

October 2023

Message from the Chief Executive

Having the election day voting and politicking completed is a relief to all. Though until the 3 November, or longer, it is still uncertain as to the actual shape of our new Government.

Pre-election both the National and Act Party have signalled some positive policy initiatives for wood processing. These now need to be progressed and expanded to include additional priorities, for example, as highlighted in the Forestry and Wood Processing Transformation Plan and the WPMA 'new government briefing document'.

One of our key strengths with the new government will be the fact that we are starting off positively with the wood processing and forestry industry peak industry bodies meeting to progress the formation of a Pan Sector group. This will strengthen our industry voice and provide a forum to discuss key issues, such as policy positions.

Mark



Minister for Forestry Essential in New Government

To ensure the voice of the wood processing and manufacturing sector is heard a strong recommendation has been made in the WPMA '*Briefing for an Incoming Government*' for the appointment of a high-ranking Minister for Forestry (incl. wood products). An experienced Minister and proactive industry are essential for implementation of key wood products policies that will lead to economic and sustainable growth for both our industry and to New Zealand.

NZ Timber Design Awards

When: Thursday, 2nd November 2023 from 5.30 pm - 11.30 pm

Where: Grand Ballroom, Cordis Hotel, Auckland

Timber Unlimited invites you to join architects, engineers and timber industry leaders for a fun and spectacular night to celebrate timber design excellence and innovation. The [2023 Timber Design](#)

[Awards](#) gala presentation dinner will reward practitioners who have surpassed the 'every day' with their professional skill and ability to deliver excellence to their clients.

In a marketplace that makes many claims and with expectations around 'grand designs' abounding, join representatives from the New Zealand Wood Products industry and design professionals in celebrating those who can truly see the wood from the trees and know how to use it!

Tickets include:

Tickets are available for individuals or tables of 10 (at a special rate)

Cocktail Hour (while you view the finalists)

3-course plated dinner with drinks

Check out all of the 2023 finalists [here](#)

For Tickets and Accommodation details <https://timberunlimited.co.nz/get-involved>

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Fergie on 021 807 002.

ACC Recovery at Work Trial – Expressions of Interest now open

Businesses involved in forestry, wood processing and log transport are being invited to take part in an ACC Recovery at Work trial. The trial will identify and evaluate initiatives that make a difference to how well people working in these industries recover and return to work after an injury. It will run for six months, from February to August 2024, and if successful, could be rolled out across the wider wood-based sectors. If you wish to know more, or would like to be involved in the trial, please fill in this [Expressions of Interest](#) form. A link to the website information on the trial can be found here: <https://www.safetree.nz/news/expressions-of-interest-for-acc-recovery-at-work-trial>

WorkSafe Restructure – Loss of technical experts a concern

The cutting of technical staff from WorkSafe as part of a restructure is of concern to WPMA and our members. Up to 120 staff jobs are targeted, with front line inspectors favoured over head office technical analysts and experts. From a WPMA perspective a technically competent WorkSafe is essential, with poorly thought through regulations and standards having an adverse effect on our members operating in the wood processing and manufacturing sectors. Along with industry consultation, sound scientific and technical assessment is the core to sensible standards development. WPMA will be requesting a meeting with new WorkSafe Chief Executive, Steve Haszard, to seek security that development and consultation of regulations will continue to include industry input and be based on transparent technical decision-making pathways.

EU Deforestation Regulation member workshop

The EU Deforestation Regulation will affect specific products including wood and wood products, which will need to provide geolocation coordinates for places of production to demonstrate that they were not produced on land deforested since 31 December 2020. This data will need to be provided to European importers. The aim of the regulation is to promote deforestation-free supply chains and will come into effect in December 2024. Given the implications of the EU Deforestation

Regulation to WPMA members who export wood and wood products to EU countries, we have organised a virtual update meeting and discussion with our regulators to provide more context to the regulation. If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact jeanette@wpma.org.nz in the first instance. Noting that a separate invitation has been sent to all WPMA members.



Legal Harvest Assurance System planning underway

The *Forests (Legal Harvest Assurance) Amendment Bill*, received Royal Assent in May 2023. Details of the legal harvest assurance system will be established through secondary legislation before commencement of the Act (three years after Royal Assent). As part of the consultation MPI have requested to explore cost recovery options to recover costs for the proposed system. The legal harvest system will cover primary or first-stage processors, exporters, importers, log traders and forest owners. Each entity will need to register with MPI as to showing how they will reduce the risk of dealing with timber that is illegally harvested. MPI are currently in the planning phase of delivery, with timelines for engagement and consultation with the sector to be confirmed in coming months.

Long Lived Harvested Wood Products work continues

Work on the Long-Lived Harvested Wood Products project continues, with a draft report expected later this month. The project is tasked with developing and investigating options to encourage and incentivise greater domestic production and use of LLHWPs. Both National and Act have signalled pre-election support for investigating the phase-in of credits for wood processing based on using embedded carbon captured in longer-life timber products as a means of supporting further sector investment and contributing to our climate change goals.

European Supply Chain Update - Focusing on reliability

The latest MFAT Market Intelligence report on European supply chains is now available. New sustainability-oriented regulations and a shifting focus from efficiency to resilience are reshaping trade within Europe. Companies in the region have made changes within their supply chains to diversify production and focus on reliability in addition to cost efficiency. See more detail [here](#)

Submissions on NZ Energy Strategy

MBIE are currently overseeing an ambitious and comprehensive programme of work to transition New Zealand to a more renewable energy system. The New Zealand Energy Strategy will build on these underlying workstreams and align policies and projects. This will ensure there is a coordinated approach to charting the path for the overarching energy transition. MBIE are now seeking feedback on policy that will set the direction and pace of change for energy in New Zealand. Submissions close on Friday 2 November. WPMA will be submitting on behalf of our members. More details can be found here <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-advancing-new-zealands-energy-transition/>



Pan Pac Back on Track

Pan Pac's chip mill is up and running following eight months of tidy up and rebuilding on the plant following Cyclone Gabrielle. Floodwaters up to 2m high ripped through the site in February, damaging equipment, buildings and electronics. The chip mill is the first production facility to become operational again at Pan Pac's Whirinaki plant. The wood chips from the mill are being delivered to Napier Port and then shipped to Japan to be turned into paper. That operation is only temporary, until the Whirinaki plant gets its pulp mill up and running again. Pan Pac managing director and WPMA board member Tony Clifford said the lumber business and mill at the plant would be up and running again in a limited capacity in November, along with one of the plant's boilers, and the pulp mill would be operational again in February. The entire plant is expected to be fully operational by late 2024. *Source NZ Herald.*

In the Media

National Party Wood Products Policy Signals the way forward

<https://www.wpma.org.nz/news/wpma-welcomes-national-party-wood-and-forestry-policy>

Norske Skog divests Tasman industrial site to Oji Fibre

<https://www.euwid-paper.com/news/companies/norske-skog-divests-tasman-industrial-site-to-oji-fibre-111023/>

Wood Processing Jobs Boost

<https://www.miragenews.com/nz-gov-boosts-wood-processing-jobs-diversifies-1095859/>



Hybrid Building Seminar brought to you by Timber Unlimited and New Zealand Timber Design Society

When: Thursday 2 November 2023

Time: 9.30 am - 3.20 pm

Where: Crystal Room, Cordis Hotel, Auckland

Cost: \$150+GST

TDS Member rate: \$130+GST

[Click here for more information.](#)
[Programme](#)

The accelerated adoption of timber in New Zealand, our most sustainable building material, has led to innovative and inspiring uses across a broad range of projects in all sectors. This seminar aims to help build belief in the possibilities of timber and to help you unlock its true potential.

You'll hear from Architects, Engineers, Developers, Constructors, Regulation, Research and Manufacturing, who will provide fresh perspectives and learnings on using timber as part of a hybrid structure to solve design challenges and create structurally efficient, robust, low-carbon solutions.

Discover how timber is best utilized amongst other materials, where and how to play to its strengths, how to connect with other materials and how to overcome real challenges faced during the design and construction process.