

15 June 2021

Dear WPMA Members,

Jon Tanner is stepping down as WPMA Chief Executive on July 23 after ten years in the role.

Jon, who informed the WPMA Board of his intention to step down from the role, said he is very pleased with what WPMA has achieved during his time as CEO.

He said he is particularly proud of the fact that WPMA not only put the wood processing and manufacturing sector on to NZ's radar screen but then drove it right to the top of the political agenda.

WPMA has confirmed the economic, social and environmental gains for NZ from a thriving wood processing sector. WPMA has also revealed the risks if NZ allows competitor countries to disregard global trade rules, undermine our markets and stunt growth in a NZ-based wood processing industry – an industry that is absolutely integral to the future zero-carbon economy.

In doing this, WPMA has become the champion for the wider, manufacturing sector in this country demonstrating that value-add industries don't just happen, they require careful nurturing. WPMA has shown how this can be done.

Cross-sector collaboration and leadership have been the hallmark of WPMA work – it has made WPMA strong. Jon says, "I am pleased to be leaving WPMA in good heart for the future, which is critical given its role as the leading wood industry body in NZ. The organisation has a loyal and active membership base and a Board that is confident to challenge the "established viewpoint". WPMA boldly speaks out on issues that affect the whole membership and has proved it can bring about change".

WPMA Chair Brian Stanley said, "he was very sorry to see Jon departing the WPMA but understands that CEO's do need to seek other opportunities from time to time". "He said Jon has been a valuable member of the WPMA management team over a period of ten years as CEO and his contribution has been invaluable, not only for the wood processing sector, but also for the manufacturing sector in general through his persistence with the work stream of holding government to account in matters of international trade and trade law".

"Brian said Jon, along with his industry knowledge, will be a significant loss to the WPMA and wishes him well in his new venture."

Mr Stanley says the Board has commenced a search for a replacement immediately and expects a good talent pool of candidates.