

Firstly, as people from the regions we care for the environment because we live in it, we live off it, and our personal identity is intrinsically embedded in our sense of Place. We are natural conservatives, predisposed to conserve and preserve.

We were conservationists long before the environment was weaponised for ideological purposes.

Secondly, among our ranks as Nationals MPs are people who have a range of strong views, including those wanting a rapid adoption of renewable technologies and alternatives; those who fear the costs of doing so outweigh the benefits; through to those who warn any Australian contribution



Daughter of a log haulier, Senator Bridget McKenzie passionately supports the forest sector and was the first woman appointed Agriculture Minister – in the Morrison government in May 2018. She grew up in the timber town of Benalla, Vic. Three generations of her mother's family were pioneering cattlemen in the High Country with strong links to the timber industry. Deputy Leader of the National Party, she was appointed Minister for Emergency Management, National Recovery and Resilience and Regional Communications in July this year.

won't make a lot of difference if we are simply outsourcing our own emissions to developing nations.

I am absolutely certain of one thing, however.

Every single Nationals MP, to a man and a woman, will fight to protect the people we represent.

Our opposition to carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes, which is now bipartisan policy by the way, has been made because they would not only have hurt our people, but would also not

have resulted in a reduction in global emissions.

Let's be frank and honest about this.

It is easy for the Member for Kooyong or the Member for Wentworth to publically embrace net zero before the government has a position, because there would be next to zero real impact on the way of life of their affluent constituents.

Our people by contrast are generally living in the electorates with the lowest per capita incomes, while

the industries that underpin our regional economies are emission intensive. Not just in coal, but farming, transport, manufacturing, food processing and more.

According to an Institute of Public Affairs Report more than 661,000 direct jobs in high emissions industries are "at risk" from the adoption of a zero emissions economy, and even more in the towns and regional capitals that are supported by these industries.

Jobs that will be eviscerated if we don't continue to support our bedrock industries over the coming decades, during and, at very least, until technologies such as green hydrogen, and effective carbon capture and storage systems are developed.

The Treasurer says the international finance markets are shifting away from financing fossil fuel energy, but there are still state-owned enterprises that will continue to buy our mines and resources without the need for western finance.



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Canberra still split over net-zero emissions as Glasgow COP 26 looms just four weeks away

JIM BOWDEN

SCOTLAND'S \$1.2 billion wood industry across more than 1.4 million ha of forests stands ready to absorb thousands of tonnes of Co2 emitted by UK and international flights arriving and leaving Glasgow during the COP26 climate summit at the end of this month.

However, Australia, which along with 153 other countries signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994, has yet to be presented with any climate plan from the Morrison government with less than four weeks to go until the Glasgow heads-up

Senior National Party figures say they are yet to be convinced net-zero emissions won't hurt regional Australia.

Deputy National Leader and Agriculture Minister David Littleproud says he reserves the right to "make remedies" if needed to ensure regional parts of the country are not disadvantaged.

The Glasgow summit aims for countries to commit to "ambitious" targets to reduce carbon emissions by 2030 and

to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, including through accelerating the phase-out of coal and speeding up the switch to electric cars.

So far, the PM has made no reference to the government's one billion trees planted goal over a decade set in September 2018 and forestry's positive contribution to climate change. Today, less than 1% cent of that goal has been planted.

Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce are yet to share any outline of a plan to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 with key cabinet members, with Nationals frontbencher Bridget McKenzie looking set to be a net-zero 2050 roadblock in cabinet, confirming she remains in the dark about the negotiations (see Opinion, P5).

She says she is yet to be convinced a net zero



Tough decisions to toss around in Glasgow.

commitment would not disproportionately hurt regional communities and industries

Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor announced last week a cash-for-carbon scheme that would reward energy-intensive businesses for capturing and storing emissions.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Accounting has estimated Australian forests store about 10.5 billion tonnes of carbon

(excluding soil carbon).

This store of solid carbon has accumulated over an assumed life of 100 years for native eucalypt regrowth. That translates to our forests storing an amount of carbon equivalent to almost 38.5 billion tonnes of gaseous carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, about 70 times Australia's annual net greenhouse gas emission.

Angus Taylor needs to look no further than the businesses of forestry and timber to find the way-ahead winner for his carbon and energy-intensive rewards scheme.

Meanwhile, as Dan Andrews and Mark McGowan raise the guillotine over the head of sustainable native forest production in two states, both with a blind eye to Australia's outstanding forest management practices, they will have to own and live with the consequences of their actions.

To quote a verse by Scottish poet Robert Burns:

"O, the gift that God could give us, to see ourself as others see us."



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OCTOBER

TBA: 22nd Australian Timber Design Award. Official judging early October. More than 90 submissions, a remarkable result through the ever-changing Covid restrictions and lockdowns. People's Choice Award will remain open until October 17. Contact Timber Development Association at info@tdansw.asn.au or 0420 232 253.

11-14: IFA/AFG national conference 'Your Forests,

Our Future' – Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, TAS, Australia. Open to forest scientists, forestry professionals and forest growers. Call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities will be released in coming months. Contact Institute of Foresters of Australia. Visit www.forestry.org.au or phone (03) 9695 8940.

APRIL 2022

NB. REVISED DATE 3-8: Gottstein Trust

Understanding Wood Science Course – Sunday evening, April 3, 2022, in Albury, NSW, for the field trip component, ending on Friday, April 8, in Canberra. The course is fully booked and a wait list is operating on a first-in-first-served basis. Delivered in partnership with the ANU, the course timing prior to next Easter matches up with the semester break. The course program can be downloaded at www.gottsteintrust.org

JUNE 2022

NB. REVISED DATE 21-22: Frame Australia Timber Offsite Construction – Crown Promenade Melbourne, VIC. New global 'hybrid' format. Choose from a selection of half-day and full-day programs. Virtual delegates can register for just one or more conference sessions. For further information and registration visit the website www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com

EVENTS LISTS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE CHECK THE RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.

OCTOBER

17-21: Prowood Ghent – Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Ghent, East Flanders, Flanders, Belgium. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Prowood-M9728/Ghent.html

22-24: International Conference on Forest Biodiversity and Sustainability (ICFBS) – Dubrovnik, Croatia. World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology. For further information see: <https://waset.org/forest-biodiversity-and-sustainability-conference-in-october-2022-in-dubrovnik>

26-29: Woodworking Minsk – Sports Complex, Pobeditelej 20/2 Minsk, Belarus. International exhibition of woodworking and furniture production. For further information see: www.tradefairdates.com/Woodworking-M3361/Minsk.html

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

31/10-12/11: 26th UN Climate Change

Conference of the Parties – Glasgow, UK. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.

JANUARY 2022

28-29: International Conference on Forest Resources Accounting and Economics – Australia World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, Sydney, Australia. Forest industry accounting, methodological and issues and environmental accounting for forestry. For further information see; <https://waset.org/forest-resources-accounting-and-economics-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>

MAY 2022

23-24: International Forest Business

Conference – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland. A two-day conference on megatrends that shape responsible forest and wood industry investments for climate action. The conference aims to bring together leading forest management organizations (TIMOs), investors interested in forest assets and carbon offsets (e.g., public and corporate pension funds, wealth managers and private banks, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and endowments) and sustainable wood industry representatives in order to exchange and share experiences and ideas about challenges and opportunities for forest sector as a natural climate solution. The main theme of the conference is New Forest Business Frontiers. Register at www.fba-events.com or contact karolina@forest-analytics.com

• Please send events to John Halkett: johnh@timberandforestrynews.com



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Proof-of-concept study in NZ: using a native species to control an invader

Testing the ability to culture and inoculate wood with fungus in the laboratory

IN this second part of an interview with Timber&Forestry enews, Genevieve Early, a postgraduate student at the University of Canterbury, talks further about the prospects of using a native fungus (*Armillaria*) to biologically control exotic pines.

“Using a native species to suppress an invader is a novel concept,” she says.

“Traditional biological control of invasive species relies on introducing natural enemies from the invader’s native range, which comes with risks of non-target effects.”

Genevieve says *Armillaria novae-zelandiae*, the main focus of her ongoing research, is a normal part of New Zealand’s indigenous forest ecosystem. “To my knowledge it doesn’t pose a threat in forestry plantations near indigenous bush or forest,” she says.

“IT DOESN’T POSE A THREAT IN FORESTRY PLANTATIONS

“The issue seems to arise mainly in radiata pine plantations growing on areas where forests were recently cleared to make way for commercial use. Even in those areas, the forestry industry does a really good job of controlling *Armillaria*.

“That said, we definitely don’t want to impact on commercial ventures.



Wildings on the march in the Twizel River catchment, part of the iconic Mackenzie Basin.

Photo: Annette Woodford

We know some of the mechanisms and distance of spread from work done by Ian Hood at Scion. Based on that knowledge, reintroducing *Armillaria* in wilding conifers is unlikely to be a threat unless there is a radiata plantation immediately adjacent to a pine control site.”

Genevieve notes that *Armillaria* can spread by rhizomorphs – thick, aggregated strands of fungal tissue which look like bootlaces. But the scientific literature documents their spread at around 50 metres.

“Spore dispersal is possible, but based on the already very high density of *Armillaria* around New Zealand we wouldn’t be adding to this spore load at anything but a local scale.”

Genevieve says if the fungus is confirmed as an effective biological control

ACROSS THE DITCH



With **MICHAEL SMITH**

agent ... “proximity to forestry and horticulture will come into play when assessing if a site is suitable for wilding control and eradication. At the moment, our research is aimed at conservation land since this encompasses lots of steep areas where manual felling is difficult. Forestry plantations tend not to be located around these areas.”

Her proof-of-concept pilot study involved testing the

ability to culture and inoculate wood with *Armillaria* in laboratory settings – and determining whether fresh or decayed wood was more suitable for inoculation.

She was interested to learn that the best results came from the live/fresh wood trials.

“I think the fresh wood may provide the most food to fungi, as the carbon compounds inside the wood [lignin and cellulose] have not yet been degraded by other fungi and micro-organisms. Also, because *Armillaria* can be a pathogen on live trees, it is probably used to colonising fresh wood ... preferring it as a food source. Fresh wood also has a higher water content for the fungus to use.”

Following her initial findings, Genevieve

Cont P 9



Genevieve hand-felling a wilding pine to extract a test sample of trunk wood.

From P 8

anticipates that autumn could be the best time to release the fungus. “It provides a nice combination of wetter, humid weather, which promotes fungal growth, without being so cold as to inhibit the spread and development of fungi.”

She acknowledges that biological control organisms often need high host densities to thrive.

“We’ll be looking at this in future research,” she said. “The test site we visited in Craigieburn [northwest Canterbury] was pretty dense, and in my mind looks perfect to host a fungus for biological control. Armillaria may not work on sites where pines are spread out – but that is yet to be confirmed.

“It’s possible the rhizomorphs of Armillaria may allow it to spread at

low-density sites, so long as there are individual pines within 30 or so metres that rhizomorphs can grow to and use as ‘stepping stones’ to other wilding pines.”

The next stage of her research will involve developing a method of growing fungal inoculum in bulk, and testing how community plots of pines and native seedlings respond to inoculation.

“AUTUMN COULD BE BEST TIME TO RELEASE THE FUNGUS”

“I expect to see a reduction in the growth of pine seedlings and little effect on the native seedlings, which should be tolerant of Armillaria based on how it behaves in native forests.”

Genevieve adds: “My overall aim is to develop a sustainable way of suppressing invasive pine regeneration that can be used alongside current control methods. Hopefully this extra piece in the tool kit can assist in eradicating pines on conservation land, and possibly promote native forest regeneration after pine removal.”



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Made for Tasmania campaign latest ‘link’ for Timberlink’s ‘Together We Build’ initiatives

AUSTRALIAN timber products manufacturer Timberlink has announced a new Made of Tasmania campaign which follows the highly popular ‘Together We Build’ promotion launched in 2018.

“LINKING TIMBER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

The new campaign will feature on Tasmanian television commercials and digital advertising through October and November 2021 and into 2022.

“The new campaign message focuses on the



Communities join Timberlink’s Made of Tasmania campaign to promote sustainable timber products, the environment and the economy.

valuable link that Timberlink’s sustainably-produced timber creates with the Tasmanian community, the environment

and the local economy,” CEO Ian Tyson said.

“Timberlink timber links us all,” he said.

- A link to local jobs with 200 Tasmanians employed by Timberlink.
- A link with our community through sponsorships and community involvement.
- A link with our environment and sustainability with every tree used replanted.
- A link with our local economy through our supply chain.
- A link with innovation and technology to expand world class manufacturing right here in Tasmania.
- A link to a safer workplace with safety an integral part of our business.

The television commercial was produced in Tasmania with an all-Tasmanian production crew. It features Tasmanian Timberlink staff, a building designer, school children and pine

nursery staff.

Timberlink has two sawmills producing plantation structural pine products – at Bell Bay in Tasmania and Tarpeena in South Australia.

Sales and distribution teams are based in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne with sales staff at Bell Bay and Blenheim sawmills.

Timberlink is owned by investment funds managed by New Forests, a sustainable real assets investment manager based in Sydney. Founded in 2005, New Forests manages about \$5 billion in assets under management across 940,000 ha of forests and land in Australia, New Zealand, southeast Asia, and the US.

On the cover: Linking to Timberlink’s Made of Tasmania campaign Isobel Nas, accounts manager, joins staff at a pine nursery ahead of a television commercial promoting the state’s forest industry and the communities it supports.

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FWPA's \$2m bid for AI in 'smarter' regions

AN out-of-session meeting of the FWPA board has gained approval for the support of a bid to the Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre for a commitment to forestry-related initiatives of \$200,000 annually for 10 years.

The funding would enable projects to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) are maximised for forestry in Australia's regional areas.

The bid requests the funds be used to support projects focused on data and

knowledge integration along the value chain to inform decisions that will maximise product value.

The CRC works with commercial partners from various sectors including forestry, technology, transport, infrastructure, fisheries, medical, agriculture and mining. Its goal is to ensure regional Australia can reap the benefits of AI to drive increased productivity, value adding, and additional high-paid jobs.

By working across industry



Professor Mark Brown

sectors and regions, the CRC will facilitate cross-sectorial and cross-regional learning, and build the critical mass of uptake needed to drive a regional AI workforce in Australia.

FWPA and the University of the Sunshine Coast

collaborated on the development of the bid alongside a range of industry partners, including growers and timber processors, outlining potential areas of focus for forestry.

"During industry discussions there was strong support for developing better tools and capacity from both growers and processors," said Professor Mark Brown, director of the Forest Industry Research Centre at the USC, and program leader of the Smarter Regions CRC.

LETTERS

Endangered species ... fabricated data on koalas: a postscript

A recent report in the mainstream media attributed to the Koala Foundation says "koalas are in rapid decline across Australia, with 30% of the species lost in just three years. There were no upward trends."

Vic Jurskis, BSc (Forestry) ANU, and author of The Great Koala Scam (Connor Court Publishing) writes a postscript to his letter last week in Timber&Forestry enews:

KOALAS were a rare forest species which irrupted into

plagues and invaded valleys after Europeans disrupted Aboriginal burning and sowed pastures.

In 2011, the koala industry told the senate there were 10 million koalas when Europeans arrived in 1788, because eight million skins were produced from 1887 to 1927. Clearing and hunting supposedly decimated the population. So they've been in trouble ever since and now there's climate change!

Koala plagues crashed when declining eucalypts died in the

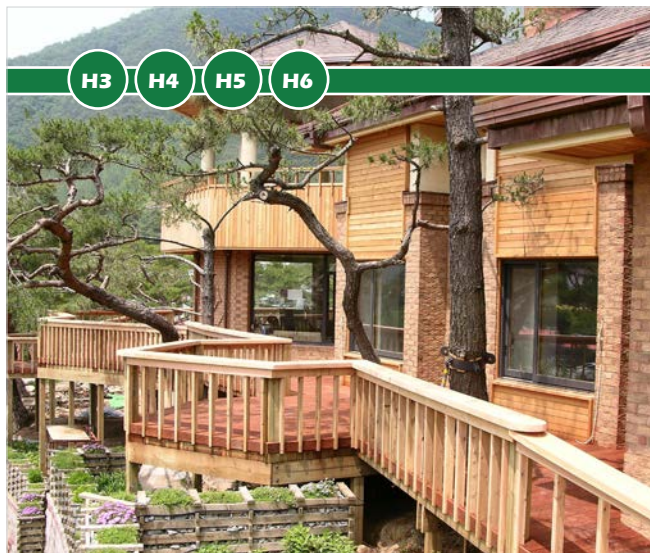
Federation Drought. It was a case of so-called eucalypt dieback. There are many more koalas over a wider area than when Europeans arrived. The visible populations go through boom and bust just like other arbivores associated with eucalypt decline.

In 2012, koala experts fabricated data for their story. They boasted about it in a 'scientific' paper: "A quantitative, scientific method for deriving estimates of koala populations and trends was possible, in the absence of

empirical data on abundances."

Armed with the 'numbers', the government listed koalas as a vulnerable species. Extraordinarily, their status depends on postcode, because everyone knows about the boom and bust cycles in Victoria and South Australia. Black Summer's given an excuse to 'upgrade' it to 'endangered'.

I submitted some facts to the consultation which closed in July. So did Timber NSW. But I guess the announcement will be just before Glasgow.



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Timber Offsite conference will be BIG in 2022

THE Timber Offsite Construction conference and exhibition planned for November will now be held in June 2022.

With the uncertainty of lockdowns and travel restrictions expected to continue beyond the end of the year, event organiser Frame Australia took the difficult decision to postpone the event to next year.

“We reluctantly decided that, for all concerned, it would make sense to hold the event in 2022,” event founder Kevin Ezard said.

“The pandemic situation has created too many uncertainties, and many other events have also been postponed,” he said.

For the past 23 years, a key feature of the event has been the opportunity



Flashback Frame 2018... Norm Tilling, founder, Tilling Group (third from left), Craig Muse, Victorian president, HIA, and Kati and Kevin Ezard, founders of the conference and exhibition.

to personally network and interact with colleagues in the industry. This requires ‘in-person’ participation in a safe environment.

There is wide interest in the conference program which will highlight many exceptional examples of innovation in design and construction of engineered wood and mass timber buildings.

“We are very excited by the program,” Mr Ezard said.

“Global growth in the industry has been remarkable, with construction projects of massive scale under way in many countries. Projects in our program will include Asia’s largest mass wood building under construction in Singapore, and the world’s tallest 40-storey building

currently under way in Sydney.

“This growth is also driving the development of new mass timber manufacturing plants to meet demand.”

With its ‘hybrid’ format, the conference will attract broad participation, including ‘virtual’ delegates from around Australia and the rest of the world.

A major feature of the event is the exhibition area with more than 30 exhibitors featuring the latest technologies, software, manufacturing equipment, building products and systems.

The event will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 21 and 22, at Crown Promenade Melbourne.

Visit website www.timberoffsiteconstruction.com

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2021 GALA EVENT POSTPONED TO EARLY 2022

With the health and safety of our attendees in mind, the GTTIA committee have made the decision to postpone the awards gala evening.

The event will be rescheduled to early 2022 and we are looking forward to celebrating the award winners and showcasing the industry's innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices within the region.

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Incomac ICD kiln best seller for global market leader in timber drying systems

Electronic customer control guarantees high-quality treatments and energy savings

INCOMAC, a globally-recognised leader in the manufacture of kilns for drying, steaming and heat-treating timber, celebrated its 45th anniversary last year.

Based in Italy, the company has been operating in Australia for more than 40 years.

Incomac kilns are designed and created by the company itself. Installed in more than 95 countries, the kilns can dry any wood species

and are designed to meet the specific needs of customers. In order to do so, Incomac adopts the 'NEED method', a specific method aimed at satisfying a need in the best possible way, resulting in an effective solution with the appropriate quality/price ratio.

The Incomac product range includes conventional drying kilns based on the

**“ UP TO 30PC
IN THERMAL
ENERGY
RECOVERY**



Incomac, a world leader in kiln drying technology, celebrated its 45th anniversary last year.

principle of air exchange that can be fed by thermal fluid or athermal source. They include condensation drying kilns equipped with heat pump with high COP and powered by electricity; pallet treatment kilns and kilns for other special treatments; and high-temperature drying and heat-treating kilns.

Every model is available with rails and trolleys with front and tunnel loading and comes in different sizes.

Incomac says its ICD conventional kiln is a market leader and its best-selling drying system.

Heating of the ICD drying kiln is provided by heat exchangers and bimetallic finned tubes. Air exchange is ensured by motorised dampers, which can be replaced by innovative heat recovery systems that pre-heat external cold air using outgoing warm air, reducing thermal energy loss substantially.

This has resulted in the recovery of thermal energy of up to 30%, the optimisation of the drying process and the reduction of greenhouse gases – and consequently global warming.

Sustainability is the most important features for Incomac and it impacts also on the company's kilns and accessories.

Incomac has also been working hard to ensure low consumption and high performance. The company has a team of dedicated specialists who create programs for the Incomac electronic control systems that guarantee high-quality wood treatments and significant energy savings.

In the dry electronics, for example, the Stop&Go

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From P 14

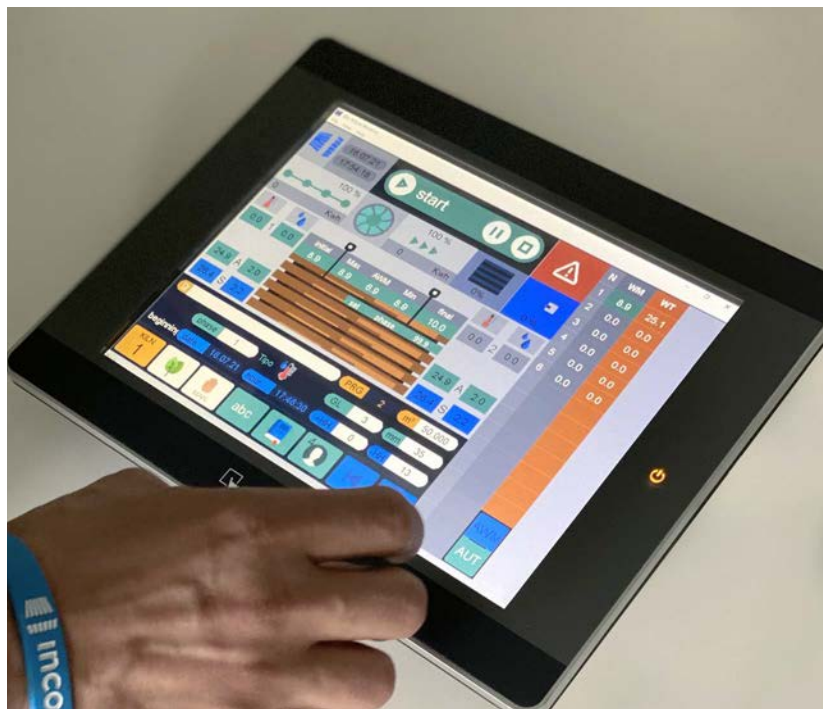
program monitors the wood state continuously, thanks to a self-regulating system that controls ventilation and pause-run times based on product's real condition and not on intervals that are pre-set by standard parameters.

The program guarantees electrical energy savings up to 50% compared to a standard drying cycle, an improved drying quality and longer life of the motors.

Incomac says a key feature of the company's electronic control systems appreciated by customers is that they can control them from all over the world.

The relationship with the

“RELATIONSHIP WITH CUSTOMERS FUNDAMENTAL OF THE COMPANY”



Incomac's electronics allows customers to control systems from anywhere in the world.

exclusive pre- and post-sales services for customers. With its specialised customer service, the company is able to guarantee fast fixing and maintenance, updates, troubleshooting, remote diagnostics, and also revamping interventions.

In order to meet the greater sophisticated needs of its customers, Incomac has recently founded Incotech, a

dynamic start-up unit managed by professionals who specialise in developing fully personalised high-tech projects.

customer is fundamental to the company. This is why Incomac not only relies on its local partner Gary Spillane of GS Machinery to ensure that the customer is supported in every aspect at local level,

but also offers advice and customer support in every phase of the project with inco+.

Inco+ is an innovative service package that features

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INCOMAC S.r.l.
 Via G. Ferraris 50 - 31044
 Montebelluna (TV) Italy
P +39 042321646
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AKD goes pink for breast cancer awareness

THE McGrath Foundation estimates 19,866 women and 164 men in Australia will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting Australian women.

Improving survival rates is only possible with ongoing research, early detection, comprehensive treatment, care programs and public awareness and support.

Life doesn't always go the way you plan ... a poignant statement in our second year of dealing with Covid-19. But imagine getting a shock breast cancer diagnosis amid the pandemic? And breast cancer is not discriminating – it hasn't taken a break during the pandemic and it effects on men and women of all ages.



While we're being conditioned this year that staying close to home is necessary and for our own safety, with the ongoing pandemic and Delta strain now in our communities, the prevalence of breast cancer means another kind of 'close to home'. The current diagnosis rate means most

of us will have breast cancer touch our lives in some way in our lifetime.

Getting on board with the McGrath Foundation's Pink Up fundraising month in October means communities can all do something about fighting breast cancer and raising awareness, while supporting those who need it.

Australian-owned timber processing business AKD, with operations across regional communities, is a proud supporter of the McGrath Foundation and while the company is recognised by its brand of orange, it has tried to adopt 'everything pink' in October each year to help raise funds and awareness for this worthy cause.

The company is targeting

\$100,000 of funds to be raised across its east coast business with the support of its employees, local communities and the whole business supply chain – off the back of raising \$80,000 last year.

"AKD matches every dollar donated by our employees," says CEO Shane Vicary.

"Yes, it's been another tough year for everyone. and while many of us are dealing with the challenges of lockdowns and feeling we can't do much about this, we can do something about fighting breast cancer and supporting those that have been affected." he said.

Donations can be made via [//fundraise.mcgrathfoundation.com.au/fundraisers/akdsoftwoods/akd-softwood](http://fundraise.mcgrathfoundation.com.au/fundraisers/akdsoftwoods/akd-softwood)



Wrapped in pink at AKD.



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From P 4

docked into shorter lengths. Regular sampling and testing throughout a batch are used to verify that the sorted timber meets the stress grade applied.

The grade stamp (brand) must be applied to each piece to enable all subsequent people in the marketing and distribution supply chain to identify the structural properties applicable to that piece of timber. The grade brand is the grade of the whole of each piece.

A brand must contain the grade (e.g., MGP10); the standard (e.g., AS/NZS1748); the producer name or mill code; and the moisture status for products that can be sold either green or seasoned (e.g., seasoned can be abbreviated to "S"). The brand should also include information to allow traceability back to a production run (e.g., date, time, and individual piece

**“CONFIDENCE IN
TIMBER PRODUCTS
UNDERPINNED
BY ASKING THE
RIGHT QUESTIONS**



There are many engineered wood products in the market. All have their own compliance pathways that need to be understood.

number would enable this).

Structural timber products sold in the Australian market (e.g., F-grades and MGP grades) must not be re-machined, ripped, or re-branded as either F grade or MGP (excluding normal construction practices), unless the product is re-graded by a responsible entity.

If a piece of MGP timber is docked, it cannot be upgraded from the lowest grade of the piece from which it was docked. Colour brands on MGP timber do not indicate a grade higher than the grade of the original docked length. Also, visual grading of timber is not an acceptable method to designate or re-designate timber as MGP. MGP

grades can only be given to timber that has been machine graded in accordance with AS/NZS 1748.

Re-branding of timber by other methods, or subsequent supply or use of MGP graded by a non-legitimate method, does not meet the requirements of the NCC and may be in breach of building material legislation in some states, and potentially carries significant penalties to the responsible entity that is undertaking those activities and making those claims.

Furthermore, building certifiers can (and should) refuse to certify structures containing timber that has not been graded in accordance with the relevant

grading standard.

This is just one example of the due diligence and branding requirements. There are many more engineered wood products in the market. All have their own compliance pathways that need to be understood.

Most Australasian timber processing operations are audited by a third-party wood products quality assurance body, such as the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia. Detailed audits are undertaken routinely (e.g., six to 12 months) as a process of independent assurance that the timber products do indeed comply with Australian standards, and that appropriate quality management systems are in place.

The timber product manufacturing sector produces many innovative, reliable, and renewable products that should be recognised as preferred building materials in a low emissions future.

It is even more important than usual

• *Gavin Matthew is CEO of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia.*

New Nationals leader across industry issues in NSW

BATHURST MP and a member of the Forest Industries Task Force Paul Toole, newly-elected Deputy Premier in NSW, is across industry issues.

Mr Toole said it was a “real honour” to be voted in to replace John Barilaro as the NSW Nationals leader and state’s Deputy Premier.

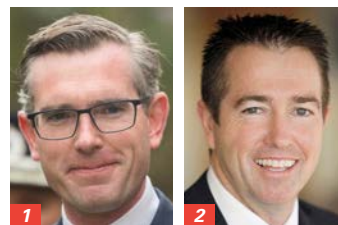
“I want to make sure we get back to work and it’s business as usual because the people of this state have been doing it tough now for a number of years,” Mr Toole

said, referencing the Covid pandemic but also drought, bushfires and floods.

Mr Toole said he and new Premier Dominic Perrottet would prioritise a regional tour when parliament ended next fortnight.

Sawmills in the Bathurst region have a volume capacity of more than 70,000 cub m and long-term contracts with Forestry Corporation of NSW.

Dominic Perrottet, 39, is the state’s youngest ever Premier who was elevated



1/ **Dominic Perrottet**
2/ **Paul Toole**

from Treasurer after a landslide win in a vote among Liberal colleagues.

As Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Mr Toole has served as the National’s deputy leader for three years.

Bronnie Taylor, an upper house MP and Minister for Mental Health, will become the first female Nationals deputy leader in the party’s history.

Mr Perrottet praised his predecessor Gladys Berejiklian.

“It is my hope that I will continue the strong leadership that Gladys has shown throughout this pandemic,” he said.

Mr Perrottet also heaped praise on his new deputy.

Kluger Grande hybrid sends out vibrations that Toyota's first pure electric vehicle is on the way

THE Toyota BZ4X Concept (BZ for beyond zero) will be the first pure electric vehicle sold globally by the world's biggest car maker.

Toyota says it will be one of seven electric vehicles it will roll out by the end of 2025.

While Toyota is the global leader in petrol-electric hybrid technology selling more than 17 million hybrid cars after introducing the technology in 1997, it has been slow to take on an all-electric model.

The new Toyota Kluger AWD Grande has picked up a fuel-saving 2.5 hybrid powertrain for the first time and alongside the 3.5 petrol version, gives a taste of the style and performance we might see in the all-electric BZ4.

Toyota predicts the hybrid option will account for the majority of new Kluger sales in Australia.

Following in the footsteps of the RAV4, Camry and Corolla, the Kluger promises to reduce fuel usage without a significant jump in asking price.



1/ Toyota Kluger AWD Grande picks up a fuel-saving 2.5 hybrid powertrain for the first time.
2/ Inside Grande... seven seats in leather and an updated 11-speaker JBL sound system.

Three specifications of the 2021 Kluger are the GX, GXL and Grande. All three have a 3.5-litre petrol V6 powering either the front wheels or all four wheels.

The Kluger hybrid though has both front-wheel and all-wheel-drive forms. Our hybrid AWD Grande added an additional electric motor on the rear axle to provide drive to the aft wheels when slip is detected at the front end.

Meanwhile, the long-running 3.5-litre naturally aspirated petrol V6 will remain a part of the range, producing around 200kW of power, with either front-drive or traditional, mechanical AWD.

The hybrid has two motors at the front and one at the rear which work together with

a 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine.

The power output of the petrol engine is 142 kW and the electric motors make 184 kW. The engine torque is 242 Nm. The front electric motors are able to produce 134 Nm and 270 Nm, while the rear can make 121Nm.

All Klugers come standard with pedestrian and cyclist detection. There's also blind spot warning, lane-keeping assist, rear cross-traffic alert, and adaptive cruise control.

The Grande's seven seats in leather (flexible cargo space when the second and third rows are folded) includes ventilated front seats, and there's an 11-speaker JBL stereo, a head-up display, a moon roof, gesture tailgate

and 20-in. 'chrometic' wheels, along with projector LED headlights, heated power side mirrors, roof rails, privacy glass, power tailgate with kick sensor and a chrome grille..

The 8 in. touchscreen features digital radio, wired Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, sat-nav, and a 360-deg. camera. There's also an updated 11-speaker JBL sound system.

Front occupants have heating and ventilation, electric movement, and (on the driver's side) memory presets.

The hybrid sells at \$75,400 – the petrol auto \$72,777. Fuel consumption is 5.6 L/100 km (combined) with 128 g/km combined CO2 emissions.

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HEAD OFFICE

Timber & Forestry enews
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335,
Australia
Phone | +61 (0) 417 421 187

PUBLISHERS

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
Dennis Neilson | +64 (0) 7 349 2764
dennisn@timberandforestryenews.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Bowden | +61 (0) 401 312 087
cancon@bigpond.net.au
PO Box 330, Hamilton Central QLD
4007, Australia

ADVERTISING

John Halkett | +61 (0) 417 421 187
johnh@timberandforestryenews.com
advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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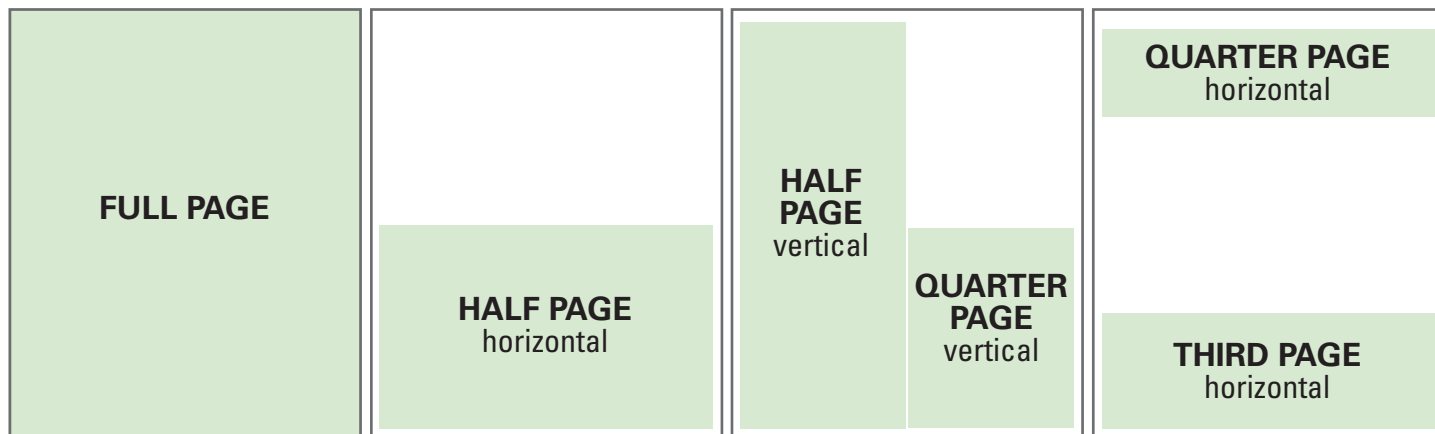
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Media releases: Jim Bowden e: cancon@bigpond.net.au | **Display ad bookings:** e: advertising@timberandforestryenews.com

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