

WPMA News - September 2023

This is the first of our 'new' Newsletters targeted at informing you of relative WPMA activities. Noting that a more specific WPMA 'member only' newsletter will also be sent direct to our members. If you have any feedback or want to know more about WPMA membership, feel free to contact mark@wpma.org.nz

Message from Mark

It has been great coming back into the wood and forest industries after a longish gap, with a warm welcome received by many. I have been listening, asking questions, and absorbing a lot of information, which is allowing me to better understand the industry opportunities and challenges.

As a general summation WPMA is viewed as a respected leader across the industry. People and groups spoken to are wanting to actively engage with WPMA as to progressing identified projects, opportunities, and industry development.

This is very positive and will assist in driving WPMA's refreshed strategy, action plan, member value proposition, and communication plan. I look forward to further engagement with you on these and other activities over the coming months.

Mark



WPMA Election Advocacy

Though the polls indicate a change to a right led Government post 14 October, nothing is certain in politics. As with prior elections the minor parties will more than likely have the final say, with NZ First Party leader Winston Peters currently making his usual last-minute pitch. To ensure that your voice is heard WPMA will be advocating on key issues with the various political spokespeople and others. In addition, we will action a post-election briefing for the in-coming Minister on the Wood Processing and Manufacturing sector for advocacy with the incoming Government.



NZ Timber Design Awards

The 2023 NZ Timber Design Awards Gala Presentation Dinner will be held at the Cordis Hotel, Auckland on 2 November.

For Tickets and Accommodation details <https://timberunlimited.co.nz/get-involved> If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Fergie on 021 807 002.

Industry Transformation Plan – Forestry and Wood Processing Update

The ITP for the forestry and wood processing sectors is making good progress. The ITP launched on 30 November 2022 at Field Days. To progress the transformation, 11 foundational ITP projects were established. Collectively, this represents \$4.3 million invested in the sector. Of the 11 projects, two projects are fully funded by Government. The other nine projects are delivered in partnership, with the sector providing approximately 43 percent (\$1.46 million) of the co-funding. An industry based steering group has been established to guide and advise Te Uru Rākau on the future work plan and associated investment priorities. The overall goal being to work to strategically co-invest in projects to continue to build on the transformation. More details on the projects can be found at [Projects » Te Ara Whakahou Ahumahi Ngahere \(transformingtreesandwood.nz\)](https://transformingtreesandwood.nz)

Building for Climate Change

MBIE's Building for Climate Change programme has been established to reduce emissions from the building and construction sector, plus ensure New Zealand's buildings are resilient enough to withstand changing climate conditions. It is expected that introducing regulatory requirements to reduce buildings' whole-of-life embodied carbon will be a key part of the approach. How to count carbon is a live issue. More details can be found here <https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/building-for-climate-change/>

Building Product Information Regulations – MBIE

Building Product Information Regulations are due to come into force on 11 December 2023. Building product manufacturers and importers are required to make statements of compliance with the NZ Building Code. Highly standardized products like timber are manufactured to standards governing size, grade, treatment which are specified in a matrix of structural and durability standards. Making compliance statements about the final building performance as set out in the NZ Building Code is difficult and legally fraught. MBIE's guidance is high-level and the expectation they would provide more specific advice is unlikely to be met. More details can be found here <https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/product-assurance-and-certification-schemes/building-product-information-requirements/>



Supply Chain Forum

The Supply Chain Forum was established by MPI during the Covid lockdown as a means of industry informing government of supply chain issues, plus government updating industry on its activities. The Forum includes invited representatives from across the primary sector and supply chain. Good progress has been made in some areas such as faster cargo clearance at ports of landing for imported seasonal crop protection products. At the forthcoming meeting the Ministry of Transport will provide an overview on the recently released [Aotearoa New Zealand Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#)

Long Lived Harvested Wood Products Reference Group

Action 9.3 of the Industry Transformation Plan (ITP) calls for an investigation into options to recognise the 'delayed emissions' from harvested wood products. In a recent survey of WPMA members, Action 9.3 in the ITP received 93% support to progress as a priority.

Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service (TUR-NZFS) has launched a project to engage a wide range of stakeholders to develop and investigate options to encourage and incentivise greater domestic production and use of LLHWPs. The project is to run over four phases, finishing in late October 2023. The purpose of the LLHWP Reference Group is to provide insights and feedback on the stakeholder engagement and draft documents, including the final report.

Cost Recovery Industry Reference Group

The purpose of the MPI Cost Recovery Industry Reference Group (IRG) is to allow an open discussion between government and industry on cost recovery proposals, along with round table discussion on the current state of the sector. Represented are 24 industry groups (incl. WPMA) and MPI senior management. At the recent meeting MPI discussed market access, plans for cost recovery in 2024 and the uncertainty for future government departments funding due to the forthcoming election. More certainty will be known in early 2024 once a new government has been formed. An invitation will be made to the new government to meet with the IRG for the March 2024 meeting.

Good Employer Awards – Primary Sector

The Ministry for Primary Industries 2023 Good Employer Awards were recently held in Wellington. The awards, now in their fifth year, celebrate employers who show genuine passion for ensuring the success of their people. Entries are received from a range of different employers in the food and

fibre sector including dairy, forestry, horticulture, meat processing and food production. A clear theme in the entries is the respect and support of employees.

Tree Machine Services from Taranaki were the winners of the Supreme Award, along with the Maori Agribusiness and Small Business Recognition Award. More details on the Awards and how to enter can be found here <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/our-work/mpi-scholarships-and-awards/primary-industries-good-employer-awards/>



Business NZ Membership – Allied Industry Group

WPMA has been approved as a member of the BusNZ Affiliated Industries Group (AIG). The AIG is comprised of member-based organisations that represent and support their respective industries, sectors and professions. With more than 60 representative groups covering a range of major industries, the AIG membership represents a significant portion of New Zealand's economy. As a business group, the AIG provides a strong collective voice, as well as supporting each member's ability to influence outcomes important to their respective industry. Benefits to WPMA include joint advocacy, joint policy submissions and research, networking, and attendance at the AIG forums/events.

Maintenance Engineers Conference

Receive 2 days of solid learning from industry experts for only \$395 + GST (MESNZ Members \$325, and Student/Apprentice/Trainee \$125*) at the Maintenance Engineering Society of NZ Inc. (MESNZ) Conference in Hamilton on the 4 and 5 of October.

This volunteer-run event is priced to remove as many barriers as possible to getting your engineers and trainees along so they can improve your plant uptime and productivity. 30 technical engineering and organisational topics to really upskill your team at all levels.

Register: www.mesnz.org.nz/conference Email: infomesnz@gmail.com Ph: 022 685 6897