

Message from the Chief Executive

On 7 November New Zealanders will vote to elect the country's next Government. There is a lot riding on the outcome with the minor parties dominating the headlines. We encourage members to consider the issues important to their businesses and communities as they prepare to vote. Whoever the final Government is WPMA will continue to engage constructively and advocate for policies that support a competitive, innovative, and sustainable wood processing and manufacturing sector.

In this October issue we invite WPMA members to attend our Health and Safety at Work Act amendments update meeting on 17 November along with our AGM on the 3 December, profile our submission on the NPD, provide updates on the fuel and shipping market and the NZ-India FTA, plus welcome our newest member Resene.

Mark Ross
Chief Executive
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Health and Safety at Work Act amendments - WPMA member only event

Join us on the 17 November from 11am to 12 noon to learn about the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) amendments coming in 1 April 2027, and how they will affect your business. The team at WorkSafe will take you through the key concepts with time towards the end to ask questions. If you are a WPMA member and wish to attend, please contact office@wpma.org.nz for further details. I hope to see you there.



Fuel and Shipping Market Update

The Ministry for Business, Immigration and Employment (MBIE) continue to update on the fuel and shipping situation. The latest update summary is as follows:
Fuel supply: New Zealand's fuel supplies and wider critical supply chains continue to operate normally, with importers confident in supply over the coming months.

Global pressures: Oil continues to flow, but global refining capacity is under increasing pressure. Ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and shipping disruption mean businesses should be prepared for fuel prices to remain elevated and potentially increase further.
Outlook: The global disruption is being felt in New Zealand through higher prices rather than physical supply shortages.

Illustrative National Policy Direction – supporting a secure log supply

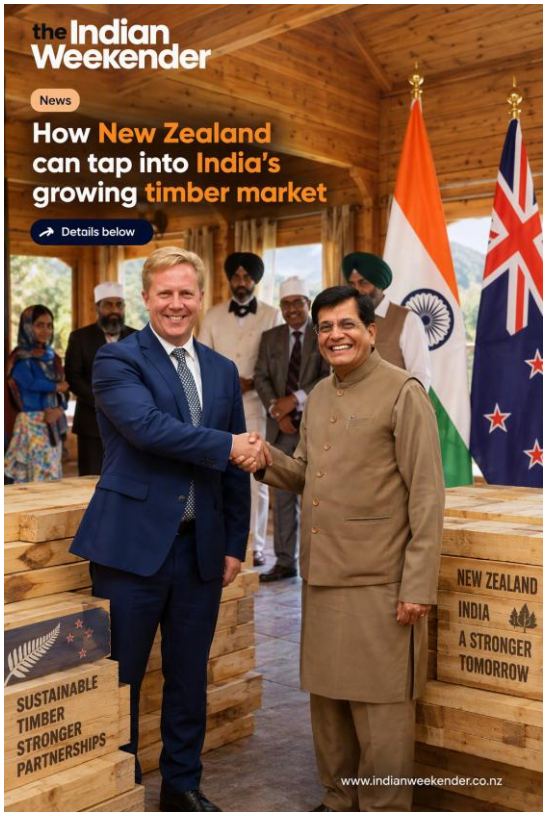
Developed to demonstrate how national direction could operate under the future framework once the Planning Act and Natural Environment Act are enacted, the illustrative National Policy Direction (NPD) aims to improve understanding of how national priorities may influence planning and regional spatial decisions. WPMA's primary interest on the NPD is ensuring the planning framework supports a secure and sustainable wood fibre (log) supply, that it enables investment in wood processing and manufacturing, and recognises the importance of forestry to the wood manufacturing value chain. Given the NPD's central role, its directives must be clear, internally consistent and sufficiently precise to support predictable implementation across the planning system. You can read our submission here National-Policy-Direction-submission-WPMA-15-Oct-2026.pdf

WPMA Supports Biomass Growth While Backing Higher Value Wood Processing

Earlier in October EECA released the details of several woody biomass manufacturing and aggregation site projects that have received establishment co-funding or repayable grants. WPMA welcomes EECA's investment in woody biomass infrastructure as a positive step towards industrial decarbonisation and improved utilisation of forestry residues, plus processing by-products. Biomass has an important role to play, provided it complements higher-value wood processing and strengthens the overall competitiveness of New Zealand's forest and wood products sector. See the EECA announcement here: Untapped wood from forestry to help fuel New Zealand industry | EECA

NZ-India FTA Opens New Opportunities for Wood Processing

WPMA has welcomed the entry into force of the New Zealand–India Free Trade Agreement on 20 October 2026, saying it will help strengthen New Zealand's position in one of the world's fastest growing markets. The agreement is timely for New Zealand's forestry and wood processing sector, with more than 95% of current forestry exports to India becoming tariff free immediately and tariffs on almost all remaining forestry trade being phased out over seven years. You can read our press release here NZ-India FTA



IndiaWood 2027 - Expressions of Interest Now Open

NZTE are pleased to advise that Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are now open for participation in the New Zealand Pavilion at IndiaWood 2027.

IndiaWood is India's leading woodworking and furniture manufacturing exhibition and attracts buyers, manufacturers, importers, distributors, architects, designers and industry stakeholders from across the country. The event will take place from 3-6 March 2027, near Delhi, and NZTE intends to coordinate a 120sqm New Zealand Pavilion to showcase New Zealand's wood and forestry capabilities.

The EOI deadline is **13 November 2026**. Given the strong interest already being expressed across the sector, we encourage businesses to register their interest as early as possible. Further details on participation costs, pavilion design, programme activities and selection criteria will be shared in the coming weeks.

As part of our planning, NZTE are working to develop a comprehensive market engagement programme around IndiaWood, including:

1. An India market immersion programme for participating companies
2. Networking events and stakeholder engagement opportunities
3. Curated introductions to key industry contacts and potential partners
4. Opportunities to showcase New Zealand timber, wood products and capabilities to influential buyers and decision-makers
5. Engagement with architects, designers, associations and other key market stakeholders

The goal is to build on the success of MumbaiWood and deliver a coordinated New Zealand presence that maximises visibility, market learning and commercial opportunities for participating companies.
Submit interest here Expressions of Interest: IndiaWood 2027 (New Zealand Pavilion) - Events - myNZTE

Additional details on trading with India can be found here:

- MFAT has updated its India FTA webpage: Using the NZ–India FTA to Grow Your Business | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- It includes a link to its new "Unlocking a market of 1.4 billion customers" booklet: New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement Unlocking a market of 1.4 billion customers
- Customs has also published updates, including information on Rules of Origin: New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement

New WPMA Member – Resene

A warm welcome to Resene, our newest member. Resene has a long history of developing quality coatings and colours to meet customer needs. Resene Coating Technologies takes that to the next level, bringing together a focused professional team and a wealth of paint and coatings knowledge, backed by the extensive resources of the Resene Technical and Research & Development team.

If you need a customised coating solution for your business, Resene Coatings Technologies can work with your requirements – application, performance, aesthetics, quality, colour, environmental considerations – and collaboratively develop a coating solution for you. We have expertise in an extensive range of coatings for a wide range of substrates, from pigmented to clear, metallics to special effects, wood stains and woodcare to weathertight and engineered coatings solutions.

Contact Resene today for assistance. They look forward to hearing from you with your coating projects. Phone: +64 (4) 577 0500 Email: john.kilby@resene.co.nz

Resene
Coating Technologies

Future of Wood manufacturing Industry Work-Based Learning – 10-Minute Survey

The Board of MAEISB is seeking feedback from the Wood manufacturing industry as work-based learning transitions to new delivery arrangements. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey. https://nam.dcv.ms/jnUAyu5IYA.

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

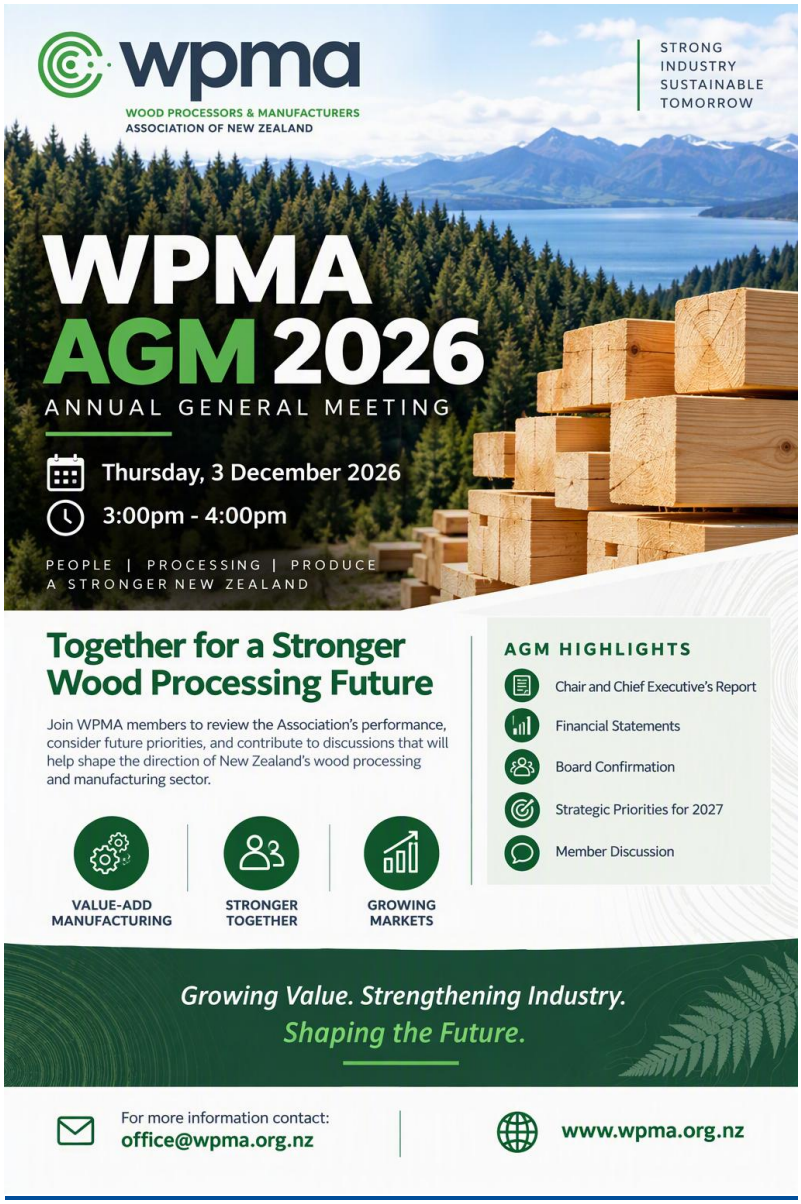
If you are interested to know more on WPMA membership, please contact mark@wpma.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

WPMA Annual General Meeting – 3 December (3pm to 4pm)

WPMA's Annual General Meeting will be held virtually from 3pm to 4pm on Thursday the 3 December 2026. All WPMA members are invited to attend. The AGM will include the Chair and Chief Executives report, presentation of the draft 2025-26 financial statements and confirmation of the Board. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

To register for the AGM please e-mail office@wpma.org.nz



INDUSTRY NEWS

NZ-India FTA

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) said exporters stand to gain more than NZ$10 million a year in cost savings and new revenue opportunities. The industry association, which represents New Zealand's sawn timber, pulp, and engineered wood manufacturers, bases that on current wood exports to India worth NZ$193 million.*"...an agreement that creates meaningful opportunities for New Zealand's wood product exporters to India,"* NZ-India FTA deal benefits

Kariori Pulpmill

A resource consent process for Winstone Pulp International's Karioi Pulpmill site is progressing, with biocoal manufacturer Te Ara Hiko a potential buyer.
Winstone Pulp application: Biocoal manufacturer Te Ara Hiko potential buyer of Karioi Pulpmill site - NZ Herald

Canadian duties reduced

More than 200 Canadian lumber producers and exporters will pay less to ship into the United States from Monday, with their dumping duty falling to 10.64 per cent from 20.53 per cent. In its seventh annual review, the US Department of Commerce on Wednesday also trimmed their subsidy duty to 14.11 per cent from 14.63 per cent, cutting the combined rate to 24.75 per cent from 35.16 per cent. Canadian softwood lumber duties reduced

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