

DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

Like and
follow us on



ISSUE 760 // June 22, 2023

timber & FORESTRY *e*news

Showing end users the responsible chain of timber custody

COVER STORY P 8



ForestFit
BUSINESS, SAFETY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
CERTIFICATION
www.forestfit.com.au

 **Wood
Solutions**
design and build
www.woodsolutions.com.au

Victory Press Printing
Log and Timber Tags
for Inventory Control and Tracking
Timber Tags - Kiln Tags
Bundle Tags - Bundle Books
CCA Treatment Tags - WIP Tags
Barcodes, Large Numbers, QR Codes
www.victorypress.com.au
Call 1300 300 251
Email: info@victorypress.com.au

 **Responsible
Wood** rw/1-10-1
2022/23
Community
Grants Program
recipients announced!
Click here.

NTHA

**TRAINEES &
APPRENTICES**

Become a host employer today!

ntha.com.au
Call us on 1800 822 621



Albanese Government announces new \$2bn housing fund but fails to get HAFF through Senate

Federal Government announcement provides some good construction news.

IT'S been a week of pluses and minuses for social and public housing in Australia, with the Albanese Government's \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator Fund announced over the weekend and then the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) failing to pass the Senate on Monday.

The \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator was announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during a speech at the Victorian Labor Conference on Saturday. It's a one-off \$2 billion investment in social housing around the country, with funding to be distributed among the states and territories over the next two weeks.

Each state and territory will receive a base of \$50 million in funding, with the rest to be distributed on a per-capita basis. As part of the deal, the funding will have to be committed to projects within two years.

The fund is designed to



Caitlin McDowell, head of policy at CHIA NSW (centre), with state and local politicians at a recent announcement of new social housing in Western Sydney.

claw back some of the huge deficit in social housing across the nation, estimated at well over half a million dwellings currently and set to rise sharply as private rents increase and more Baby Boomers retire. Women of that generation are the fastest-growing cohort of homeless in the nation, with many having been locked out of the wealth traditionally associated with Boomers.

The Community Housing Industry Association NSW (CHIA NSW) has called the

fund a "welcome and timely step for addressing the housing crisis".

Caitlin McDowell, head of policy at CHIA NSW, said, "There are 58,000 families and individuals in NSW on the social housing waitlist who will be feeling some relief today that the Federal Government is committed to tackling this unprecedented crisis.

"Significant investment in social housing is critical and this is a fantastic start. But we also need to see long term, ongoing investment to

increase social housing supply."

Multiple industry organisations associated with construction also welcomed the news. The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) announced that the fund "can also be a winner for sovereign capability and climate if the use of Australian timber is prioritised in the construction of these new homes".

Acting CEO of AFPA Natasa Sikman said, "Through this fund the Government can address the social housing supply crisis, make progress against its climate goals, align to their own Buy Australian Plan and support Australia's sovereign capability in production, manufacture and construction sectors simply by using Australian timber.

"Australia's forest products sector welcomes this fund at a time when leading indicators

Cont P 3



THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

Following the awarding of a Global GreenRate Level A certification, MicroPro Wood Treatment Technology has recently been awarded a GoldHEALTH rating with its recently published Global GreenTag Level A Product Health Declaration™ (PHD™).

The GreenTag PHD is the first health transparency tool in the world to assess human health concerns directly, rating the health impacts of a final product – and not just the hazards of a product's ingredients.

For more information call us now on 1800 088 809.



MicroPro® is a registered trademark of Koppers Inc. or its subsidiaries. MicroPro® timber products are produced by independently owned and operated wood preserving facilities. © 2019 Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd. Global GreenRate, GoldHEALTH, Global GreenTag and GreenTag PHD are registered trademarks operated under licence by Global GreenTag Pty Ltd.

From P 2

for the housing construction industry are showing significant declines.”

In less positive news, the HAFF has suffered a serious setback.

This is Labor’s centrepiece housing policy

and seeks to establish a \$10 billion fund to build social and affordable housing. The fund will be invested and pay out a guaranteed minimum \$500 million per annum to invest in social and affordable housing (over \$1.3 million / day).

In the past, Prime Minister Albanese has said that over the first five years the fund would build 20,000 social housing properties, with 4000 of those to be allocated for women and children fleeing domestic violence and for older women on low incomes at risk of homelessness. Another 10,000 affordable housing properties would be made available for frontline workers.

While considered a reasonable start on addressing Australia’s extensive public, social and affordable housing shortages by many (including housing associations, superannuation funds and



1/ Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during question time on Tuesday. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen
2/ The Senate votes on the HAFF. Photo: from MP for Wills Peter Khalil’s Facebook page



unions), the HAFF has been criticised for lacking ambition by the Greens and several crossbenchers and the Coalition has opposed it, warning it could be inflationary (despite the Coalition being the architects of the \$250.5bn Future Fund, which escapes such concerns).

After multiple amendments to the original bill, the Government secured the Senate support of several Independents, including the two Jacqui Lambie Network seats, but the Coalition and Greens teamed up to delay the bill until October, prompting warnings of a potential double dissolution election.

The Greens have

“SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL HOUSING IS CRITICAL AND IS A FANTASTIC START

been demanding several additional amendments including proposals to strengthen renters’ rights. While the Government has acknowledged that Australian renters are currently being badly hurt by soaring rents and market instability, it has insisted that this is a States-based issue and that the rent freeze demanded by the Greens would “destroy supply”.

PM Albanese said, “[The

Greens] deal in protests, we deal in progress. They see issues to campaign on, we see challenges to act on. They want to build their profile, we want to build more homes.” In question time on Tuesday, he accused the Greens of “bringing a juvenile, student politics approach which needs to be exposed”.

What began as differences in policy is now very much playing out as politics.

New forest plantation grants

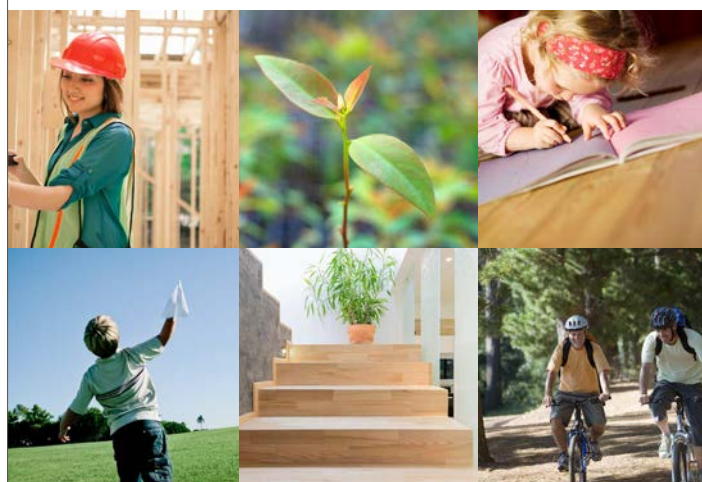
ON Wednesday, the Albanese Government announced new forest planation grants that will help Australia grow much-needed timber and wood fibre supply for the nation’s future.

Almost \$74 million was committed to the Support Plantation Establishment Program through the 2022-

23 Federal Budget with the grants process opening this month. Grants will be open to private operators and state and territory forestry enterprises with the target of establishing new plantations and farm forestry operations.

More information about the program can be found at the Community Grants Hub.

The united voice for Australia's forest industries



0408 404 764
enquiries@ausfpa.com.au
www.ausfpa.com.au



Gippsland politicians appeal for Albanese's intervention in Victorian native forestry close

MP Darren Chester and three local mayors have hit Canberra in a bid to have Federal politicians weigh in on the Andrews government's early closure of native forestry.

THE fight to save the native hardwood timber industry needs to become a national issue, according to Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester.

Mr Chester led a delegation of three Gippsland Mayors in meetings with senior government and opposition representatives in Federal Parliament with a focus on the Victorian Government's decision to ban all native hardwood timber harvesting on public land from 1 January, 2024.

Wellington's Ian Bye, East Gippsland Shire's Mark Reeves and Latrobe City's



Cr Kellie O'Callaghan, Darren Chester, Cr Mark Reeves and Cr Ian Bye formed a delegation to discuss the future of the native hardwood timber industry in Federal Parliament.

Kellie O'Callaghan were united in their support for timber workers and their families as they highlighted the social,

economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the Victorian announcement.

"The meetings were respectful and courteous but the Federal Labor Government has confirmed there is no plan to intervene in this heartless and illogical decision by Premier Dan Andrews," Chester said.

"We met with Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt and a representative of the Prime Minister's office who made it clear that the Federal Government supports the native hardwood timber industry.

"While I welcomed their support, the fact is they have no plans to get involved in the debate in Victoria and no intention of standing up for blue collar workers in our

community."

Chester said the delegation also met with Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and Shadow Minister Jono Duniham who expressed their commitment to a sustainable native hardwood timber industry.

"This is now an issue of national importance because the demand for timber products isn't decreasing and Victoria will simply raid other states for timber or import from other countries with poorer environmental standards," Chester said.

"There will be price impacts on Australians wanting to build or renovate a home, supply chain insecurities, and poorer global environmental outcomes if Australia keeps locking up its native timber industry.

"The Prime Minister needs to get involved in this debate and add his voice to the sensible Australians who understand how we need a sustainable native timber industry and a plantation sector as part of a viable forest industry.

"If he doesn't act now and give this issue the full attention of a National Cabinet discussion, we will see timber communities decimated across Australia and a growing dependence on imported products."

Chester has repeated his challenge to crossbench and Labor MPs who support further native timber industry bans to visit his electorate and meet

NEW IN 2023

TIMBER WORKSHOPS

- ✓ Timber Knowledge – Beginner & Advanced
- ✓ Sales
- ✓ Conflict Management
- ✓ Timber Take-off

100% of students who attended our workshops state they were relevant to their workplace, and rates the courses as excellent.

UPSKILL YOUR TEAM TODAY

LIMITED PLACES:
1800 822 621
ntha.com.au/events/training

“IT'S A SOPHISTICATED, WORLD-CLASS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY”

Victorian Climate Change Minister dodges protesters

Gippsland timber workers and opposition politicians were unimpressed by the Minister's refusal to discuss the native timber industry closure.

VICTORIA'S Labor's Minister for Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio was in Morwell, deep in Gippsland timber territory, last week. But it wasn't to talk about the early closure of the state's native timber industry, rather, she was there to open the 150MWh Hazelwood big battery (a privately funded project).

While the region is overall pleased at being chosen as a base for infrastructure that will power Australia's shift to renewables, there was understandable anger when, instead of addressing protesting timber workers outside the facility, D'Ambrosio slipped out the back gate after the ribbon was cut. The irony of supporting one industry linked to major carbon reduction in the economy at the same time as pulling the rug out from another that has done the same for over a century was lost on no one.

The Nationals Member



Protestors in Morwell were disappointed when Minister D'Ambrosio made a quick getaway rather than listen to their grievances.

for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath, was among the protestors. She said that, true to form, Labor denied timber workers the opportunity to raise their legitimate concerns: "The Andrews Government has exhibited zero accountability, empathy, or respect by ignoring the valid concerns of timber workers, their families, and our regional communities.

"The so-called 'science' Minister D'Ambrosio cites

to justify the closure of the native timber industry in Victoria is selective, flawed and disproven. Timber is the ultimate renewable resource and instead of axing a sustainable industry, Labor should be embracing it."

“ INSTEAD OF AXING A SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY, LABOR SHOULD BE EMBRACING IT

Gippsland native timber workers have been seeking a meeting with Labor MPs to clarify forestry packages and compensation, including mental health support after the unexpected announcement of the imminent closure of their industry.

Member for Morwell, Martin Cameron, who was also at the protest, said he was disgusted on the day. "Labor has a complete disregard for our timber towns, workers, and their families – these people are standing there telling us they feel abandoned, and MPs choose to slip out the backdoor," Cameron said.

"These hardworking people have no certainty about how they will pay their bills or put food on the table. The Andrews Government is more concerned about the optics and producing spin instead of our native timber workers."

Enabling sustainability...
through world-class standards

responsiblewood.org.au



Illegal firewood cutting rates increase

It's not regional families picking up some cheeky gleanings from the forest floor; organised gangs are cutting down valuable trees for profit.

SOUTHEAST Australia has been shivering through a cold snap this week and in many areas the smell of woodsmoke from warming fires is in the air.

But what's being burned may well be important logging resource and natural habitat, as illegal logging for firewood has boomed in multiple districts.

Parks Victoria has seen River Red Gums with trunk diameters up to near 1m

chopped down by what they describe as organised criminal operations.

"It's not just individual households going out to get a load of firewood to keep their family warm," Parks Victoria senior enforcement officer Andrew Dean told the ABC.

"It genuinely is a commercial level of offending by organised groups for personal gain."

In NSW, the Central Tablelands Local Land



Parks Victoria's Andrew Dean says if a deal on firewood seems too good to be true, it probably is. Photo: ABC Shepparton, Rosa Ritchie

reported for theft of wood, damaging native vegetation and being possession of chainsaws in a native forest reserve. Police seized three chainsaws and the cut wood was returned to Forestry SA.

"The men will all be issued with summonses to attend court at

a later date and may still be subject to further legal action under Forestry SA legislation."

Illegal felling of trees not only deprives wildlife of habitat and can impact the value of forest resources, it is a dangerous task with many of those who carry it out lacking chainsaw skills and failing to understand the size and weight of the trees they are cutting down.

Suspicious activity in forests should be reported to local police or parks authorities as soon as possible, as catching perpetrators in the act is the only way most are stopped. Firewood collection is legal in some state forests, usually with permits, but not tree felling. Contact the forest management authority to check.

Services have had problems on Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs).

"We've been receiving reports of illegal firewood collection at TSRs across the Central Tablelands, and while we all enjoy a nice fire when it gets cold, it's important that you source your wood legally," said Colleen Farrow, Biosecurity Team Leader.

In South Australia, three Mount Gambier men were recently caught allegedly stealing firewood at Tantanoola and will soon appear in court.

As the SA Police report tells: "Police were called and attended, locating three people who had allegedly felled red gum trees and were in the process of chopping them up for firewood.

"The three men aged 55, 54 and 33 were subsequently

“IT GENUINELY IS A COMMERCIAL LEVEL OF OFFENDING BY ORGANISED GROUPS

ForestWorks

Develop our future workforce

ForestWorks is an industry-owned not-for-profit organisation offering services to support the skills development of the forest, wood, paper, timber and furnishing industries.

ForestWorks works with industry, government and the education and training sectors to improve skills standards and qualifications and support the development of forestry-related industries, their people, and enterprises.

To find out more:

Email: forestworks@forestworks.com.au

Phone: 1800 177 001

www.forestworks.com.au

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Share media releases, news stories, events, and any timber and forestry news related information with us anytime -
news@timberandforestryenews.com
edit@timberandforestryenews.com

timber
 & FORESTRY eNEWS

JUNE

27: WoodSolutions Seminar – NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Sydney.

Dive into in a full day of timber design with WoodSolutions-sponsored presentations on a range of timber construction topics. The line-up tackles many of the industry's thorniest subjects, including carbon calculation, automated structural design, and lessons from the project teams responsible for executing the cutting-edge in timber construction in Australia. Speakers include Karl-Heinz Weiss from Lendlease and there will also be networking time available. Held at the NSW Teachers Federation

Conference Centre in Surry Hills near Central Station, just \$30. For more details and to book, visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/woodsolutions-seminar-tickets-631273976457

JULY

4: WoodSolutions Webinar: New Innovative Software Taking the Structural Design of Timber to New Heights.

Adam Jones explains CLT Toolbox's ability to expand entry into taller timber construction for more designers and builders. Free and online, 11am Australian Eastern time, RSVP to <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/81111111111>

asJYEbAhQoiiBg3xJXaZnW#/registration

16-21: Understanding Forest Course, Gottstein Trust – Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW.

A week-long forest science course that provides an understanding of sustainable Australian forest management, the economics of growing trees for wood production and other forest services. The course covers both planted and natural forests and provides an appreciation of environmental issues and international strategic trends in the forestry industry. For further information see: <https://gottsteintrust.org/grants-courses/understanding-forest->

science-course

AUGUST

29-30: Timber & Forestry enews Australian Timber Supply Summit – Melbourne.

Early warning alert. For any queries relating to the conference, please contact CORP COMM. Email: info@corp-comm.com.au Phone: +61 3 5977 0244

SEPTEMBER

11-12: Timber Off-Site Construction Conference – Crown Promenade Melbourne.

The theme for 2023 is "Timber & Technology – The Zero Carbon Future". For more information visit www.timberoffsitestructure.com

Australian Timber Supply Summit

Discuss, network and understand the Australian Timber Supply Industry

- CROWN PROMENADE MELBOURNE
- 29 - 30 AUGUST, 2023
- CLICK OR SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



Have you registered for the “Australian Timber Supply Summit?”

THANK YOU to our sponsors and supporting partners of the Australian Timber Supply Summit to be held in Melbourne on 29-30 August 2023.

This event will be a fantastic opportunity to discuss, network and understand this essential component of the supply industry.



Contact sponsorship@corp-comm.com.au for information on sponsoring

this event. Scan the QR code and register today!

Do you crosscut timber packs at ±1mm accuracy

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

OR produce pallet dimensions or studs on fixed lengths

HOLTEC has a solution for you

For more information contact:

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



Our Scope of Supply:

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

Field trips promote sustainable forests and responsible supply chains

Responsible Wood launches two sustainable forestry field trips to educate and provide information around sustainable forestry and forest product certification.

THERE is still a lot of misinformation and misconceptions about forestry in general, making the topics of setting sustainability standards, certification, and implementing sustainable forest management systems difficult to explain.

To help address this, Responsible Wood organised field trips for architects, designers, builders, manufacturers and wholesalers in Victoria and Queensland, providing a valuable opportunity to observe sustainability and real forestry practices in action. These field trips aimed to showcase the importance of responsible supply chains and promote sustainable forest management.

The recent field trips offered firsthand experiences that highlight the field trip partners' commitment to driving positive change in the forestry industry. Simon Dorries, CEO of Responsible Wood, expressed his satisfaction with the field trips, stating that they represent Responsible Wood's dedication to promoting sustainable practices and providing valuable insights for the field trip attendees.

The field trips immersed participants in the real world of sustainable forest management, allowing them to witness the thorough planning and operational execution of forest management by organisations including

VicForests in Victoria and HQ Plantations and DAF Forestry in Queensland. Participants had the opportunity to observe the use of advanced



1/ Participants at the recent Victorian field trip in an area managed by VicForests.

2/ Victorian participants visited an ASH plant to see the careful chain of custody for certified timbers.

3/ The Queensland tour included a demonstration of replanting, highlighting forestry's renewable nature.

technologies in monitoring and protecting biodiversity, as well as the implementation of best practice, science-based forest management techniques.

The positive feedback received from participants speaks to the dedication and commitment demonstrated by these organisations in ensuring the long-term health, sustainability, and productivity of forests.

A significant aspect of the field trips involved tracing the journey of timber from the forest to the end consumer. Participants gained an insider's perspective of a responsible wood certified supply chain, witnessing the transparency and accountability maintained at each stage by Australian

Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) in Victoria and Hyne Timber in Queensland. This firsthand experience was aimed at educating participants to help them make informed choices as users and specifiers of timber products.

Responsible Wood Sustainability Manager, Matt de Jongh, emphasised that the field trips shed light on the positive impact of responsible forest management on biodiversity. Participants observed the integration of protective measures for flora and fauna, the preservation of critical habitats, and the protection of forest soils and water.

"Witnessing these processes fosters a deep understanding of the crucial

connection between thriving ecosystems and sustainable wood production," said de Jongh.

These field trips represent an important milestone for Responsible Wood, actively engaging architects, designers, builders, manufacturers and wholesalers in the pursuit of sustainable and ethically sourced timber. Building upon the success of these field trips, Responsible Wood aims to conduct similar trips across Australia throughout the year. By providing opportunities for industry professionals and stakeholders to witness sustainable forestry practices in action, Responsible Wood aims to continue to inspire and educate, showcasing a collective commitment to a sustainable industry with products that are around for many generations to come.

On the cover: Responsible Wood's first Queensland field trip group.

Forestry firefighters demand inclusion in presumptive rights scheme



Forestry-based firefighting teams like those from HVP (here in a training exercise) work alongside professional and volunteer brigades during bushfires.

EARLIER this month, the Andrews Labor Government announced their intention to expand the presumptive rights scheme to include specific cancers affecting women. Presumptive rights mean that career and volunteer firefighters diagnosed with certain cancers do not need to prove firefighting caused their disease; it is assumed that carcinogenic compounds in the smoke content inhaled in the course of their work are at fault.

While the industry welcomed the decision, they called on the Government to include one group of firefighters that has been repeatedly left out – the Forestry Industry Brigades.

Deb Kerr, CEO of the Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA), said “Forestry firefighters don’t just protect assets. During each bushfire season, these firefighters stand united with their fellow firefighters, working tirelessly to ensure

the safety of people, homes, forests, communities, critical infrastructure, and wildlife. While we support the inclusion of more cancers affecting women under the scheme, it is high time to include forestry firefighters.”

In Victoria, the Forest Industry Brigade under the Country Fire Authority is made up of 800 people employed in the forestry sector. These men and women protect the state during bushfire season alongside other firefighters – volunteers and professionals. With an average of 10 years of individual service each, they have accumulated an impressive 8000 years of service to the Victorian community.

“Our Forestry Industry Brigades take great pride in protecting their communities when faced with the worst circumstances. And the risks they face remain the same, irrespective of the uniform they wear,” Kerr concluded.

A large graphic featuring a background of stacked logs. Overlaid on the logs is the text 'QUALITY SERVICE INNOVATION' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there is a red diamond-shaped logo containing the text 'HYNE TIMBER' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

HYNE.COM.AU

POW foresters remembered

A Mount Gambier history researcher is telling the story of Italian forest workers.

LIZ Rymill of ABC South East SA recently spoke with Mount Gambier History Group researcher Stephanie Edgeworth about a remarkable part of Australian forestry history, when POWs managed pruning in the Green Triangle forests during WWII.

Little remains now of the camps near Nangwarry, Wandilo and Rocky Camp [near Mount Burr]. "There are no monuments or memorials, and only a handful of people know exactly where they were," said Edgeworth, but her extensive research has uncovered still-living connections.

"In researching the camps, it's been fascinating to scour the archives and to speak with some long-living locals who remember the men," she said.

"I talked to Mr Bill Tye who is in his late 90s and who lived across the road from the

POW internee camp at Wandilo. I also talked to Eddie Heaver, a former guard there."

The south-east wood camps were managed by the South Australian Department of Woods and Forests, which was enduring a labour shortage due to a workforce at war.

In early 1944 the first of the POWs arrived in the south-east and about 200 were assigned to the wood camps. The main camp, at Wandilo, housed about 50 Italian detainees at any one time in timber huts, as well as about 15 guards and an



Internees felling pine logs at Nangwarry Wood Camp near Mount Gambier in 1944. Photo credit: Jeff Holly and Peter Dunn, Australia @ War

shared meals, occasionally the POWs and internees attended local dances, they taught the families and the children Italian," she said.

"Of the men who worked on the farms, some of them maintained contact with the families after the war because they'd built such strong

Italian-speaking medical staff member.

Some men were trusted enough to work on local farms. Edgeworth said she had spoken to farming families who had Italian POWs on their properties who described them as "hardworking and very family orientated".

"There were stories of

bonds. Some farm families even sponsored the men to return to Australia as migrants years later."

The camps and rural workers scheme continued until April 1946 due to ongoing labour shortages and a lack of ships to get the Italians home.

Source: abc.net.au. Click here for the full story.



Designed & Manufactured in the USA Since 1985

- All Lasers have a 24 Month Warranty
- All Lasers are Fully Rebuildable.
- 24 Hour Service Turnaround.
- AC & DC Power Options Available.

Lasers Built for Industry:

- Primary & Secondary Wood Processing
- Portable Sawmills
- Bridge Saws
- Robotics



Red Lasers Available in:
5, 10, 15 & 30mW

Green Lasers Available in:
5, 10, 30 & 50mW



sales@lumberlinelaser.com | toll free 855-686-3077 | www.lumberlinelaser.com

From P 4

with industry and community leaders.

“They are barking up the wrong tree with their misinformed commentary on a complex industry they haven’t bothered to understand,” Chester said.

“We are seeing some MPs from the most privileged suburbs of Australia seeking to sack workers with some of the lowest household incomes in the nation based on their total ignorance of the native hardwood timber industry.

“Rather than ignorantly lecturing my timber families, I extend an open invitation to any of the cross-benchers and Labor MPs to visit Gippsland, meet industry and community leaders, and get a firsthand appreciation of the way they manage the bush for a sustainable industry.”

Chester made it clear that many political beliefs

about Australian timber harvesting were based on old practices. “Anyone who has bothered to do some research would know the native hardwood timber industry has changed dramatically over the past 30 years across regional Australia,” he said.

“It’s now a sophisticated, world-class and environmentally sustainable industry that supports Australian jobs, protects our communities and wildlife from bushfires, and reduces our carbon footprint.

“Surely these MPs can understand the alternative to harvesting local timber on a long-term rotational basis is to import more timber from countries with poorer



MP Darren Chester was kicked out of Question Time for passionate speech in May when he accused the PM of “hating” forestry workers.

environmental protocols?

“We already import more than \$5 billion of timber products from developing nations and that figure would only increase if this simplistic concept of more bans is supported by the Prime Minister.”

He added that a focus on timber in construction will form a vital part of meeting our Net Zero goals, saying: “A

sustainable native hardwood timber industry is part of the answer to reducing Australia’s carbon emissions as timber products sequester carbon in our floorboards, furniture and other timber products.

Chester also repeated his concerns for country communities if skilled timber workers were forced out of their jobs.

“Operating heavy equipment in a bush environment takes skill and they are a critical resource during the fire season that won’t be available for future natural disasters if we lose this industry,” he said.

“This will become an issue of national safety and the Federal Government can’t sit back and let Premiers put country communities at risk. This has nothing to do with environmental science... it’s all about political science for Premiers chasing green votes in the suburbs at the expense of blue collar workers.”

arxada

Always in demand

TRUST Ecowood®

TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS

Ecowood® is a registered trademark of Arxada or its subsidiaries. ©2022 Arxada

Supporting a sustainable future for forest products at the IUFRO Conference

Delegates gathered in Cairns from around the region and world to discuss solutions for delivering sustainable forestry products.

THE International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) Division 5 Conference, held in Cairns earlier this month, provided a unique opportunity to learn from experts in forest research, share knowledge, and establish connections with other forestry professionals. The event was also a platform to discuss and collaborate on solutions to global challenges related to sustainable forest management and responsibly sourced forest products.

Responsible Wood's strong commitment to promoting sustainable practices in the forestry industry was on display at the conference's grand opening, with Responsible Wood's Sustainability Manager, Matt de Jongh, delivering the keynote speech, emphasising the significance of responsible forestry and sustainable utilisation of forest resources.

"We were pleased to participate in, and sponsor, the IUFRO Conference, which brought together experts and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the sustainable utilisation of forest products," said de Jongh. "It was a remarkable opportunity to collaborate, share insights, and drive positive change in the industry."

“CONFERENCE A PLATFORM FOR SHOWCASING INNOVATION IN FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

He added, "Responsible Wood's involvement with the event reflects our dedication to promoting responsible forestry practices. By supporting events like this conference, we aim to raise awareness about the importance of sustainably sourcing and utilising forest products. We believe that sustainable practices are crucial for the long-term health of our forests, as well as for the economic and social well-being of communities that depend on them."

The conference served as a platform for showcasing innovation in the forest products sector. Participants explored various avenues, including technological breakthroughs and novel manufacturing techniques, to enhance the sustainable utilisation of forest resources.

"Innovation plays a pivotal role in driving sustainable forest product development

and adoption," said de Jongh. "By embracing new technologies and practices, we can optimise resource

allocation, reduce waste, and minimise our environmental footprint."

Organising such an event requires significant effort, and IUFRO should be commended for their efforts in bringing together industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers. Through collaborative efforts and a shared commitment to sustainability, those in the forest industry have the opportunity to create a future where forest products play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, supporting communities, and preserving our precious natural resources.

"By supporting events such as this, we continue to advocate for a future where forests are nurtured, protected, and managed in a manner that benefits both the environment and society, and that remains economically viable," said de Jongh.

Learn more about IUFRO's activities at www.iufro.org.



1



2



3

1/ Matt de Jongh with Maika Tabukovu, senior lecturer in the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at Fiji National University.

2/ Members of the audience and speakers at the IUFRO conference. The international crowd reflected the conference's ambition: 'Delivering Opportunities for Everyone'.

3/ Matt de Jongh speaking about Responsible Wood and the importance of certification for forest products.

KOMATSU

Komatsu PC300HW



Komatsu Forest's Unique Forest Combinations

The Komatsu PC270HW & PC300HW Extreme models have been developed by collaboration between Komatsu Forest & Komatsu Osaka Factory.

KOMATSU
Creating value together

Komatsu Forest Pty Ltd
11/4 Avenue of Americas
Newington NSW 2127 Australia
T: +61 2 9647 3600
E: info.au@komatsuforest.com

Disgraceful industry shutdown action by the Victorian Labor Government

I KNOW I have been on about this before, but it's back front-and-centre on the industry's agenda after Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews accelerated his decision to shut down the state's native forest base timber industry six years earlier than the original timeline.

The industry knows it is all about the Labor government putting native forest-based businesses, workers and dependent communities out of business to protect their standing in inner city seats in Melbourne. Amazingly, the so-called party for working people plans to put thousands of forest and timber workers onto the scrap heap.

The industry salutes Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) heavyweight Michael O'Connor for resigning from the Victorian Forestry Plan Advisory Committee branding the group a sham following a decision to fast-track the end of the native forest industry. He said the government neglected to consult the committee about the measures it announced, raising the question what was the point of the committee.

He said committee members were devastated to hear about commercial logging's accelerated shutdown and it was completely disrespectful and inappropriate that they found out about it through news outlets. The announcement was done in a way that maximised stress and strain on those in the industry and increased the risk of mental health issues.

"The advisory committee was, quite frankly, a sham. The union is not interested in being a prop for the state's media unit. The government



1/ Darren Chester... no one wants a bloody handout from Dan Andrews, they want to have the decency of a job to provide for the financial security of their families in the towns they love.

2/ Anthony Albanese... Challenged to provide an example of where his government had actually supported the hardwood timber industry.

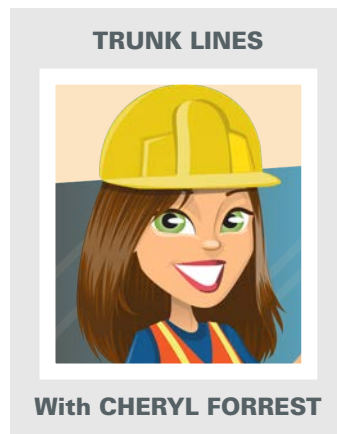


has rushed this announcement and hasn't consulted anybody," he said.

Federal House of Representatives member for Gippsland Darren Chester called Victorian Labor MPs gutless for not standing up for blue-collar workers and protecting their jobs from these inner-city Greens policies.

And going back to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaking at the Australian Forest Products Association dinner in Canberra last December he said: "We want a thriving and a sustainable timber industry... one that provides jobs and drives down our emissions for years to come." However, Chester said he hasn't lifted a finger to support Victorian timber communities and the families that will lose their income as a result of this decision by Daniel Andrews.

In a recent heated Question Time clash in the Federal Parliament, Chester challenged the Prime Minister to provide an example of where his government had actually supported the hardwood timber industry, in the wake of the Victorian's Government's



decision to ban the logging of native trees in just six months.

"I gave the Prime Minister the opportunity to prove he was different to the Premier and he knocked it back. They are as bad as each other and Albanese's answer demonstrated a complete lack of compassion for timber workers and their families," Chester said.

"If this timber ban goes ahead, it will devastate the social and economic life of small towns in my community. The flow on impacts are hard to predict but as working-age people leave the district, things like football and netball clubs will cease to exist and schools become unviable.

"No one wants a bloody

handout from Dan Andrews, they want to have the decency of a job to provide for the financial security of their families in the towns they love. Why should families have to move interstate to get a job just because Melbourne Labor MPs are too gutless or stand up to the Greens?"

Daniel Wright, Director of Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, emphasised the significance of sustainable forest management and responsible supply chains in light of the Victorian Government's decision: "With the surprise end of native forestry in Victoria, we will now rely on imported products. We should be producing timber and managing forest values locally, where we can control them to generate positive environmental and community benefits".

And in what has got to be the breathtaking, cynical act of the century Daniel Andrews' Labor party mate Federal Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt has announced the formation of a new talkfest committee designed to deflect attention from the shameful decision of the Victorian Government. According to Minister Watt, no doubt with tongue-in-cheek, the new Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership will work with the Albanese Government on issues facing the forest products sector.

Sorry Minister, you are a bit late, the horse has well and truly bolted and Daniel Andrews has double-padlocked the door! It's all shameful stuff and our thoughts are with our Victorian forest industry mates.

Cheryl

Galah Regional Photography Prize 2023 entries open

One of the best photography prizes in Australia is running again, with a \$25,000 prize for the Open winner and \$2500 for the Student winner.

FOREST workers and those industry members in regional areas know all about the beauty of Australia outside the cities. It's a beauty that print magazine *Galah* celebrates in every issue, along with the innovation, creativity and diversity of regional communities.

Once a year, the magazine runs a photography prize that is open to all comers who live in Regional Australia (click here for a list of eligible postcodes), with serious judges and serious prize money. It's designed to both showcase the regions and to reward the excellence of photographers living and working in those areas.

The judging panel consists of the *Galah* editorial team,

Susi Muddiman, Director of the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre in Murwillumbah and Tamara Dean, a critically acclaimed Australian photo media artist whose work has been exhibited in public and private collections in Europe, America and across Australia.

The judging panel will choose approximately 40 finalists across two photography categories: an Open category and a Student category (for Year 11 & 12 students). One winner will be announced for each category. The Open prize winner receives \$25,000 and the Student prize winner receives \$2500.

Entries are now open and close at midnight on Monday 14th August 2023.



Pip Williams' photo of her two daughters on the last day of school holidays in the river at Texas, Queensland is a previous category winner in the Galah prize.

requires a separate entry form with an entry fee of \$33.


The magazine team notes: "The Galah Regional Photography Prize is supported by our generous patrons including the Burton Taylor Foundation and

M|Arts Precinct in Murwillumbah, and facilitated by Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund."


Find the full terms and conditions and links to the entry forms www.galahpress.com/competitions/regional-photography-prize-2023


Original entries will be digital, with the shortlisted images subsequently delivered to M|Arts Precinct, Murwillumbah, in November 2023 ready to hang. These must comply with size limits, framing and display requirements.

To be eligible, you must live in regional Australia. Each entry




The trusted voice of independent timber and hardware businesses






Legal and IR




Advocacy


Membership enquiries:
Marie-Claire McKierman
 National Membership Manager
 0411 886 716
 1800 888 479
www.mgatma.com.au



Timber Advisory Service



Training



Member Benefits

Serving independent timber and hardware businesses by providing valuable back of house services. **"MAKING LIFE EASIER,"**

HIA Award of Excellence honours two industry greats

AT HIA's recent National Conference and HIA-CSR Australian Housing Awards on Hamilton Island, builders Stuart Wilson and Peter Campbell were announced as recipients of the prestigious Sir Phillip Lynch Award of Excellence.

The Sir Phillip Lynch Award of Excellence recognises those who have made an outstanding and distinguished contribution to the residential building industry at the highest level of excellence and integrity. It's named after former Treasurer of Australia under Malcolm Fraser, Sir Phillip Lynch, whose many achievements over a lengthy career included freeing up immigration to Australia and providing staunch support to Australian housing.

Stuart Wilson is the co-founder and former managing director of Wilson Homes, Tasmania's largest residential builder and an Australian Top 100 builder.

He has represented the industry on numerous committees, forums and boards at both a state and national level, including the National Supply Council and National Industry Skills Council and as a national director on HIA's Board for 14 years. He was HIA national president from 2011 to 2013.

"Stuart's drive and success comes from a desire to ensure builders can design and construct affordable housing to make certain average Australians can achieve their dream of home ownership," said HIA's managing director, Graham Wolfe. "He is an active mentor to many members in the industry all over Australia, striving to see others succeed



1/ **Stuart Wilson's long history of excellence as a builder and advocate was recognised with the prestigious award.**

2/ **Peter Campbell (centre) was recognised for his many decades of service to and innovation in construction.**



in the industry.

"Stuart has selflessly supported several local and national charities, including facilitating housing projects where proceeds from their sale are donated to some amazing causes," added Wolfe. "He was instrumental in establishing an alliance between Wilson Homes and Housing Tasmania to provide affordable housing in low social-economic areas."

Fellow awardee Peter Campbell has been a strong advocate for the housing industry for more than four decades. He began his career as a draftsman, before launching a business in 1976, designing two-storey homes.

He started Clarendon Homes in Sydney, growing the highly successful business to become New South Wales' largest residential builder and the seventh largest residential construction company in Australia, with operations expanding into Victoria in August 2001. Today, the Campbell Property Group is the parent company for Clarendon Homes, Domaine Homes, CPG Estates and Your Home Finance.

"Peter has a long history of forward thinking, constantly

looking at ways to innovate and further develop building techniques and practices across each business under his leadership," said Wolfe.

His philanthropic activities are as inspiring as his business activities. Peter was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 2008 for service to the community through philanthropic contributions to a range of health, social welfare, youth, and charitable organisations.

Peter's passion for his community, be it his staff, suppliers, trades or philanthropic endeavours, is testament to his character and the success of the businesses he leads.

"Both these individuals deserve our recognition for their unwavering commitment to helping Australians achieve the dream of home ownership. They have given so much back

“ BOTH HAVE AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO ASSIST AUSSIES ACHIEVE THE DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP ”

to the Australian community and the building industry as a whole, and I congratulate them," said Wolfe in his testimonial.

"They join an elite group of industry leaders."

Previous award recipients include managing director of

Meriton, Harry Triguboff; former managing director of McDonald Jones Homes, Bill McDonald; managing director of the Hickinbotham Group, Michael Hickingbotham; former managing director of the Buckeridge Group of Companies, the late Len Buckeridge and managing director of building products company Brickworks, Lindsay Partridge.

Other awards announced on the night included the 2023 HIA-CSR Australian Home of the Year won by Lane Group Construction for the cliff-hugging Tinderbox Residence in Tasmania; 2023 HIA Australian Apartment of the Year won by K2 Built for its Chainmail House project in Point Piper, Sydney; and the 2023 HIA Australian Apartment Complex, which went to Coben Building for a dramatic multi-unit development built into the Studley Park cliff face in Kew. Lane Group also won the Outdoor Project category for the cantilevered swimming pool at Tinderbox Residence.

Find the full list of winners at www.hia.com.au/awards-and-events/awards/2023-australian-housing-award-winners.

Fostering future timber careers

Forestry Corporation of NSW has guided three new employees through their graduate program and is looking for the next generation.

IN the same way timber is a renewable resource, so are forestry workers if they're tended properly. For decades, Forestry Corporation of NSW has offered the career paths for university graduates who have completed their studies in the fields of forestry, agriculture, environmental science and natural resources.

Under the 2022/23 graduate program, three successful applicants obtained a permanent role with Forestry Corporation undertaking two years of 'on-the-job' training. Lydia Kearns is based in Wauchope on the Mid North Coast, Jack Power is based at Bateman's Bay on the South Coast and Justin Yip is working in the Riverina at Tumut.

"I originally grew up in the suburbs of Sydney, however, I always spent much of my free time out in the bush mountain biking, climbing, or trekking," Yip said.

"I always aspired to have an occupation working outdoors but never really took up the opportunity to do so until 2018, when I decided to continue with my tertiary studies."

Justin enrolled in a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management degree, specialising in Parks, Recreation and Heritage at



1/ Forestry Corporation graduate foresters Justin Yip, Jack Power and Lydia Kearns toured Big River Timber's sawmill at Junction Hill, Grafton.

2/ Big River's hardwood flooring relies on native hardwood veneers.



Charles Sturt University.

"Just before I graduated last year, I began to look for work opportunities and fortunately came across the Forestry Corporation website," he said.

"It aligned with my interests and values in land management, environmental conservation, and recreation."

Yip applied for the Graduate Forester position in Forestry Corporation's Soft Woods Division at Tumut, where he is completing his first rotation within the silviculture division.

"It's a diverse and dynamic role with opportunities to learn field and office-based tasks as well as firefighting skills," Yip said. "The most exciting part of this program is the opportunity to gain an in-depth experience in all aspects of the business."

Kearns took up a position in the hardwood division in Wauchope having moved to the Mid North Coast from the Blue Mountains. "In my last year of studying at the University of Sydney, I was figuring out my next steps, when I saw the graduate program advertised," she said.

"My degree was in environmental science, ecology and evolutionary biology, so I was very interested in the native forestry industry.

"I have spent a lot of time camping and four-wheel driving in the bush, so was already familiar with State Forests and what they can offer. Being able to work in the bush is definitely a win. It's the best job in the world!"

The graduate foresters

recently completed a field trip to the North Coast, which took in a tour of Big River Group's Junction Hill sawmill, near Grafton.

It took the forestry experience full circle for them, seeing first-hand how the sawlogs harvested from the forests they help to manage are made into world-class timber products, including Big River Group's new-generation engineered, prefinished hardwood flooring, using native hardwood veneer over a plywood core.

If you know a student who is interested in land management, Forestry Corporation will begin fielding applications to the 2023/24 Graduate Program in August, see www.forestrycorporation.com.au

Timber & Forestry enews is the most authoritative and quickest deliverer of news and special features to the forest and forest products industries in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. Enews is delivered weekly, every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year. Advertising rates are competitive with any industry magazine. Timber&Forestry enews hits your target market – every week, every Thursday!

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
dana@dana.co.nz

EDITORS

Nicky Ainley // +61 (0) 410 538 034
news@timberandforestryenews.com
Donyale Harrison // +61 (0) 417 487 497
edit@timberandforestryenews.com

ADVERTISING

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

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

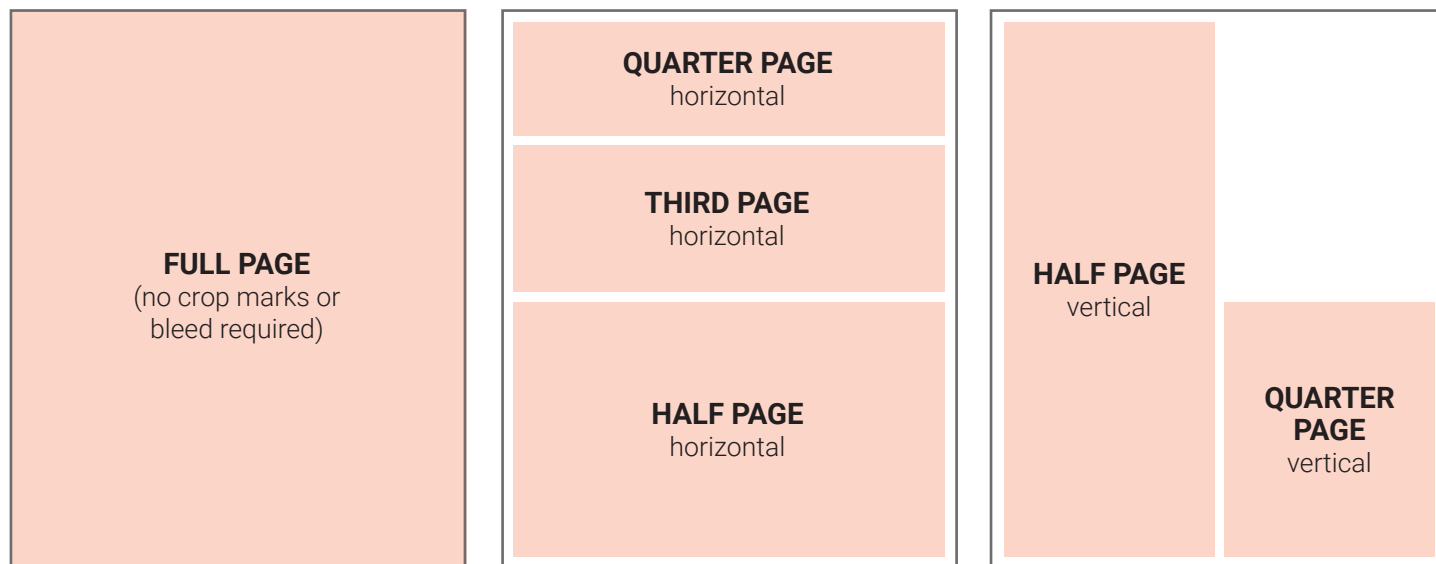
DELIVERED
WEEKLY TO
15,200
GLOBAL
READERS*

ADVERTISING RATES

timber
& FORESTRY *e*NEWS

Now in its 15th year, Timber & Forestry eNews has grown to be the Number ONE online weekly news journal for the forest and forest products industries – across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

ADVERTISING SPECIFICATIONS



DISPLAY AD RATES

All pricing below is excluding GST and are based on a weekly booking. Overseas bookings are exempt from GST.

FULL PAGE: \$510

297mmH x 210 mmW

HALF PAGE: \$305

Vertical • 256mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 125mmH x 190mmW

QUARTER PAGE: \$195

Vertical • 125mmH x 93mmW

Horizontal • 63mmH x 190mmW

THIRD PAGE: \$225

Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover strip: Contract booking
Horizontal • 32mmH x 200mmW

PAGE 1 Front cover module: Contract booking
Horizontal • 45mmH x 50mmW

PAGE 2 below story: Contract booking
Horizontal • 73mmH x 190mmW

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING JOB ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY

BUY & SELL ADS: ONLINE BOOKINGS ONLY
744pxH x 720pxW

TERM DISCOUNTS

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

Timber & Forestry eNews is published by Timber Media Australasia
PO Box 69, Potts Point, NSW 1335, Australia. Phone: 0417 421 187.

Delivered every Thursday, 48 weeks of the year to industry decision
makers in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific, North America, UK
and Europe.

DEADLINES

Display ads: Book by 9am Tuesday prior to publication

Supplied artwork: Wednesday 12 noon prior to publication. Supply hi-
res jpg or pdf to our specifications. **NO crop marks or bleed required.**

Classified advertising: JOB ADS ARE COMPLETELY ONLINE.

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

BUY & SELL ADS ARE ONLINE AND IN THE PUBLICATION. Go to
www.timberandforestrynews.com/product/buy-sell-advertisement/
to place an ad. **Book by 5.00pm Tuesday prior to publication.**

TERMS

New clients invoiced on booking. Existing clients 14 days.

WHO TO CONTACT

Media releases and editorial: Nicky Ainley e: news@timberandforestrynews.com and Donyale Harrison e: edit@timberandforestrynews.com

Display ad bookings: Campbell McInnes e: campbellm@timberandforestrynews.com // **Accounts:** Chris Parker e: cparker@ttnews.com.au