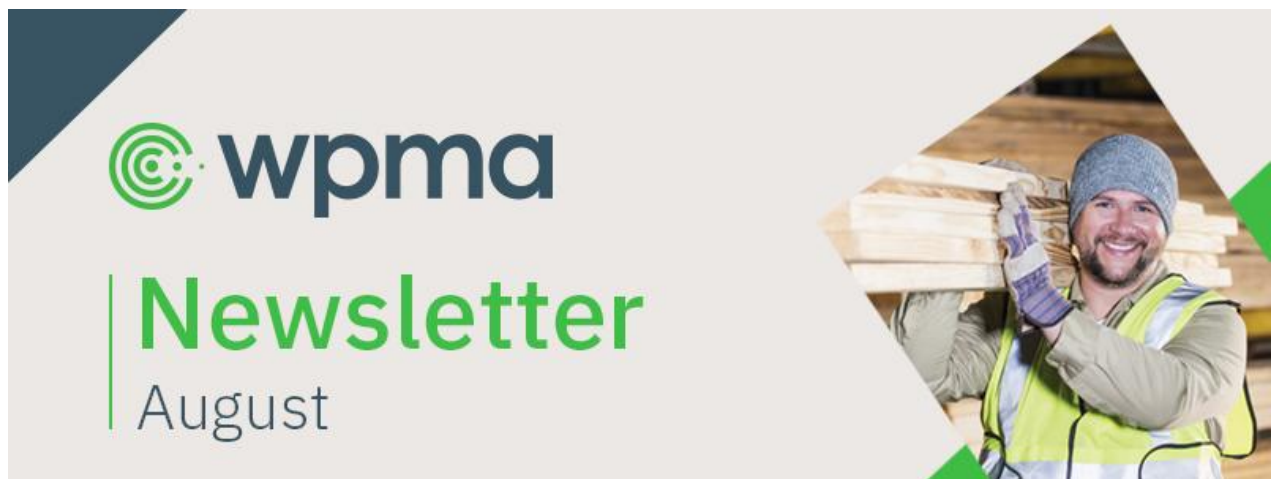




Message from Mark

Over the past few weeks, conversations I have had with several mills across New Zealand suggest there has been a modest but welcome improvement in domestic demand for timber and wood products. This optimism is reflected in broader market indicators, including the consenting of 40,581 new homes in the 12 months to June, representing a 19 percent increase compared with the previous year. Expanding the use of wood in Government procurement would provide a further boost through supporting local wood product manufacturers while delivering economic benefits to regional communities and the wider New Zealand economy.

Export markets are also showing signs of improvement, although persistently high input costs (e.g. fuel, energy, shipping) continue to place pressure on profitability. Even so, stronger sales are encouraging news for an industry that has faced significant challenges over recent years.

Another positive development is the growth of wood product exports to India. According to NZTE for the year ending 30 June 2026, exports have tripled over the past three years to reach \$193 million. The majority of this trade is currently made up of logs (\$122 million) and pulp (\$74 million), while exports of timber and lumber remain relatively small. This presents growth opportunities for timber, lumber and other wood products, particularly with the removal of tariffs under the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement, which is expected to improve market access and strengthen the industry's export potential.

Mark

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EUDR commences 30 December 2026 – are you ready?

The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requires companies exporting certain commodities, including timber and wood products, directly or indirectly (e.g. via wooden furniture from Asian countries that are made of NZ wood) into the European Union market, to prove through robust due diligence that these goods have not contributed to deforestation or conversion of other natural ecosystems. To support members WPMA in cohesion with industry has designed an EUDR Compliance information

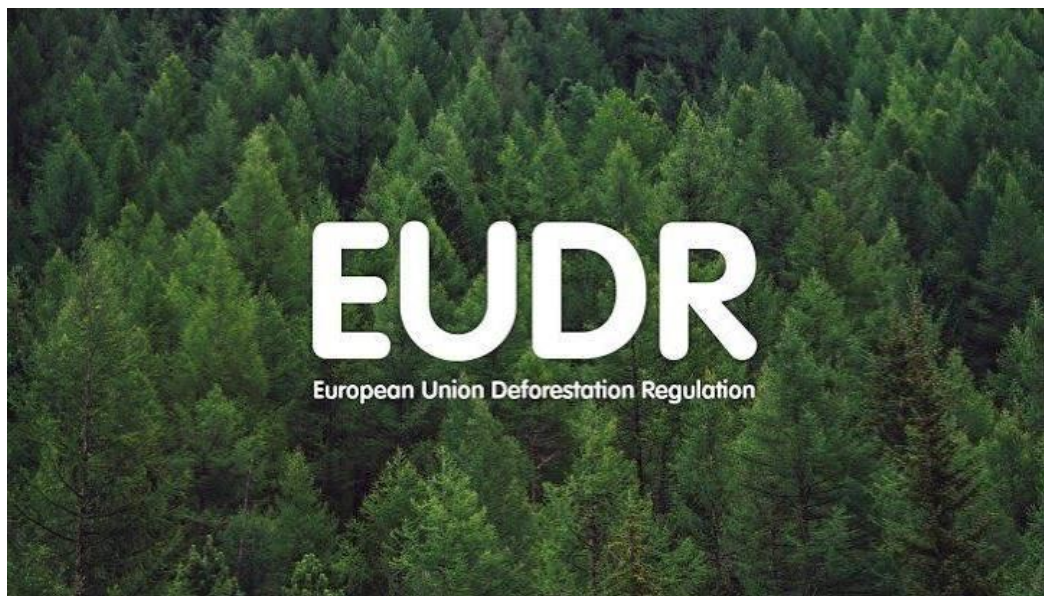
Toolkit. It provides a high-level overview of the regulation, outlining the key requirements and directing users to official resources. The toolkit includes practical templates for DDS and data collection, which are available through the WPMA member only site.

EUDR Resources for WPMA and NZFOA members

The following EUDR resources are available to all WPMA and NZFOA members.

- EUDR Toolkit
- Deforestation Declaration Form Template
- Deforestation-Free Inputs Declaration Form Template
- Attestation of Legality Form Template
- Supplier Information Request Data Model Template

If you would like to know more about the WPMA EUDR Toolkit and/or WPMA membership, then please contact mark@wpma.org.nz



New Worker Exposure Standard (WES) levels for softwood dust supported by WPMA

Following the WorkSafe December 2025 consultation which proposed retaining the current softwood dust interim Worker Exposure Standard (WES) and combining softwood and hardwood dust WES in future, WorkSafe has formally advised the following decisions:

- Softwood dust WES-TWA will remain at 2mg/m³
- "Interim WES" status will be removed
- Hardwood dust WES will be raised from 0.5 to 1mg/m³
- WorkSafe no longer intend to combine softwood and hardwood WES in the future.

WorkSafe has also looked more closely at WES and developed operational policy which includes:

- Provision of cost benefit analysis for proposed changes to WES.
- Benchmarking WES against Australian Worker Exposure Limits
- Allowing for and responding to industry requests for change to WES

You can read more detail in our media release [Worker Exposure Standards review softwood dust](#)

Value-Added Wood Export project underway

The Value-Added Wood Exports project is underway with the first stage focused on coordinating the delivery of a comprehensive current-state regional analysis of the New Zealand wood processing and manufacturing sector. This analysis will provide the essential analytical foundation for the sector to shift toward higher-value processing and accelerated export growth, enabling the sector to initiate Tranche 2 activities under the Value-added Wood Exports Growth Acceleration Plan [Value-Added Plan](#) WPMA wish to thank the nine member companies who are providing financial support towards this project, along with the Forest Growers Levy Trust and MPI for their funding contribution.

Insight into New Zealand's Energy Market

At a recent Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) led domestic business briefing insights into the current state of New Zealand's energy market was provided. While challenges remain, including declining domestic gas supply, dry-year electricity risks, and the need for continued investment in electricity networks, according to MBIE these factors are being actively addressed.

As more renewable generation comes online and electricity futures pricing continues to improve, wholesale electricity prices are expected to ease over time. However, network investment costs are likely to remain an important factor influencing retail electricity prices. The Government is also advancing a broad programme of work aimed at improving energy security, enhancing market performance, and supporting businesses as they transition to more efficient and sustainable energy sources. Looking ahead, MBIE remains confident that New Zealand's transition to a more renewable, secure, and resilient energy system will create significant long-term economic opportunities for both businesses and consumers, despite the short-term challenges that remain.



New Skilled Migrant pathways up and running

The new Skilled Migrant Category (Trade and Technician) settings were enacted on the 24 August and are expected to provide a more straightforward residence pathway for experienced workers and tradespeople. This is positive for employers that need to retain skilled workers in occupations where experience and vocational capability are more important than degree-based pathways. Included in the new Skilled Migrant settings for the wood products sector are:

- Wood Machinist
- Wood Machinist and other wood trades workers nec
- Saw Doctor
- Paper and Pulp mill operator
- Joiner
- Fitter and Turner

WPMA will continue to emphasise that residence pathways need to recognise trade, technician and experience-based skills that are critical to New Zealand businesses. Full details can be found here [Trade and Technician migrant pathway](#)

Growing Success: Celebrating Our Industry

The Canterbury West Coast Wood Council (CWCWC) celebrated excellence across the forestry and wood processing sector at its third annual Awards Night, held on 7 August at Christchurch's Te Pae Convention Centre. The sold-out event welcomed more than 450 guests from across the industry, bringing together representatives from every stage of the forestry supply chain. The CWCWC is unique in New Zealand for its broad and inclusive membership, spanning nursery growers, forestry companies, contractors, distributors, sawmillers, timber retailers, landscape suppliers, and port businesses. This year's awards attracted an impressive 57 nominations across 11 categories, highlighting the depth of talent and commitment within the sector.

The strong presence of younger nominees and winners reflects the industry's promising future, while the nomination of 11 women across multiple categories demonstrates the growing leadership, influence, and contribution of women throughout the forestry and wood processing sector. Congratulations to the organisers, judges, all finalists and winners for their outstanding achievements and dedication to the industry. From my behalf thank you to Craig and the WestCo team for inviting and hosting me at the Awards. A great evening of celebration. Read more about the Awards and view the full list of winners here [2026 CWCWC Awards Wrap Up](#)



A line up of the CWCWC Award winners

Forestry Legal Harvest Assurance System to be Redesigned

WPMA supports Cabinet's decision to replace the Forests (Legal Harvest Assurance) Amendment Act 2023 with a redesigned Forestry Legal Harvest Assurance System (LHAS). The proposed changes would allow exporters to voluntarily obtain government assurance that their products come from legally harvested timber, helping businesses access markets where certification provides a commercial advantage. The system would also enable import controls to be introduced if risks associated with illegally sourced timber increase. Importantly, the redesigned system removes mandatory reporting and registration requirements, reducing compliance costs for the forestry sector. In its submission [LHAS WPMA submission 2025](#), WPMA highlighted the need to ensure all New Zealand wood processors and manufacturers can meet LHAS requirements and called for greater clarity around industry costs and how these would be applied. The Government plans to introduce legislation to implement the new system, with changes expected to take effect from 1 March 2028. [Forest Legal Harvest System](#)

Health and Safety Reforms Passed into Law

The Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill was enacted on 9 July 2026, introducing a range of changes aimed at creating a more practical and proportionate approach to workplace health and safety. The new law will place greater emphasis on managing high-risk activities while reducing compliance burdens for low-risk, small businesses. One of the most significant changes is a carve-out for small, low-risk businesses from some of the broader requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act. These businesses will be required to provide basic workplace facilities and manage critical risks but will no longer need to meet the same level of risk management obligations as larger organisations. Another key change is the clearer distinction between governance and operational responsibilities. The legislation confirms that day-to-day management of health and safety risks rests with managers, allowing directors and boards to focus on governance, strategy and oversight rather than operational decision-making.

WorkSafe New Zealand is now consulting with stakeholders to develop guidance on complying with the new requirements. This work is expected to be completed before the

legislation comes into force on 1 April 2027, giving businesses time to understand and prepare for the changes.



NZS 3604 – Timber-framed buildings review underway

NZS 3604 Timber-framed buildings is a leading standard used by designers, builders, architects, engineers, and consenting authorities. The standard underpins the design and construction of a large percentage of New Zealand's light timber-framed buildings. Prescribing provisions for structural solutions including foundation details, bracing, spans, fixings, connectors and layout, grounded in NZ's unique environmental conditions.

Scope of the changes

Key proposed changes to this standard include:

- new and updated framing solutions for 3 storey construction (bracing not included in this draft)
- improved guidance on thermal performance, including new construction details.
- updated foundation solutions for moderately expansive soils and liquefaction prone sites
- clarification of requirements for stairwell framing and isolated internal masonry walls.
- rationalisation of timber sizes and grades to align with materials commonly available in the New Zealand market

If you have feedback on the review, please contact jane@wpma.org.nz Consultation closes on the 8 September. More details can be found here [NZS 3604 review](#)

PEFC New Zealand Relaunches

PEFC New Zealand has unveiled a new identity, marking a fresh chapter for forest certification in New Zealand at a time of growing expectations around sustainability and responsible sourcing in the forestry and construction sectors. Formerly known as the New Zealand Forest Certification Association, the organisation announced its rebrand at the recent Timber Design Awards in Auckland.

The transition to PEFC New Zealand aligns the organisation more closely with the global Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and is accompanied by a renewed board and strategic direction. The relaunch reinforces PEFC New Zealand's commitment to supporting responsible forest management and providing customers with confidence that certified forest products come from sustainably managed sources.



Responsible Wood's Matt de Jongh (left) with PEFC's Richard Laity (right) at the Timber Design Awards in Auckland.

AS/NZS Revision Progresses - Next steps following public consultation

Public consultation has now closed on the proposed amendment to the Australian/New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021). Developed by Responsible Wood, AS/NZS 4708 outlines the requirements for sustainable forest management across Australia and New Zealand, supporting healthy forests, biodiversity, renewable timber resources, regional employment, cultural values and community expectations. The review of submissions is now underway, with feedback being assessed before the revised Standard progresses through the next stage of the approval process. Responsible Wood will provide further updates in the coming weeks as work on the revision continues.

Forest Growers Levy Trust funding opens 1 September

The Forest Growers Levy Trust (FGLT) funding round for 2027 projects and initiatives will open at **9am, Tuesday 1 September**. Applicants have until 5pm, Wednesday 30 September 2026 to submit their proposals. [Click here for the link](#) The funding round is open to individuals, organisations and businesses with projects or initiatives that stand to have a clear and direct benefit to New Zealand's forest growing sector. The FGLT has stood up 5 priority investment areas and complementary 'cross-cutting themes' for levy investment in 2027. Applicants are encouraged to review the 2027 investment priorities and application guidance before preparing their proposal. [Click here to read more about the 2027 priorities areas](#)

Stay connected with WPMA on LinkedIn

If you are a LinkedIn member, we encourage you to follow our new LinkedIn Business Page. We will be sharing regular updates, including member achievements, industry news, upcoming events, and other information of interest to our community. You can access our page and follow us here [LinkedIn WPMA Business Site](#)



WPMA Membership

If you are interested to know more on WPMA membership, please contact mark@wpma.org.nz

Upcoming Events

WoodWorks Conference, Hastings, 28-29 October 2026

WoodWorks will continue to showcase the practical experiences of a range of building professionals and focus on completed New Zealand and Australian projects. Each year, we also showcase inspirational wood experts from leading tall timber exemplar building projects overseas.

For more information click here [WoodWorks 2026 Conference](#)



In the News

Softwood Mills Keep Their Dust Limit After NZ WorkSafe Ends Review

Radiata pine runs through nearly every mill in the country, and the 2-milligram standard now covers a sector employing more than 38,000 people directly, without the caveat that had hung over the value in the previous edition. Ross has the certainty he asked for, and the regulator's own advice is that the number is neither a target nor a threshold to work up to.

[Softwood Dust Exposure NZ](#)

Why you might soon be driving on streets made from trees

Lignin is one of the most common natural polymers in the world, making up about 20% to 30% of a tree. It's basically the organic glue that binds wood fibres together and provides the support that makes trees grow tall and strong.

[Streets made of trees](#)

China Now Supplies a Third of Australia's Wood Imports Untracked

Wood routed through Chinese processing provinces has reached nearly 783,000 cubic metres a year, the largest single elevated-risk pathway in the analysis, with China now supplying 30 per cent of Australia's solid wood imports.

[China wood imports into Australia](#)

NZS3604 Consultation process a blockage to feedback

Structural engineers who offered to check the redraft of New Zealand's timber framing standard without charge say the format it is locked inside makes the work impossible, with the draft revision of the 15-year-old NZS 3604 readable only through a viewer that displays two pages at a time. [That is according to RNZ reporting](#), which confirmed the government has asked Standards New Zealand for advice on improving the entire standards system.

[NZS 3604 Review Blocked by a Two Page Viewer, Engineers Say | Wood Central](#)

WIDE Trust – apply for funding towards your wood processing apprenticeship programmes



Do you need funds to progress an initiative, project or programme in your business?



Do your employees need funds to progress wood processing studies, projects or qualifications?

Apply to the WIDE Trust for support ...

**\$6 MILLION
AWARDED IN
GRANTS TO DATE!**

**Apply online
www.widetrust.org.nz**

The Wood Industry Development and Education Trust (WIDE Trust) is a charitable trust established in 2018. The Trust supports businesses undertaking research, development and other initiatives to advance the wood or forestry industry sectors in New Zealand and students undertaking career-related studies or projects in these industry sectors.

Initiatives supported by the Trust include:

- apprenticeship programmes
- in-house training programmes
- international study tour to seek out industry innovations and best practice
- attendance at industry events
- assessor training
- timber design and wood processing awards



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