



Newsletter

June 2024



Message from Mark

WPMA's attendance within the Forestry Hub at Fieldays reinforces to me the positive role wood products play in boosting New Zealand's economic and sustainable future. Alongside our members' innovation in adding value to wood, the government's focus on providing greater certainty with new regulations reflects where we need to head to encourage future sector growth. We thank MPI and NZFOA for their leadership and organisation to make the Forestry Hub a success.

As the Prime Minister simply puts it *"We want the forestry sector to transition from volume to value, with greater onshore processing providing more employment in our regions"*.

Mark

mark@wpma.org.nz

Seeking a New Chairman for the WPMA Board

At our recent Board meeting John Eastwood formally resigned from his role of Chairman for the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand. John has served on the Board of WPMA for the last five years and as Chairman for nearly half that time. On behalf of the WPMA membership, I thank John for his hard work in leading and supporting our industry.

With John's resignation we are now seeking expressions of interest for a new Chairman for our Board from within and/or outside WPMA membership. This will be an Independent paid position, with remuneration dependent on the successful applicant. If you would like to know more or discuss in confidence, please contact Mark on mark@wpma.org.nz or on 027 442 9965.



*Outgoing WPMA
Chairman John
Eastwood*

Welcome to new WPMA Director Keith Knox - Xlam

A new WPMA Director, Keith Knox, General Manager ANZ - Xlam, was appointed to the Board at our June meeting to fill the vacant Engineered Wood Products and Laminating Category position formerly filled by Darren Stead. Keith has worked in the timber manufacturing and construction related industries for more than 30 years throughout Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. His background includes a focus on Engineered Wood Products in the Commercial and Multi-Residential construction markets. Before immigrating to Australia he was involved in the timber and panel industry in South Africa, manufacturing and supplying both structural and decorative timber products to the construction industry. We welcome Keith to the WPMA Board and look forward to his leadership in supporting to drive the future success of mass timber usage across New Zealand.

Wood Processors Growth Fund – current status (update via Te Uru Rākau)

The Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF) provides a mechanism for government to co-invest with wood processors to increase New Zealand's onshore capacity. Forestry Minister Todd McClay has spoken of a strong desire to [increase domestic wood processing](#). While the timing for the next capital investment round is currently being confirmed, Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service invites parties interested in pre-investment and capital investment to get in touch for a confidential discussion with the WPGF Team.

wpgf@mpi.govt.nz

More information about the WPGF is available online -

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forest-industry-and-workforce/wood-processing-growth-fund/>

Outside of the WPGF, Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service can also broker sector engagement with funding and support programmes across government. These include, for example, the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund, NZTE, EECA, MBIE Kānoa, Callaghan Innovation, Green Investment Finance, Waste Minimisation Fund, Scion and the Export Credit Office.

Mystery Creek Field Days delivers on constructive outputs for WPMA

The 56th Annual National Field Days at Mystery Creek attracted 106,000 visitors and featured 1,069 exhibitors. Despite the current economic conditions many exhibitors were surprised by buyer spending. During the event several key announcements were made by various Ministers and the Prime Minister. This included Minister McClay's '*Growing the potential of New Zealand's forestry sector in partnership*' speech within the Forestry Hub. This was WPMA's first time at Field Days. Overall, it was a very constructive and positive few days. We talked/advocated to many interested people, wider primary industry, the public, and politicians about our organisation and the NZ wood products industry. Most important was our united collaboration with like-minded organisations that were part of the Forestry Hub – this engagement was most beneficial and a key component of the Hub's success.



While Minister Watts (Climate Change) and others listen, Minister McClay outlines at Fielddays the government pathway forward to grow the forestry and wood processing sectors.

EUDR - Delivery of industry solutions underway

To ensure that our members who will be affected by the European Union Deforestation Regulations are prepared, WPMA is taking an active leadership role to support members in working through the regulations, plus developing solutions. Our approach will include the wider forestry industry and government, with the first stage involving a Discovery Workshop in early July to identify the key requirements and expectations of our members. Industry-specific requirements in regard to EUDR and digital proofs will be detailed as a means of determining what is needed, including technical specifications, implementation support and post-deployment services. The European Union has introduced EUDR to prevent companies from placing commodities (incl. wood products) linked with deforestation and forest degradation, onto the EU market, or exporting them from the EU. Contact Mark mark@wpma.org.nz if you would like to know more on our engagement with EUDR.

Building and Construction Minister meets with WPMA

Timber and wood products have a significant role to play within our domestic building and construction. To ensure that we are engaged on the latest government developments, WPMA met this week with Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Building and Construction to discuss the important role that value added wood products, such as mass timber, have in decarbonising New Zealand, boosting the economy and supporting our regions. On the agenda was the new government policy initiative 'Removing barriers to using overseas building products'. A positive discussion was had, with the emphasis placed on New Zealand's unique climate and the need to meet our current codes and standards for any imported timber and building products to avoid any future building failures. The interest and demand for engineered wood products to replace steel and concrete is increasing globally – it was encouraging to note the Ministers' awareness and understanding. Further engagement will continue as the government works through its future policies for building and construction.

KPMG Agribusiness Agenda for 2024 released

Released at Fieldays, the 2024 KPMG Agribusiness Agenda, titled 'Today's potential, tomorrow's possibilities', presents the findings from the annual KPMG Agribusiness Leaders Priority Survey, alongside insights from over 150 food and fibre industry leaders who have contributed their perspectives on the pressing issues facing the sector. As with prior years biosecurity remains the number one issue, followed closely by gene editing, trade negotiations and rural infrastructure. The Agenda can be accessed here: <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/nz/pdf/2024/06/2024-agribusiness-agenda-v6.pdf>

Increasing the export of wood products to India in the Government spotlight

As highlighted in the KPMG Agenda the Government's focus on increased trade with India is likely to have a long timeframe and require a lot of hard work. Connecting on values and demonstrating a clear focus on mutually beneficial trade will be critical to the Indian Government opening the door to a longer-term trading relationship with New Zealand. A recent meeting between WPMA, FOA and Phytos and the Minister for Trade on future opportunities for logs and wood products to India was positive as to government/industry commitments. We look forward to progressing the opportunities outlined with the Minister in developing our future export of wood products to India.



Timber Unlimited and CLT Toolbox Partner to Launch Free Advanced Timber Design Software for Engineers in New Zealand

Earlier this year, Timber Unlimited and [CLT Toolbox](#) (Australia) announced the development of advanced software design modules. Today, they are thrilled to announce the free software is now available to the New Zealand engineering community! These modules are uniquely designed to meet the unique needs of structural engineers in New Zealand and address the complexities of the new Standard NZS AS 1720.1:2022. They streamline intricate design processes, empowering engineers with the tools to create sustainable, resilient timber structures. More details can be found here <https://timberunlimited.co.nz/clt-toolbox-software>

Sector Programme Decarbonisation survey - EECA

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority is running a Survey on its [Sector Decarbonisation Programme](#). This is part of a wider evaluation of EECA's work helping New Zealand businesses save money and reduce emissions through clean and clever energy use. The survey is focused on what actions you have taken since engaging with EECA, barriers to

decarbonisation or increasing energy efficiency in your sector, and any ways EECA could help your business in future. See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXC9NSV>
[Project Whakahaumau \(Reducing harm in the workplace\) making good progress](#)

The manufacturing sector has one of New Zealand's highest rates of workplace injury. Every year, manufacturing accounts for \$50 million in acute injury costs to ACC. The cost to individuals, businesses and communities make this an important issue to address. To reduce the rate of workplace harm Project Wakahaumau has been established via the EMA and ACC, with WPMA appointed to the project Steering Group. The project's goal is to develop an industry-led plan aimed at reducing the rate of harm within manufacturing. To ensure a broad range of views are heard we need to hear from as many business leaders and workers within manufacturing as possible to ensure we gain a diverse, well-rounded view - this is you and your team's chance to have a say. The "Video-Ask" Survey is short and simple, and can be answered on a phone with video, audio or text responses. [The survey](#) can be accessed via this link: <https://www.videoask.com/fub9jzglh>

[Outlook for New Zealand Primary industry export revenue forecast to grow](#)

The latest Situation and Outlook Report for the Primary Industry that was released at Field Days. The SOPI shows that food and fibre export revenue will reach \$54.6 billion in the year to 30 June 2024 and build to a record \$66.6 billion in 2028. The Forestry and wood processing summary is highlighted from pp.78 -88 of the report. Although forestry export revenue is expected to decrease 7% to \$5.9 billion in the year to 30 June 2024, looking to 2024/25, processed wood production is forecast to recover, lifting export revenue to \$6.2 billion. See [MPI website](#) .

[Maintenance Engineering Conference 2024](#)

The 2024 Maintenance Engineering Conference will be held on the **8th-10th of October at Fraser High School Hamilton**, making it the 20th annual conference. The conference's aim is to provide the engineering community with the latest technological advancements, manufacturing capabilities and tools, and vital insights from NZ and global case studies. More details can be found here **[Conference Information & Program](#)**

[Recent WPMA Submissions](#)

- Legal Harvest Assurance Scheme
- Draft Advice on the Fourth Emissions Budget Period (2036-2040), plus shipping and aviation
- 2024 Review of NZ's 2050 Emissions Reduction Target

More details can be found here: <https://wpma.org.nz/resources#e26>

In the News

Government support for wood processing and forestry welcomed

<https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Media-Releases/PRESS-RELEASE-Positive-incentives-for-wood-processing-announced-by-government-WPMA-14-June.pdf>

'With only 40 percent of New Zealand's harvested trees processed within New Zealand this announcement by the Minister provides a positive way forward to grow our domestic processing, create more jobs in the regions and increase our export revenue through producing high quality value-added wood products,' said Mark Ross, Chief Executive of the wood processors and manufacturers association.'

Pan Pac joins Prime Minister trade visit to Japan

<https://www.panpac.co.nz/pan-pac-joins-prime-minister-on-trade-visit-to-japan/>

Prime Minister Christopher Luxton says: "This is an excellent example of the way in which overseas-owned investment can benefit New Zealand and support our long-term goals. We want the forestry sector to transition from volume to value, with greater onshore processing providing more employment in our regions."

Short rotation forestry could lower fossil fuel dependency

A two-year research project by Scion has highlighted the potential for regional New Zealand to implement short rotation forestry (SRF) for bioenergy production. SRF is a forestry practice that involves growing and harvesting trees on a short rotation cycle, between 12 – 18 years to produce wood biomass, as opposed to the traditional 28 year-harvesting cycle. [Original full article here](#)