

Message from the Chief Executive

Attending the Timber Design Awards provided a great insight into the innovation and diversity wood enables in construction. As a means of promotion, this event was a showcase for our industry that will hopefully inspire more designers and architects in the future to consider timber as their core building material.

At the time of writing, we continue to await details on the compilation of our new Government. Not unexpected when you have three strong leaders jostling for their political positioning. Through development of our Briefing for the Incoming Minister(s) and formation of the Industry Pan Sector Group we are in a strong position to advocate with the new Government for on-going and increased support for the wood processing and manufacturing sectors, plus forestry.

Heading into the end of year it has been great meeting and talking with members on site, with more visits planned over the coming months. I am constantly inspired by the support WPMA is receiving from across the sector, plus the innovation and passion displayed by our members.



Annual General Meeting - WPMA

WPMA's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Rydges Hotel, Wellington Airport on the afternoon of 22 November. Both virtual and physical attendance options are open. At the AGM our refreshed strategic direction will be highlighted, along with the appointment of two new board members and an overview from our chairman, John Eastwood, on the past year. General business items for discussion are welcome from members. If you are a WPMA member and wish to attend the AGM, then please contact jeanette@wpma.org.nz

Motueka sawmill reopened in a boost for Nelson's timber industry - Prolam

The first logs in more than five years have been milled at a restored sawmill in Motueka. Closed in 2017, Nelson family-owned business and WPMA member, Prolam, has been working to reinstate the 80-year-old mill to support the production of its innovative structural timber solutions. Prolam Managing Director, John Woodman, said the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the timber processing industry and the local economy was front and centre in his decision to purchase the site in 2017 and get the mill

back up and running. It also supports a commitment to the long-term sustainability of the New Zealand timber industry and optimising the use of timber as a renewable resource in the design and construction of residential and commercial buildings. Contact Ebony Wood from Prolam ebony.wood@prolamnz.com for more information.



Timber Design Awards celebrates the innovative use of timber

Timber building projects from across New Zealand were celebrated at the 2023 Timber Design Awards. Collectively the 61 finalists over 12 categories shine a light on the role that wood construction can play to increase the demand for use of our domestically produced timber and address our sustainability targets. WPMA congratulates all the winners, many of whom were supported by WPMA member products, along with Timber Unlimited for organisation of an outstanding event.



St Kentigerns Preschool (Caroline Ducobu)

Hybrid Building Seminar a sell out

At a sold-out event Timber Unlimited hosted the first Hybrid Buildings Seminar in collaboration with the Timber Design Society, aimed at improving best practice in the industry especially as it relates to engineered timber. Hybrid buildings typically include those that have timber as structural elements or systems, in combination with one or more other structural materials such as steel and reinforced concrete. The hybrid system enables efficient use of each of the structural materials, and results in building designs that are commercially competitive, with reduced embodied carbon relative to buildings that use only steel and/or reinforced concrete. They provide a lower resistance path for industry to get more timber into the built environment in the short and medium term. In terms of cost,

structural integrity and aesthetics, mass timber compares very favourably with concrete or steel structures.



Inquiry into Covid – submissions called for by Royal Commission

The Royal Commission Inquiry into Covid continues, with submissions called for on industry impacts. WPMA will be providing feedback on behalf of our members into the Inquiry. The Royal Commission is focused on identifying lessons that can be learned from the Covid experience to strengthen our overall pandemic preparedness. See www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz



Natural Hazard Decision Making – National Policy Statement

Severe weather events are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Building new developments like houses, office buildings, shops, roads and schools in areas at high risk from natural hazards increases risk to human life, community wellbeing, property, infrastructure, and may lead to adverse effects on the environment. The aim of the proposed NPS-NHD is to provide direction to decision-makers on the appropriate weight to attach to natural hazard risk in planning decisions relating to new development under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Submissions on the proposals close on 20 November, with WPMA supporting the BusNZ joint submission via our Affiliated Industry Group membership. It is noted that the proposed NPS-NHD will apply only to new, rather than existing, infrastructure.

Transition to an Expanded and Highly Renewable Electricity System consultation

Support for a clear and consistent strategy for the energy sector was the main message from the Manufacturing Alliance to the government on the consultation document 'Transition to an Expanded and Highly Renewable Electricity System'. As an overriding concern, we contended that it is wrong to define some uses of electricity as more meritorious than others based on a short term and siloed understanding of the public interest. The Manufacturing Alliance is the voice of all manufacturers, represented by The Manufacturers Network, Metals New Zealand, Wood Processors & Manufacturers Association, Plastics NZ, and the NZ Maintenance Engineers Society. See details on the MBIE consultation <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-generation-and-markets/electricity-transition/measures-for-transition-to-an-expanded-and-highly-renewable-electricity-system/>

Burnt Pine Longhorn Beetle Treatment Season Underway 19 November

From Saturday 19 November the Burnt Pine Longhorn beetle (*Arhopalus fesus*) flight season will commence for New Zealand ports. All timber, timber mouldings and break-bulk ply products, (including LVL) shipped to Australia must be treated in accordance with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry requirements for *Arhopalus fesus* flight season and be accompanied with an MPI phytosanitary certificate. The species was accidentally introduced to New Zealand most likely during the mid-1950s. It is now established throughout the North Island and can be found in plantations as far south as Dunedin in the South Island. *Arhopalus fesus* is known to attack logs, stumps, slash and standing dead or dying pine trees. The beetle is a quarantine pest for some countries, including Australia.



South Korea – Another Year of Positive Market Growth

New Zealand businesses have achieved another year of success in the Korean market according to the market intelligence report released by MFAT. Korea is our sixth largest trading partner, with a total value of NZD 8.92 billion for year end June 2023. Wood exports are third at NZD 325.3 million, with dairy our number one export at NZD 476.9 million. The key for New Zealand businesses to manage trading conditions in 2024 will be to focus on the long term, as well as adding “value” rather than adding quantity. The full report can be read here [South Korea: Another year of positive performance - October 2023 \(mfat.govt.nz\)](https://mfat.govt.nz/south-korea-another-year-of-positive-performance-october-2023)

In the media

NZ Timber Design Awards Celebrate Success

https://www.wpma.org.nz/uploads/1/3/2/8/132870817/timber_design_awards_a_success_wpma_media_release.pdf