

18 January 2022

Dear WPMA Members

I hope that you had an enjoyable break over the festive season. This is my first communication to you as the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of WPMA.

I certainly have some big shoes to fill following the outstanding and diligent work of Jon Tanner who has been instrumental in building and establishing WPMA into the highly respected organisation that it is today.

Having spent my entire working career within the New Zealand primary industries, I am excited by the opportunity in now becoming part of the wood processing and manufacturing industry.

In the early part of my tenure, I am very keen to visit members across the country to learn more about your businesses and thoughts on how WPMA can make a positive and meaningful difference to building successful and enduring businesses within our industry.

This will be an important component in expanding my understanding of the industry and will provide the platform in developing a new strategic direction of WPMA planned for completion in the first half of 2022. In the interim I am keen to hear your ideas on what success looks like for your businesses and WPMA in the future, so feel free to call me on 027 226 3331 or email [stephen@wpma.org.nz](mailto:stephen@wpma.org.nz)

I was fortunate to meet some of the members during the recent Annual General Meeting in November and greatly appreciate them making me feel welcomed to the role. I also wish to acknowledge Brian Stanley's support in helping me come up to speed.

I look forward to meeting up with you in due course.

Kind regards

Stephen