



# Newsletter

## July 2024



### Message from Mark

Under brand New Zealand we have a leading story to tell as to the value our wood products and timber used in construction play in addressing climate change and sustainability challenges, plus growing our economy. On that note highlighted in this issue is a proposed boost for wood processing and manufacturing within the Second Emissions Reduction Plan, having wood declared as an Environmental Good in the new ACCTS Trade Agreement, and a BRANZ survey highlighting the growing adoption of mass timber use in New Zealand buildings. It also good news that there will be change to worker exposure standards for softwood dust and isocyanates for now, with formal consultation to resume in early 2025.

Mark

[mark@wpma.org.nz](mailto:mark@wpma.org.nz)

### Winstone Pulp International joins WPMA

A warm welcome is offered to our newest member, Winstone Pulp International. The Company comprises of two operational sites in the central North Island, Karioi Pulpmill and Tangiwai Sawmill with an office in Takapuna, Auckland. The WPI wood processing operations produce a range of timber and pulp products derived from renewable plantations of Radiata pine for both New Zealand and international markets. WPI is a privately owned subsidiary of the Oregon Group. See <https://www.wpinz.com/>



### **Worker Exposure Standards (WES) - no change for softwood dust and isocyanates**

Thank you to WPMA members who contributed to the WorkSafe engagement meetings in May on softwood dust and isocyanates. WorkSafe has since advised that there will be no change to these WES in the next edition of the WES and Biological Exposure Indices (BEI) special guide due to be published in November this year. WorkSafe will be writing new WES reviews for softwood dust and isocyanates early to mid-2025. As usual, the period to receive submissions from stakeholders will run for approximately 3 months. WPMA has raised concerns directly with the Minister for Health and Safety, Brooke Van Velden, about the way WES and BEI are set. Members who would like to participate in a WES/BEI forum to put together a submission to the Health and Safety at Work Act review specifically on this topic please contact [jane@wpma.org.nz](mailto:jane@wpma.org.nz)

### **Technical Manager for WPMA appointed to joint timber standards committees**

Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association's Technical Manager, Jane Cuming, has been approved by the New Zealand Standards Approval Board to the following joint (AS/NZS) standards committees as a new participant:

- TM-010 Timber Structures and Framing;
- TM-011 Engineered Timber Products; and
- TM-012 Timber Grading and Preservation.

Joint standards are important tools for ensuring timber products and timber structures are safe, fit-for-purpose, and reliable. Having Jane on the committees will ensure WPMA and our members voices are heard in the development and implementation of these important standards.

### **Boosting Wood Processing - New Zealand's Second Emissions Reduction Plan**

The recently released Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2) highlights that 'Boosting Wood Processing' would play a significant role in enabling New Zealand to meet our emissions reduction commitments through the production of more long-lived wood products that can store carbon during their lifetime. This in turn will also expand the economy and provide regional jobs and export potential by generating more high-value products. Acknowledging the important role wood used in construction plays in storing carbon, the report highlights that Government is committed to addressing any regulatory barriers to enable building with wood. This is positive for future policy settings – though early days and still much to work through with government. More details can be found here: <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/second-emissions-reduction-plan/>

### **Wood declared an Environmental Good under new Trade Agreement**

Increased export opportunities through the removal of tariffs for 41 wood products included within the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability has been welcomed by New Zealand's wood processing and manufacturing industry. Not only will this new trade agreement deliver commercial benefits for New Zealand, but it will send a strong environmental message to our trading partners. As new countries join the collective formed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Costa Rica and Iceland, the potential to grow a commercial benefit to our wood products industry and tackle climate change over time is significant. Members of the ACCTS are now preparing the Agreement for signature. Further information about the Agreement can be found on the [MFAT ACCTS webpage](#)



### **Mass Timber adoption increases within New Zealand construction**

A significant upsurge in mass timber awareness and application was highlighted by the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) in its survey of building and construction experts. The finding is encouraging and signals an increased adoption of engineered timber products in New Zealand by builders, designers and architects. The timber that we are talking about is not only renewable but has environmental advantages over steel and concrete when it comes to carbon storage and durability. With New Zealand's sustainable forestry model, using locally grown timber supports our circular bio-economy, climate change targets, and domestic processing of logs. The BRANZ survey is supported by Mid-Rise Construction <https://midrisewood.co.nz/>, a co-investment programme between MPI and Red Stag, which is stimulating the use of mass-timber engineered wood products in construction. To download a copy of the BRANZ report please click [here](#).

### **New Zealand's Legal Harvest Assurance system - Opportunity to provide feedback**

The Forests (Legal Harvest Assurance) Amendment Act 2023 will introduce a legal harvest assurance system into law through the Forest Act 1949. MPI are using issues papers to gather a broad base of views on the design of the details for how the legal harvest assurance system will work in practice. The information they gather will be used to inform options for consultation on regulations to implement the legal harvest assurance system. As a valued stakeholder, MPI is interested in your feedback by Wednesday 28 August. See: [Legal harvest assurance system for timber – MPI website](#)

### **Manufacturing Survey Invitation – Paper and Wood Processing**

To provide insights into our manufacturing sector Advanced Manufacturing Aotearoa (AMA) invites you to complete a survey that examines skill levels, recruitment challenges in New Zealand, and the impact of technological innovation. By gathering data from various manufacturing businesses, it seeks to identify trends, challenges, and growth opportunities. Insights from this survey will help leaders, policymakers, and educators make informed decisions to strengthen the sector's talent pipeline and ensure its long-term sustainability. AMA invite you to complete this 5-minute survey by 31 July. Your responses will be confidential and anonymised. Thank you for your contribution. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

### **Green Property Summit – 14 August – Auckland – Book now**

The Green Property Summit 2024 will bring together over 300 of Aotearoa New Zealand's leading commercial construction and property sector professionals including senior leaders, retirement home providers, government officials, property owners, facilities managers, engineers, architects,

developers, banks, product and material suppliers, and many more. Below is a taster of the day's agenda, and here is the link to the event website page - Green Property Summit 2024

[www.nzgbc.org.nz](http://www.nzgbc.org.nz)

- An update from the Minister for Climate Change Simon Watts on the just-released second emissions reduction plan
- Leading domestic and international case studies including the country's largest mass timber building.
- The latest thinking on lowering embodied carbon from materials.
- Updates on Green Star Buildings from our mates at Green Building Council Australia
- Insights on transparency and great performing existing buildings from NABERS across the ditch.

### **Forest Growers Research Conference 2024 – Hold the date**

The 2024 Forest Growers Research conference will be held from 22-24 October in Dunedin, (24th October will be a Field Trip). More details will be available in the coming weeks on the FGR website <https://fgr.nz/>

### **Recent WPMA Submissions**

Removing barriers from imported building products: <https://wpma.org.nz/resources#e26>

### **In the News**

#### **New trade deal removes tariffs from key goods including wood**

<https://www.timberbiz.com.au/nzs-groundbreaking-deal-to-remove-tariffs-including-wood/>

*'Under brand New Zealand there is a leading story to tell as to the value our wood products and timber used in construction play in addressing climate change and sustainability challenges, not only will this new trade agreement deliver commercial benefits for New Zealand, but it will send a strong environmental message to our trading partners.'*

#### **Interest grows in all-wood buildings**

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/news/interest-grows-in-all-wood-buildings/>

*'The timber we are talking about is not only renewable but has environmental advantages over steel and concrete when it comes to carbon storage and durability'*

#### **Government repeals costly log trade legislation**

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-repeals-costly-log-trade-legislation>

*Forest owners have welcomed the repeal saying it will provide relief and assurance to cost struck growers facing increased regulatory complexities. Timber products play a pivotal role in our primary exports, which contributed \$5.8 billion to our economy last year.*

Mark Ross  
Chief Executive  
[Mark@wpma.org.nz](mailto:Mark@wpma.org.nz)  
C: 027 442 9965