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2026 Timber Design Awards celebrates spectacular winners



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Sold-out night celebrates the timber industry

The 27th Australian Timber Design Awards packed Sydney's MCA to capacity.

THE Harbourside Room at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art was packed to its absolute limit on the evening of 21 October. Tickets for the 27th Australian Timber Design Awards were a complete sell-out. More could easily have been sold, but the venue simply would not allow it. Guests looked out over the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge as the timber industry gathered to recognise another strong year of work, projects that are steadily shifting the perception of timber from the exceptional toward the expected.

Much of the credit for the smooth, high-energy night belongs to Kylan



1/ Kylan Low is very deserving of credit for the beautiful event and helping to bring together so many projects to be celebrated. Image: Timber Development Association

2/ The 2026 event was beautifully designed and carried an air of excited celebration. Image: Leo Mamede Photography

3/ The TDA 2026 judging panel. Left to Right: Tomek Archer (Archer Office), Victoria Judge (SJB), Yann Frampton (Hassell), Amy Smith (Arup), and Nick Hewson (Arborealis). Image: Chris Parker



Low. The Timber Development Association structural engineer has organised the awards for the past three years and, by every account from those present, carried the majority

of the organisational load this time. His steady hand was evident in the breadth of the shortlist, the pacing

Cont P 3



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of the presentations, and the overall atmosphere of the evening. The industry owes him genuine thanks.

Five judges assessed the field: Tomek Archer of Archer Office (whose Boot Factory took last year's Grand Prix), Yann Frampton of Hassell, Nick Hewson of Arboralis, Victoria Judge of SJB, and Amy Smith of Arup. The brochure handed out on the night described the panel's working method with unusual clarity and care. Because timber is used across such a wide range of applications, the judges are deliberately drawn from different building professions so that structural ingenuity, construction methodology, aesthetics, sustainability and the lived experience of the finished space are all scrutinised with equal weight.

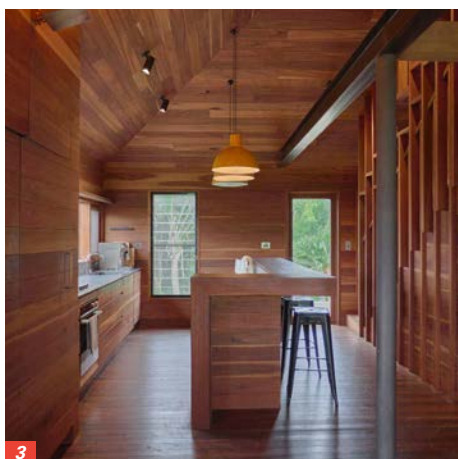
Each year the team behind the previous overall winning project is invited onto the panel. This means the people who have most recently met the Awards' standard of excellence are the ones who help set it for the next round. Their decisions therefore carry the credibility of practitioners who understand first-hand what it takes to design and deliver outstanding timber buildings.

"Often, the panel arrives at a decision that no single judge would have made on their own," the brochure notes. "Each member comes with a different background and a different lens, and as the conversation unfolds, perspectives are challenged, refined and combined. A structural engineer might draw attention to something the architect had overlooked, while a builder's eye for detail might shift how a design's ambition is understood. The result is a considered, collective judgement that reflects the full breadth of what makes a timber project exceptional. It

“THE CALIBRE OF THIS YEAR'S ENTRIES DEMONSTRATED A CONFIDENCE AND MATURITY IN TIMBER DESIGN THAT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE



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1/ **Overall Winner: Hoskins Building – betti and knut architecture, as well as Public Building winner.** Image: Martin Mischkulnig

2/ **Residential Class 1 – New Building: Enclave House – Bohane Campo.** Image: Leo Mamede Photography

3/ **Residential Class 1 – Alteration or Addition: Wilson's Cottage – Casey Brown Architecture.** Image: Zella Casey Brown

4/ **Fitout – Residential: Bank Street House – Prior Barraclough.** Image: Leo Mamede Photography

5/ **Fitout – Commercial and Public: The Cutaway Barangaroo – fjcstudio, as well as People's Choice winner.** Image: Leo Mamede Photography

6/ **Furniture and Joinery: The Lamella Chair – Richards Stanisich.** Image: Tim Robinson

7/ **Commercial Building: Sydney Fish Market – 3XN with BVN and ASPECT Studios.** Image: Rasmus Hjortshøj

Cont P 4

From P 3

is one of the most rewarding moments in the Awards, and a reminder of the value of bringing many disciplines to the same table."

That collective view elevated the Hoskins Building at The Illawarra Grammar School, designed by betti und knut architecture, to both the Public Building award and the overall Grand Prix. Accepting the top prize on stage, the practice said it was "quite overwhelmed." They had found it surprising to win the commission at all, competing as a small studio against considerably larger practices, and credited a client and project team fully aligned with their ambitions, plus a "great builder" in Rohrig. They also expressed the clear hope that more schools would follow the same path so that students grow up inside buildings that make sustainability tangible rather than theoretical.

Judges' comments, played over images of the project, were direct and warm. They called the building "something to be very proud of." One judge said every school should be like it. They singled out the technical innovation in the connections, Hilti Quick Connect systems that allow the frame to come apart without traditional screw fixings, praising the project for packing "a lot of stuff into a small package" and designing deliberately for longer-term circularity. MC James Fitzpatrick, whose own Seed House won the Grand Prix in 2019, described the overall award as "the high point of our awards presentations this evening."

Kevin Peachey, Head of the WoodSolutions Program, wrote in the night's brochure that the awards arrive at a pivotal moment for the sector. "As demand grows for lower-



Responsible Wood Acting CEO Matt de Jongh (left) presenting the award to Archier directors Chris Haddad (middle) and Josh Fitzgerald (right) at the Australian Timber Design Awards. Image: courtesy Responsible Wood

carbon, faster-to-build, and more resilient construction methods, timber continues to prove itself a material that architects, engineers, and builders can build on with confidence. This year's entries, spanning ambitious mass timber commercial works to thoughtful residential and joinery projects, are a testament to that."

Andrew Dunn, Chief Executive Officer of the Timber Development Association, struck a complementary note. The calibre of this year's entries, he said, demonstrated "a confidence and maturity in timber design that continues to evolve." These projects do more than solve complex technical challenges; they create places that enrich lives, foster connection and leave a lasting impression on the communities they serve. A recurring theme throughout the field, Dunn observed, is a deep commitment to sustainability and the growing sophistication with which strategies such as prefabrication, adaptive reuse and circular design principles are being integrated from the outset. "What was once considered innovative is rapidly becoming integral."

Elsewhere on the night, Sydney Fish Market by 3XN with BVN and ASPECT Studios took the Commercial Building category. fjcstudio's The Cutaway at Barangaroo achieved a double: the Intergrain-sponsored Fitout – Commercial & Public Building award and the People's Choice Award. More than two thousand public votes were cast across the field. Furniture and Joinery produced one of the biggest

reactions of the evening; Richards Stanisich's Lamella Chair was announced to excited applause across the room.

PROVENANCE AS PRINCIPLE

Archier's Ora House won the Responsible Wood-sponsored Australian Certified Timber category. The award is judged not primarily on pure design but on how certified timber is made integral to the project. More than 90 percent of the house's timber, itself around 75 percent of total building materials, came from

certified Australian sources, backed by supplier Chain of Custody certificates and project invoices. Suppliers included Wesbeam, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH), Ta Ann Plywood, Porta and Britton Timbers.

The Archier team put the thinking behind the project plainly: "For a house premised on reciprocity with the Australian bush, provenance was an ethical requirement rather than paperwork, and it underpins the Passive House and embodied-carbon strategy with auditable evidence. Chain of custody certification makes the project's low-carbon claims verifiable from forest to frame, making every structural and lining element traceable to certified regrowth or plantation sources."

Responsible Wood Acting CEO Matt de Jongh presented the award and later reflected: "Good timber design starts with understanding the material, including where it comes from. Ora House shows the care architects can bring to that decision, connecting outstanding design with a clear commitment to certified Australian timber. We're proud to support an award that recognises that commitment and gives other project teams a practical example to follow."

A number of other winners across categories also harnessed Responsible Wood and PEFC-certified timber and chain-of-custody certificate holders. The Cutaway at Barangaroo featured

“GOOD TIMBER DESIGN STARTS WITH UNDERSTANDING THE MATERIAL, INCLUDING WHERE IT COMES FROM”

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From P 4

timbers from ASH and Hess Timber. Tonsley Technical College, winner of the Sustainability category, included cross-laminated timber manufactured by NexTimber by Timberlink and glue-laminated timber supplied by ASH. The Hoskins Building's CLT is PEFC- and FSC-certified. These choices reinforce a quiet but consistent shift: certification is no longer an optional extra but part of the design conversation from the beginning.

LOOKING FORWARD

Kylan Low framed the deeper message of the night with characteristic directness. "We're at the point now where people who are not familiar with the timber industry might scratch their heads and think, what, this is unusual?" The goal, he said, is for timber to become "not so special anymore." Furniture and joinery's strong showing this year, the technical ambition visible in the public and commercial projects, and the consistent attention to certification, circularity and long-term performance all point in that direction.

The 27th Australian Timber Design Awards did not simply crown individual projects. They recorded a moment in which timber design in Australia feels increasingly assured, responsible and ready to move from the exceptional

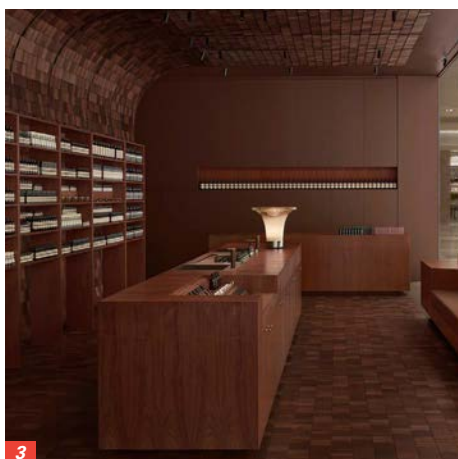
“WHAT WAS ONCE CONSIDERED INNOVATIVE IS RAPIDLY BECOMING INTEGRAL



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1/ **Sports and Recreation: Adelaide Aquatic Centre – Warren and Mahoney Architects (with JPE Design Studio and Karl Winda Telfer).** Image: Leo Mamede Photography

2/ **Australian Certified Timber: Ora House – Archier.** Image: Pier Carthew

3/ **Recycled Timber: Aesop Canberra Centre – Aesop Design Team.** Image: Cieran Murphy

4/ **Sustainability: Tonsley Technical College – Das Studio.** Image: Leo Mamede Photography

to the everyday. The packed room, the quality of the conversation among the judges, and the clear-eyed comments from winners and organisers alike suggested an industry that is maturing with quiet confidence, and that has every intention of keeping that momentum going.

On the cover: Taking the major win at the Timber Design Awards was the Hoskins Building by betti und knut architecture. L-R: Robertus Pratikna (No3 Structure), Bettina Steffens and Knut Menden (betti und knut architecture) and Kevin Peachey (WoodSolutions/FWPA). Image: Leo Mamede Photography

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MiTek opens expanded Dandenong South facility

Supporting customers and driving building innovation.

MITEK has officially opened its expanded Melbourne facility in Dandenong South, bringing its manufacturing, automation and office operations together with a new Experience Centre designed to give customers a closer look at the technology, expertise and solutions supporting their businesses.

The opening was celebrated with a tour of the facility for MiTek's Frame & Truss manufacturing partners, showcasing the expanded manufacturing capabilities and the latest developments across software, engineering, automation and digital solutions. MiTek was also pleased to welcome the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and Manager of Opposition Business, as a special guest at the event.

The expansion more than doubles MiTek's Melbourne footprint, bringing the combined site to more than 15,000 square metres. The investment strengthens MiTek's local manufacturing and automation capabilities whilst creating a central location for customers to experience its integrated solutions firsthand.

"[The tour] is about showing our customers what this investment means for them and how we can continue to support their businesses," said David Oliver, Managing Director, Asia Pacific at MiTek.

"By bringing our capabilities together in one location, we can demonstrate how software, engineering, manufacturing and automation work together across the building process. It also gives us more opportunities to work directly with our

customers, understand their challenges and develop solutions that help them improve productivity, efficiency and building outcomes."

BRINGING DESIGN, MAKE, BUILD® TO LIFE

At the heart of the new facility is MiTek's Experience Centre, showcasing how its integrated solutions support each stage of the building process, from design and engineering through to manufacturing and construction. Customers can see how software, engineering expertise, building products and automation work together to streamline processes,

improve productivity and deliver better building outcomes.

The facility tour covered four key areas:

- **Software innovation:** The latest developments in MiTek's software and digital solutions, demonstrating how they support design, engineering and production processes.
- **Automation solutions:** Machinery, equipment and automation technologies that can help improve manufacturing productivity, efficiency and consistency.
- **MiTek manufacturing:** A closer look at MiTek's own manufacturing operations, production capabilities and investment in local capacity.
- **Engineering and research and development:** The technical expertise and ongoing development behind MiTek's solutions, helping address changing customer requirements and industry challenges.

The expanded site also brings a significant increase in operational capacity. Pressing capacity is set to increase by more than one third, whilst Posi-Strut production capacity will double. Greater warehousing capacity and an expanded automation operation will also support equipment assembly, parts availability and customer integrations.

Factory acceptance testing will be conducted in-house, helping streamline the process of testing equipment before it is deployed to customers.

The Experience Centre will also provide a space for training, development and collaboration, supporting knowledge-



1/ MiTek Frame & Truss manufacturing partners tour the expanded Dandenong South facility during the official opening.

2/ Guests hear how MiTek's automation and manufacturing capabilities support improved productivity and efficiency. All images: courtesy MiTek

OCTOBER

30: SA, NT & WA Timber & Hardware Industry Awards – National Wine Centre, Adelaide, 6.30pm - 11.30pm.

Join us in celebrating the SA, NT & WA Timber and Hardware Industry. For more information, visit <https://www.ntha.com.au/events/2026-industry-awards/> or contact tahlia@ntha.com.au

NOVEMBER

4: WoodSolutions Webinar – ONLINE EVENT, 10.00am AEDT. Topic - A new era in mass timber construction. For more information and to register for the event, [click here](#).

8-13: The Gottstein Trust's Understanding Forest Science Course – The Country Club, Launceston, Tasmania. For those working in, or with an interest or association with the timber and forestry products sector, this unique course will provide an update on core aspects of forest science and aspects of management of the nation's public and private estates. Participants will also gain a better understanding of the national and international forces impacting upon forests. Bookings are now open. For more information, visit

<https://gottsteintrust.org/> or phone Helen Murray on 0419 991 424

12: Architecture & Design Sustainability Summit 2026 – The Fullerton Hotel, Sydney. The summit provides a valuable opportunity for built environment professionals to hear from industry leaders, explore emerging ideas and gain practical insights that can help shape better project outcomes. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.sustainablebuildingawards.com.au/sustainability-summit-2026/>

12: Forestry Australia Webinar – ONLINE EVENT, 12.30pm - 1.30pm AEDT. Topic: Forest Recreation & Tourism. Registrations close 11 Nov at 10am. Registration cost: (inc. GST) Forestry Australia Member: \$15 | Non-Member: \$70 | Student Members: Free. The webinar link and joining instructions 24 hours will be sent 24 hours prior. A recording will be available should you be unable to attend live. To book, visit <https://forestry.memnet.com.au/MemberSelfService/EventBooking.aspx>

12: WoodSolutions Webinar – ONLINE EVENT, 1.30pm - 2.30pm AEDT. Topic - Managing condensation risk in modern

timber buildings. For more information and to register for the event, [click here](#).

18: 2026 SIM-PAC Sustainability Awards – Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney. The Awards recognise practical leadership in decarbonisation, circular economy, and sustainable industrial practice across the Asia-Pacific region. Further information will be available soon on the Awards website <https://www.sim-pac.live/2026-awards>

19: WoodSolutions Timber in Action Tour – Perth, 8.00am - 5.00pm AWST. Hosted by Timber Insight, the tour will take attendees behind the scenes of live projects across Perth. For more information and to book, [click here](#).

25: WoodSolutions Webinar – ONLINE EVENT, 12.00pm - 1.00pm AEDT. Topic - Understanding Australian MGP Timber: Grading, compliance, and discolouration. For more information and to register for the event, [click here](#).

26-27: Master Builders Australia National Conference and Awards – The Star, Brisbane. Sponsored by WoodSolutions. For more information and to book, [click here](#).

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From P 6

sharing and helping customers get more from MiTek's technology and services.

"Opening the Experience Centre is an important step in making our capabilities more accessible to our customers," Oliver said.

"We want customers to be able to see what is possible, talk through their specific needs with our teams and understand how different solutions can work together. Our role is to be a partner to the industry, and this facility gives us another way to put that into practice."

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

The Dandenong South expansion forms part of MiTek's broader investment in its Asia Pacific operations, including the development of a new purpose-built facility in Auckland, New Zealand.



Left to right: David Oliver, Managing Director for MiTek, the Hon. Dan Tehan MP and Chris Hollander MiTek CCO mark the official opening of the Experience Centre Image: courtesy MiTek

These investments strengthen MiTek's ability to support customers across Australia and New Zealand with locally delivered expertise, manufacturing capability and technology solutions.

The Dandenong South facility has also been designed with safety in mind, providing a more efficient working environment for MiTek's team and a welcoming space for customers and industry partners.

"Ultimately, this investment is about making sure we have the people, facilities and capabilities to support our customers as their businesses evolve," Oliver said.

"The building industry continues to change, and we are committed to working alongside our customers to help them meet those challenges and make the most of new opportunities."

ABOUT MITEK

MiTek is a construction technology leader on a mission to transform the way we design and build. We partner with fabricators, builders and designers to deliver software, services and engineered solutions that support a smarter, more integrated Design-Make-Build™ approach. MiTek continues to invest in local capability, sustainability and innovation, helping the industry deliver better homes faster. Learn more at mitek.com.au

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Timber: a hero in hard times

Step back in time and explore a fascinating chapter of forestry history.

AUSTRALIA has faced fuel shortages due to conflict in the past and our State forests and early foresters were called upon to help during World War II.

With the onset of war, Australia faced severe fuel shortages with fuel imports being reduced and fuel being prioritised for the war effort.

Those left at home were faced with severe fuel shortages and having to apply for ration tickets from the government, which were allocated according to a complex prioritisation system.

Charcoal sourced from hardwood forests was the unexpected hero.

It had been discovered previously that specially made charcoal from Australian hardwood could be burnt in a producer gas unit mounted to a car or truck and the gas (hydrogen and carbon monoxide) could be siphoned off and fed into the internal combustion engine as an alternative fuel source.

The producer gas units were cumbersome and dangerous, and performance and longevity from the engine was compromised, but the method kept the wheels turning for communities at home during the war.

The first experimental site was in Kiwarra State Forest near Taree at what is now known as "The Pines".

At first large pits were dug in the ground and timber placed within and set alight.

Once burning, these pits were sealed to starve oxygen from the burn and allowed to slow burn for 36 hours.

Once burnt and cooled the charcoal was removed, crushed and bagged and transported to service stations nearby to be sold.

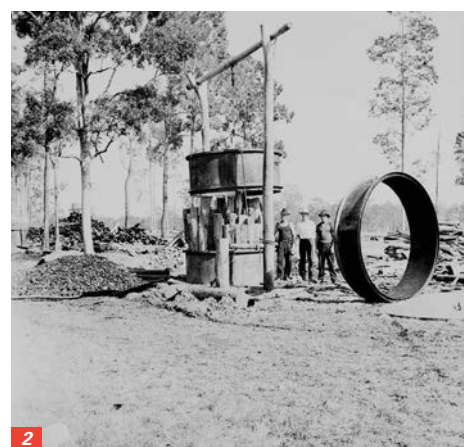
Ironbark and grey gum were the

THANK YOU

Historical research for this story was undertaken by Mark Drury.

Images have been sourced from the Forestry Corporation photo archive, with additional photographs from Bernie McManus, Robert Onfray and the National Library of Australia's Trove collection.

We thank all contributors for helping preserve and share this important piece of forest history.



- 1/ A car with the charcoal producer gas unit attached. Image: Bernie McManus
- 2/ One of the 90 kilns that were set up to produce charcoal as an emergency alternative fuel source during WWII. Image: FCNSW
- 3/ A report in the Sydney Morning Herald in June 1940 featuring the charcoal experiment. Image: National Library of Australia Trove
- 4/ Forestry staff bagging the charcoal prepared at Kiwarra State Forest. Image: FCNSW
- 5/ Cut logs ready to be slow burned to create the charcoal. There was no need for them to be straight, so it allowed for 'defective' trees to be thinned for a valuable purpose. Image: FCNSW

charcoal production were initially all managed by forestry commission staff at the time with charcoal production occurring at State Forest sites all across the state.

By 1941, 90 kilns were in operation producing 600 tonnes of charcoal per week. Later operations were managed by the transport department and some private companies and mills.

Through historical records, photographs and first-hand accounts, this story highlights the people, places and events that have helped to shape NSW's State forests and the communities connected to them.

preferred species initially due to having greater energy densities, however 25 species of Australian hardwoods were eventually deemed suitable.

Steel kilns were used later with greater efficiency.

Timber harvested did not have to be large or straight and this type of harvest was used to thin defective stems from the forest to promote growth on more useable trees.

Research, testing, education and

FA welcomes new president and renewed board leadership

FOLLOWING on from Forestry Australia's announcement of resigning board members in *Enews* #920, the Association is delighted to announce the appointment of Leon Holt as President, with Dr Lyndall Bull and Professor Rod Keenan appointed as Vice Presidents, marking an exciting new chapter in the Association's leadership.

The appointments follow Forestry Australia's Annual General Meeting in Canberra last week, where members elected two new Directors, Louise Bourke and Dr Phil Lacy, bringing fresh perspectives and experience to the Board.

Congratulating the new leadership team, Forestry Australia Chief Executive Officer Jacquie Martin said the appointments represented an important milestone in the organisation's ongoing renewal and succession planning.

"Leon brings a wealth of experience, a strong commitment to forest science and the forestry profession; he also has a genuine passion for Forestry Australia's future," Ms Martin said.

"Leon played an instrumental role in establishing Forestry Australia's Future Foresters Initiative and was among our first Board Observers. His progression to President is a wonderful example of the leadership pathways we are working to create for emerging professionals."

She added that Mr Holt, a recipient of the 2019 Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry, brought a valuable perspective on farm forestry to the role. Together with his family, he is developing an agricultural business and growing a hardwood plantation on Djaara Country in central Victoria.



1/ **Leon Holt has been appointed as Forestry Australia's new board president.**

2/ **Jacquie Martin is Forestry Australia's CEO.**

3/ **Forestry Australia welcomed Dr Phil Lacy as a new board director.**

4/ **Forestry Australia welcomed Louise Bourke as a new board director.** All photos: courtesy Forestry Australia

"His experience reflects the increasingly important role farm forestry will play in the future of Australia's forest sector," she said.

Looking forward, Mr Holt said his focus as President would be on chairing a high-performing Board that could navigate an ever-changing operating environment and set the organisation up for future success.

"I believe in what Forestry Australia has become over the last few years, I think we have a very bright future. I am deeply honoured that the board and our members have put their trust in me to help guide our organisation.

"I am and always will be a forester at heart, and I'm lucky to have had

the opportunity to work in native forestry and regulation in Victoria, and to receive a formal forestry education. I'm passionate about making sure forestry education has a strong future in this country.

"We will continue to grow and engage with our membership, build partnerships with the stakeholders, the community and First Nations peoples, and continue to advocate for evidence-based forest management that ensures future generations will continue to benefit from Australia's iconic forests."

The two Vice President appointments would bring both continuity and expertise to the Board, Ms Martin said.

"We are delighted that Dr Lyndall Bull will continue in her role as Vice President, providing valuable experience and leadership, alongside Professor Rod Keenan, who brings considerable expertise and a deep commitment to the forestry profession."

The changes come as two long-serving leaders retire from the Board.

"Strong governance relies on effective succession planning, an orderly transition of leadership and the ability to welcome new ideas while retaining experience and institutional knowledge. These appointments demonstrate those qualities, and I am confident Forestry Australia is in very capable hands," Ms Martin said.

Ms Martin welcomed Directors Louise Bourke and Dr Phil Lacy. "Both bring valuable experience, knowledge and perspectives, and I look forward

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to working with them as we continue to strengthen the Association and deliver for our members."

Louise Bourke is a forest scientist and values-based leader with more than two decades of operational, commercial and executive leadership experience in public and private organisations across Victoria and New South Wales. Now Head of Fibre Strategy at HVP Plantations, she holds a Bachelor of Forest Science and an Executive MBA from the University of Melbourne. Louise Bourke expressed her excitement about being elected to the Board.

"I'm committed to bringing different perspectives together to help the profession navigate increasingly complex challenges and realise the opportunities forestry can create for Australia."

Dr Phil Lacy is a forestry consultant and farm forester with more than 30 years' experience in plantation and native forest management, fire research and management, and carbon forestry.



Forestry

AUSTRALIA

A Registered Forestry Professional (RFP) with a PhD in fire behaviour, he has held roles with Forestry Corporation of NSW and PF Olsen (now Stand Forestry), chairs Forestry Australia's RFP Special Interest Group and brings extensive leadership, governance and committee experience across the sector.

Speaking about his appointment, Dr Lacy said he was "really pleased" to have been endorsed by his peers. "I've been a member for over 25 years, and I

look forward to working with the Board, CEO and staff of Forestry Australia to progress its strategic direction," he said.

More broadly, Ms Martin said Forestry Australia's Board reflected the breadth of experience and commitment

across Australia's forestry profession. "Our directors are volunteers who generously contribute their time, knowledge and expertise because they care deeply about Forestry Australia, our members and the future of Australia's forests."

FORESTRY AUSTRALIA BOARD 2026-27

The Forestry Australia Board comprises:

- Leon Holt, President
- Dr Lyndall Bull, Vice President
- Professor Rod Keenan, Vice President
- Louise Bourke, Director
- Anne Chuter, Director
- Matt de Jongh, Director
- Dr Phil Lacy, Director
- Board Observers, Emily Post and Dr Sam Van Holsbeeck.

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Sunshine Coast Airport installs glulam roof frames in its terminal redevelopment.

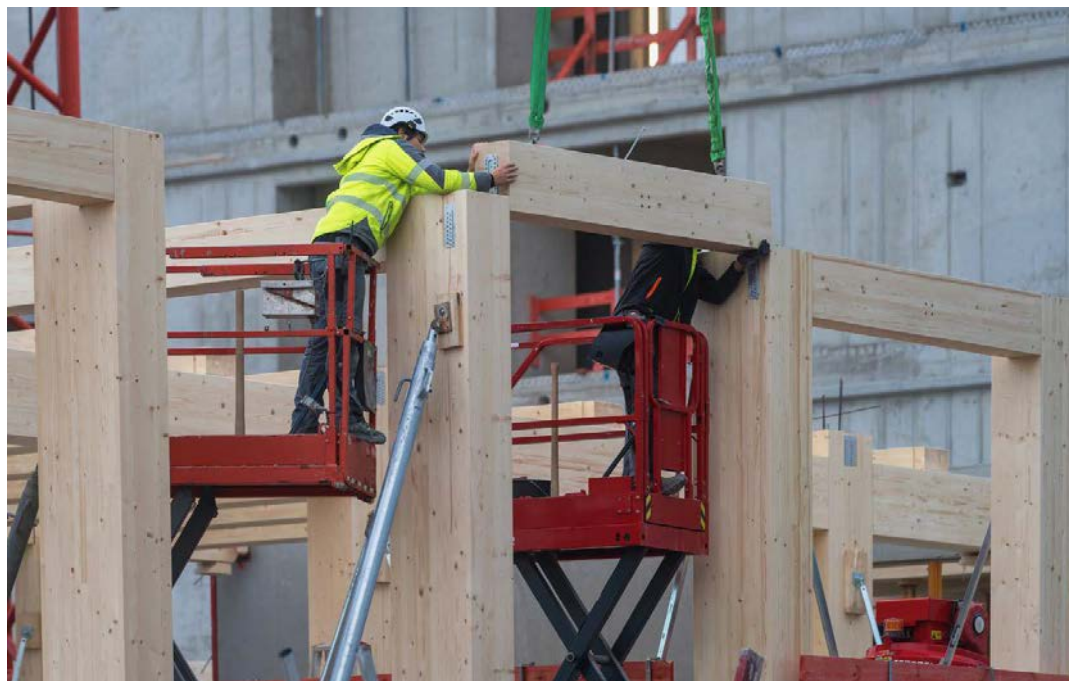
SUNSHINE Coast Airport has begun installing around 30 tonnes of engineered timber for the raking roof frames of its \$170 million terminal redevelopment, a move the airport says will create Australia's first mass timber engineered terminal when the project is completed in 2027.

The glue-laminated timber (glulam or GLT) is being used to form the dramatic roof structure of the new departures hall. According to the airport, the material reinforces the terminal's connection to the surrounding subtropical landscape while delivering an estimated saving of roughly 40 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent compared with traditional steel and concrete.

"This is where the vision our community helped shape really starts to come to life," said Robin Mace, Sunshine Coast Airport's general manager of projects and planning. "The timber frames will become one of the most recognisable features of our new terminal and watching them go in is an exciting sign of the progress being made on this \$170 million investment in our region's future."

The frames were designed by the Australian team of global architecture firm Populous: Fentress Studios in partnership with builder McNab. Specialist timber engineering advice is being provided by Theca Timber. Installation is expected to continue over the coming weeks.

Matt Findlay, principal and head of aviation, APAC at Populous: Fentress Studios, described the scale of timber use as unusual for an airport of this size. "It's genuinely rare for an airport to use timber at this scale. Most terminals of this size rely on steel and concrete, so committing around 30



Natural timber meets modern engineering: glulam frames will become one of the most recognisable features of the new Sunshine Coast Airport terminal. Image: Shutterstock

“THE TIMBER FRAMES WILL BECOME ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNISABLE FEATURES OF THE NEW TERMINAL

tonnes of glulam to the roof structure is a significant statement about the kind of building we wanted to create – one that feels like nowhere else in Australian aviation.”

The design draws on biophilic principles, using natural materials to help reduce passenger stress in what is often a high-pressure environment. Sean Powyer, associate principal and architect at Populous: Fentress Studios, said the raking timber frames form a distinctive gateway that marks the transition from everyday pressures to the relaxed character of the Sunshine Coast. “Timber was a natural choice for the terminal, reflecting the surrounding subtropical rainforest and reinforcing

the building's connection to the landscape it sits within.”

The airport notes that the Sunshine Coast is home to three continuous UNESCO Biospheres and serves as a gateway to three of Australia's five Biosphere Reserves, further underpinning the material choice.

The broader redevelopment will almost double the terminal footprint from 6,100 m² to 11,750 m², expand the domestic departure lounge from 1,250 m² to 3,750 m², and increase departure gates from five to seven. Passenger numbers are projected to reach 1.8 million in 2026 and 2.4 million by 2030. Earlier stages already completed include a new outbound baggage facility (opened February 2026) and a new arrivals precinct and baggage claim (opened early October 2026).

Once finished, the terminal is expected to stand as a distinctive example of mass timber use in Australian aviation infrastructure, combining lower embodied carbon with a calmer, regionally rooted passenger experience.

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Does the carbon add up?

Carbon regulator gives green light to NSW forest project.

FOREST & Wood Communities Australia (FWCA) has lodged a Freedom of Information (FOI) request with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER), demanding access to the evidence behind its approval of Australia's first Improved Native Forest Management (INFM) carbon project.

The NSW Government's project covers more than 531,000 hectares of public native forests, including areas proposed for the Great Koala National Park.

FWCA Chair Steve Dobbyns said the decision raised serious questions about carbon integrity, transparency and the future of Australia's sustainable native forestry industry.

"The regulator tells us the project has undergone rigorous assessment. That's an assurance, not evidence," Mr Dobbyns said.

"We have lodged a formal FOI request seeking the assessment documents, the evidence supporting additionality, how timber displacement and emissions leakage were treated, who made the decision and whether any potential conflicts of interest were appropriately managed.

"If the science and assessment are sound, they should withstand public scrutiny."

CARBON CREDITS FOR A DECISION ALREADY MADE?

The NSW Government committed to establishing the Great Koala National Park well before the Commonwealth approved the INFM carbon method in June 2026.

"How can governments claim carbon credits for stopping timber harvesting they had already committed to stopping?" Mr Dobbyns asked.

"Making a political commitment



FWCA Chair, Steve Dobbyns. Photo: FWCA

conditional upon receiving carbon revenue doesn't automatically make the resulting emissions reductions additional."

Forestry Australia has already warned that the INFM method risks overstating carbon abatement by 40-100 per cent, even before fully accounting for displaced timber production and carbon stored in harvested wood products.

"These are serious scientific concerns, not simply objections from the timber industry."

EXPORTING TIMBER PRODUCTION IS NOT CLIMATE ACTION

Despite being the world's seventh-largest forested country by forest area, Australia already imports a substantial proportion of its timber requirements.

"Stopping sustainable hardwood production doesn't stop demand. It simply

shifts production elsewhere, potentially to countries with weaker environmental safeguards," Mr Dobbyns said.

"You cannot export the environmental impacts of timber production and then claim the result as a climate victory."

WHO PAYS FOR THE NEXT 85 YEARS?

The INFM method offers a 15-year crediting period but requires carbon protection commitments extending for 100 years.

"Who pays for fire management, pests, weeds, roads and biodiversity protection for the remaining 85 years?" Mr Dobbyns asked.

"Carbon revenue is temporary. Forest management obligations are not."

REGISTRATION IS NOT PROOF OF CLIMATE BENEFITS

The CER has registered the project subject to conditions, but no Australian Carbon Credit Units can be issued until the required eligible-interest consents are obtained.

"Registration doesn't prove that the promised carbon benefits have been achieved," Mr Dobbyns said.

"Australia needs genuine emissions reductions, healthy forests and a sustainable domestic timber industry, not questionable carbon accounting that shifts jobs and environmental impacts offshore.

"Simply changing the sign from State Forest to National Park doesn't create a conservation outcome - and calling the change a carbon project doesn't automatically create a climate benefit.

"The CER must demonstrate that these credits will represent real, additional and accurately measured carbon benefits. That's why we're seeking the evidence."

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Landmark testing at Atlassian Central

Advancing the understanding of long-span timber floors.

RESEARCHERS from the ARC Advance Timber Hub have completed a major program of field testing at Atlassian Central in Sydney, one of Australia's most significant mass timber construction projects.

Led by Professor Hassan Karampour of Griffith University, the team carried out detailed vibration and acoustic assessments on the building's cross-laminated timber (CLT) floor system. The work forms part of the Hub's project *Innovative Long-Span Timber and Wood-Based Hybrid Floors for Vibration Performance and Acoustic Compliance*, which aims to give designers and builders greater confidence in using long-span timber and hybrid floor systems in commercial and multi-storey buildings.

The field measurements directly support the project's wider goal of capturing the real-world vibration and acoustic behaviour of timber buildings, both completed and under construction,

across Australia. These on-site investigations complement extensive laboratory testing of innovative floor systems, including CLT ribbed-deck floors, band-beam CLT systems, hybrid CLT-steel floors and lightweight timber floor systems.

Professor Karampour said field data is essential for understanding how timber floors perform beyond controlled laboratory conditions.

"Real buildings provide invaluable information about the behaviour of timber floor systems under actual operating conditions. At Atlassian Central, the research team conducted floor vibration measurements across three bays and investigated sound transmission between two levels, comparing the performance of the bare CLT surface and the raised access floor. The data collected will strengthen our understanding of long-span timber floor behaviour and support the continued adoption of mass timber in

larger and taller buildings."

The successful campaign was delivered by researchers Adam Faircloth, Stephani Soro and Ian Underhill, who planned and conducted the measurements. The team extends its thanks to Built and Tate APAC for facilitating site access and supporting the testing program.

Beyond the technical results, the testing offered a close view of the scale and ambition of Atlassian Central. The project demonstrates how mass timber can be successfully integrated into landmark commercial developments and highlights the growing role of engineered timber solutions in Australia's built environment.

As the ARC Advance Timber Hub continues its industry-led research program, field studies such as this will help build the evidence base needed to support innovative timber construction and accelerate the adoption of high-performance, long-span timber floor systems across the country.

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Image: AKD

Fuel cost recovery order set for changes following consultation

BUSINESSES across road transport supply chains were invited to have their say on proposed changes to the Fair Work Commission's Road Transport Contractual Chain Order, which covers the recovery of increased fuel costs.

Submissions closed on Friday 23 October 2026, but reply submissions remain open until 5pm AEDT on Monday 2 November 2026.

An Expert Panel has proposed amendments following a review hearing on 9 October 2026. The proposals were opened for public consultation, with workers, businesses and other stakeholders invited to respond.

The Order is designed to ensure increased fuel costs are recovered throughout road transport contractual chains, affecting transport operators, subcontractors, owner-drivers and businesses that engage transport services or receive goods delivered by road.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

The proposed amendments include moving fuel cost adjustments from fortnightly to monthly, reducing the frequency of adjustments required under the Order.

The obligations would also cease if the



Fair Work Commission is updating the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order for the recovery of the added fuel costs. Image: Shutterstock

national diesel terminal gate price remained below \$2 per litre for four consecutive weeks.

Other proposed changes would allow businesses to meet their obligations through fuel cost adjustments made under relevant state or territory industrial instruments, agreed contractual formulas, cost models, benchmarking methods or fuel levies.

For an agreed fuel levy to satisfy the proposed requirements, the person incurring the increased fuel cost must receive a copy of the Order, the levy must be adjusted at least monthly, and the payer must take reasonable steps to ensure it covers the increased fuel cost.

OBLIGATIONS EXTEND ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The Order is intended to ensure increased fuel costs are addressed throughout the contractual chain, including rates paid to contractors, subcontractors and owner-drivers.

It also places obligations on the party at the top of the chain, the party that entered into the first contract or arrangement, meaning the ultimate customer may need to ensure transport rates cover increased fuel costs.

Primary parties in a road transport supply chain would also be required to take reasonable steps to ensure transport businesses engaging owner-drivers adjust the rates paid to those drivers to cover increased fuel costs. An exception applies where the primary party is a small business employer that is not a road transport business.

The Order is expected to be finalised and potentially take effect shortly after the close of the submissions, although its final terms and commencement date remain subject to the Commission's process.

For more information and to view the proposal, [click here](#).

Source: NTHA

VFPA welcomes Coalition commitment to bushfire preparedness

VICTORIAN Forest Products Association (VFPA) has welcomed the Victorian Liberals and Nationals' commitment to doubling prescribed burning and better resourcing bushfire prevention measures across Victoria.

Earlier this year, the VFPA made a submission to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires* ([click here](#)), calling for increased funding for planned burning, strategic fuel breaks and proactive bushfire prevention.

Importantly, the submission highlighted that planned burning must be strategically targeted towards areas of greatest bushfire risk.

The submission also called for



The Victorian bushfires at the start of 2026 were devastating for many communities. This is a welcome and necessary fire preparedness commitment from the Liberals and Nationals. Image: Shutterstock

Victoria's plantation timber estate to be recognised as a critical community asset in bushfire risk assessments, reflecting

its importance to regional jobs, local communities and Victoria's future timber supply for housing.

Following the devastating timber losses experienced earlier this year, greater investment in bushfire prevention has never been more important.

VFPA welcomes this commitment from Melina Bath MP and the Liberals and Nationals and looks forward to working with the parliament to strengthen Victoria's bushfire preparedness and protect our communities, public forests and critical timber resources.

To read the Liberals and Nationals media release, [click here](#).

Amended PEFC Trademarks Rules align with EU Directive

PEFC has published an amended version of its Trademarks Rules to bring the use of its logos, labels and initials into alignment with the European Union's Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EmpCo).

The second edition of PEFC ST 2001:2020, *PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements*, entered into force on 5 October 2026 and replaces the first edition. Existing trademark users have a two-year transition period, until 5 October 2028, to adopt the revised requirements.

EmpCo, which has applied across the EU since 27 September 2026, sets new rules for how companies communicate environmental information to consumers. This includes sustainability labels and environmental claims. PEFC reviewed its system against the Directive and updated its trademarks rules so that correct use of the PEFC trademarks supports compliance with EmpCo's requirements for certification-scheme labels. Organisations remain responsible for ensuring their overall consumer communications, including the context in which PEFC trademarks appear, meet applicable consumer-protection laws.

WHAT HAS CHANGED

The amendments focus on greater clarity: what the PEFC trademarks mean, what they refer to, and how the organisation using them is connected to PEFC or PEFC certification.



Key updates include:

- Clearer requirements for off-product use of the PEFC trademarks, including the PEFC initials.
- A requirement to include the PEFC website address (www.pefc.org) with PEFC labels, with only limited exceptions.
- Revised promotional messages and rules for alternative label configurations.
- Stronger obligations to make clear the product or activity to which a PEFC trademark refers. This includes new rules for indirect on-product use where PEFC-certified material is used as part of a production process.

The changes also remove certain project-sourcing

“ORGANISATIONS REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THEIR OWN OVERALL CONSUMER COMMUNICATIONS

provisions now covered by a separate PEFC standard and refine the scope of off-product communications.

IMPLICATIONS FOR USERS

Trademark users should review how they currently use the PEFC logo, labels and initials on products, packaging, websites, online shops, advertising, promotional materials and social media. Any additional environmental claims used alongside PEFC trademarks must be clear, specific and substantiated.

For organisations communicating with consumers in the EU, the revised PEFC rules should form part of a wider check of consumer-facing information. While the two-year transition period gives time to update materials, EmpCo itself has been in force since late September 2026, so companies operating in or exporting to the EU market should not delay reviewing their communications.

PEFC notes that using the trademarks in accordance with the second edition of ST 2001 supports alignment with EmpCo's sustainability-label requirements but does not replace an organisation's broader legal obligations.

The full standard is available from PEFC. Further guidance on EmpCo, practical steps for trademark users, and support for existing products and packaging is available on the PEFC website:

<https://pefc.org>



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