



### Message from Mark

Although early days, Government has indicated a path of changes coming our way in 2025. First off the rank has been a Ministerial reshuffle, followed by release of the proposed science framework, work-based learning reform, immigration setting changes, and phase two of the Resource Management reform. To ensure that our industry voice is heard WPMA will continue to front to Ministers, officials and decision-makers on behalf of our members. We look forward to engaging with you as we target industry growth in 2025 and thank all members for their on-going support. If you are not a member and would like to know more about the WPMA feel free to reach out.

Mark

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### OneFortyOne Kaituna Sawmill joins WPMA

We welcome Kaituna Sawmill to WPMA as our newest member. Located in the Marlborough region, the mill specializes in processing radiata pine, supplying over 85,000 cubic metres of products annually to domestic and international markets. Kaituna prides itself on offering timber products with a point of difference, with a focus on appearance structural grade timber. More details on OneFortyOne Kaituna Sawmill can be found here [www.onefortyone.com](http://www.onefortyone.com).



## **Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Bill positive for wood processing and manufacturing**

Wood processing facilities and specified energy activities applying for future resource consents will have decisions made within a maximum of 1 year of lodgement, plus provided with a default consent duration of 35 years under the proposed second Amendment Bill to the RMA, that being the new Resource Management (Consenting and Other Systems Changes) Bill. WPMA has been lobbying government for more efficient resource consent processing with examples provided of consents taking 10 years plus and costing over \$1 million to process, hence these proposed changes by government to the RMA are welcome. Besides cutting resource consent timelines, the Bill is aimed at incentivising investment in renewable energy, supporting infrastructure development, and facilitating the development and efficiency of ports. The Bill was introduced to the House in December 2024 as Phase Two of the RMA amendments, with submissions due by the 10 February. Within the Bill, wood processing activity has been well supported, thus acknowledging the important role our industry plays within our bioeconomy and inspiring a future sustainable environment. More details on the Bill can be found [here](#).

## **Science system reset aimed at boosting the economy**

Changes announced by the government as to how science operates within New Zealand will see wood products and forestry having a central role to play within our future bioeconomy. By using our forests to produce a variety of biological resources including sawn and mass timber, bioproducts, chemicals and materials bodes well for a sustainable wood products future for New Zealand. The reset is significant and will see the current seven Crown Research Agencies being morphed into three Public Research Organisations, plus the establishment of Invest New Zealand which will assist growth in the wood products industry by being the direct one-stop-shop for foreign direct investment. With a \$1.2 billion science budget it will be important that the funds are spent in the best possible way to encourage innovation and economic growth. Technology and science have a significant and expanding impact on the advancement of wood technology and forestry within New Zealand. Having this acknowledged in the reset will ensure that science will continue to play a central role in developing our industry.

## **International treaty examination of the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability submissions called by Select Committee**

The ACCTS is a plurilateral treaty-level agreement negotiated between New Zealand, Costa Rica, Iceland, and Switzerland. Entry-into-force of the ACCTS is subject to the completion of the necessary domestic procedures of the signatories following signing of the Agreement. As an 'open plurilateral agreement' the ACCTS is designed to expand over time through the accession of new members. As more economies join, the international connections and commercial benefits for New Zealand exporters will expand. The list of goods within the ACCTS recognises natural renewable goods (for example, wool and wood products). This sets an important commercial precedent for New Zealand exporters in the long term with products such as, timber and wood used in construction being tagged as environmental goods. Submissions closed on the 23 January - WPMA's feedback on ACCTS to the Select Committee can be found here <https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Submissions/ACCTS-submission-wood-processors-and-manufacturers-association-21-Jan-2025.pdf>

### **Forestry Industry Insights – Subscribe now**

Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service, has released its first edition of the *Forestry industry insights*. This quarterly publication provides insights into market trends shaping the forestry and wood processing industries in New Zealand, and key information to support decision-makers in the sector, and investors. The Forestry industry insights will be made available every quarter. Anyone can subscribe to receive access to the report directly to their inbox, by using the MPI [subscription form](#). More information about the Forestry Industry Insights can be found by visiting [Forestry industry insights – Ministry for Primary Industries](#).

### **Legal harvest assurance system – feedback due by the 26 February**

The Legal Harvest Assurance Scheme (LHAS) will have a sizeable impact on all wood processors and manufacturers. WPMA will be seeking member feedback into our submission to MPI, which is due by the 26 February 2025. The LHAS is intended to come in effect during August 2027. More details can be found on the MPI website at [www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-operational-details-for-the-forestry-legal-harvest-assurance-system](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-operational-details-for-the-forestry-legal-harvest-assurance-system)

### **New ACC Recovery at Work Resources**

ACC has two new resources to help businesses support recovery if an employee is injured and needs time off work. In many cases and with some temporary adjustments, people can safely recover from injury while working and use work as an active part of their recovery and rehabilitation process. Each year ACC receives almost two million new claims – be prepared so you can play an early and active role in the recovery journey for your employees, regardless of whether they're injured inside or outside of work.

*The new ACC resources are:*

[Getting started guide for supporting your injured employee](#). This resource provides an overview of how employers can support their employee after an injury and help them return to work.

[Recovery at work guide](#). This one-page guide is for employees to help them identify key steps they can take if they are injured and how to work with their employer to return to work. Employers can share this with any employees who get injured.

There's more information and resources on ACC's website [here](#).



### **NZ High-Tech Awards – enter now – entries close 3 March**

Entries are now open for the most innovative hi-tech manufacturer of the year. To enter you would have developed an advanced manufactured product or process that is genuinely innovative and can demonstrate how it's positioned for future success.

Enter the Hi-Tech Awards - [Most Innovative Hi-Tech Manufacturer of the Year — NZ Hi-Tech Awards](#)

### **Recent WPMA Submissions**

- International treaty examination of the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (submitted on 22 January 2025)

<https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Submissions/ACCTS-submission-wood-processors-and-manufacturers-association-21-Jan-2025.pdf>

### **Upcoming Events**

### **WPMA National Conference – 8 October, Wellington – Hold the date**

The WPMA Conference will bring together a dynamic range of business leaders and influential stakeholders from across a wide variety of sectors. Through the delivery of strategic insights into future opportunities for wood processing and manufacturing you will be inspired to connect and grow our industry to ensure a resilient and profitable future. More details to come.

## WoodTECH 2025 – 13-14 March, Rotorua

WOOD PROCESSING AND SAWMILLING - a conference & exhibition series showcasing advances in management and technology. More details can be found here

<https://innovatek.co.nz/event/woodtech-2025/>

## Timber Bridges Conference - 29 June to 2 July, Rotorua

The 5th International Timber Bridges Conference will be held in Rotorua from the 29 June to the 2 July 2025. Registrations are now open. More details can be found here [ICTB 2025](#)

## In the News

### NZ to merge its seven Crown Research Institutes

*“We are cautiously optimistic that the creation of this new Public Research Organisation places forestry at the forefront of facilitating New Zealand’s transition to a more sustainable future, all the while providing for our wood and fibre needs,” Dr Heeg said.*

[Timberbiz » NZ to merge its seven Crown Research Institutes including Scion](#)

### AirNZ hangar to have hemispheres largest single span timber roof

*Standing ten stories tall and nearly as wide as a rugby field, the hangar—which will eventually house the airline’s Auckland-based maintenance fleet—will be long enough to fit a Boeing 777, Dreamliner 787, or two single-aisle A320/21 jets and close the doors behind them.*

<https://getfea.com/engineered-wood-products-mass-timber/air-new-zealand-readying-hangar-with-hemispheres-largest-single-span-timber-roof>

## 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](http://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

**WIDE** WOOD INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION TRUST

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