

Message from Mark

The Government's 100-day action plan has come to an end, with the real work to now commence as to making beneficial actions happen. This will require officials under the guidance of Ministers working closely with industry to ensure that the new policy and regulations being created, such as the RMA and Tertiary Education reforms, are effective and workable.

On the government's Climate Change plans for a low emissions society and economy it is important that the role of harvested wood products is taken into consideration. Wood and timber products play a key role in absorbing biogenic carbon and by including Long-Life Harvested Wood Products within our ETS platform this will assist in meeting our zero carbon 2050 goals, plus improve the investment environment for wood processing and manufacturing.

I trust that you have a relaxing Easter.

Mark



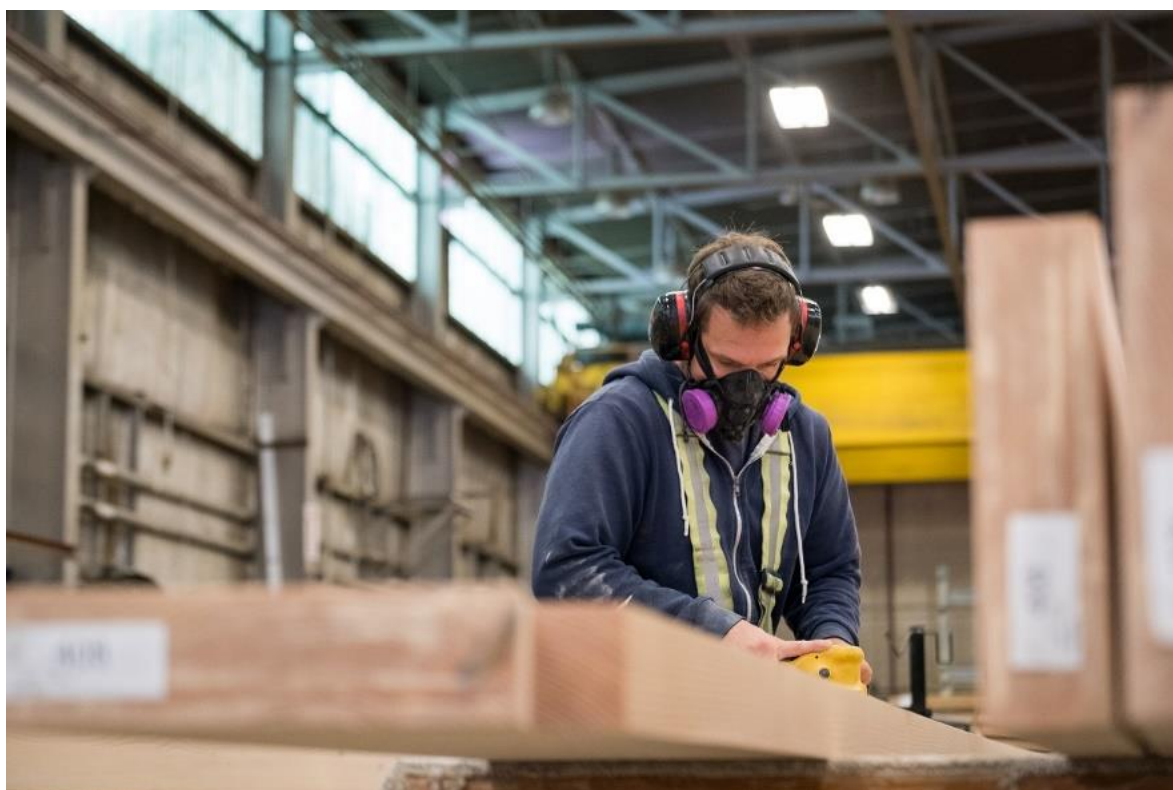
RMA under review – efficient national consenting process needed

With the [Fast Track Approvals Bill](#) introduced earlier this month it is pleasing to see the government taking a proactive response to make consenting for new large infrastructure projects more efficient and streamlined. As part of the wider RMA review WPMA are advocating that the fast-tracking process also applies to re-consenting for large industrial activities on established sites, as these processes can often impact very significant projects. Wood processing investments are capital intensive and long lived. Once established the 'sunk cost' and 'make good' implications can be considerable, meaning that much of the focus of WPMA members has been on renewing and upgrading existing operations with excessive cost and uncertainty due to RMA restrictions resulting in less focus on new and innovative investments.

Workplace injury in the manufacturing sector to be addressed

The Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA), with ACC's support, have initiated a programme on behalf of the manufacturing sector to develop an industry-led health and safety plan to prevent harm and reduce workplace injuries. In our role as the representative for the wood processing and manufacturing sector, the WPMA Chief Executive has been appointed to the programme's Steering Committee. Over the next seven months exploration work to produce an industry-led Manufacturing HSW Action Plan that provides the next steps for reducing harm and preventing injury, in the manufacturing sector will be completed. This work will form the foundation for an evidence-backed action plan of practical interventions and initiatives. If you are a manufacturer, or are in the manufacturing sector, and are interested in being involved in the project, you can do so by completing the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/d4jShw5im8>



Climate Change Commission draft advice and discussion documents – Public Release

He Pou a Rangī Climate Change Commission will release draft advice and discussion documents on Monday 8 April for three pieces of work that aim to help chart Aotearoa New Zealand's path to a resilient low emissions society and economy. The release is part of a public consultation that will run until 31 May about the country's emissions reduction target and emissions budgets. A public webinar about the consultation will be held at 7pm on Monday 8 April. To register to attend, go to: www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/870739905497

Educating your stakeholders on carbon – Industry webinar You are invited to register for a Thinkstep-anz led webinar on 3 April [Educating your stakeholders about carbon – a case study from the timber and forestry industry](#). In this webinar Sarah Downey, Head of Marketing and Communications at Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA), joins Stephen Mitchell, one of our Green Building experts. They discuss how FWPA developed three carbon guides and how these guides are helping to educate FWPA members, building and design professionals and government policymakers. For those who cannot make the webinar it will be available afterwards on the FWPA website for viewing.

Covid Inquiry – lessons learnt submission by sector forum

The Forest and Wood Products Sector Forum has made a joint submission to the Covid Inquiry, The submission highlights feedback received from Sector Forum members as to the affect of the Covid restrictions on their businesses. The Commission will be using the forum's and other industry feedback to develop recommendations for future pandemics should they occur. The submission can be accessed here <https://www.wpma.org.nz/news/covid-19-lessons-learned-submission>

5th International Conference of Timber Bridges



The 5th International Conference of Timber Bridges will be held in Rotorua from the 29 June to 2 July 2025. The Timber Design Centre as one of the co-hosts highlights that the focus on timber bridges aligns with the current need for resilient infrastructure to support thriving communities and believe that by bringing together leading professionals from various fields, we can collectively improve design, productivity, manufacture, supply, and maintenance of timber bridges for the next five decades and beyond. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the conference website.

Manufacturing Industry Conference – 29 May, Auckland

The NZ Manufacturing Industry Conference will be held at the ASB showgrounds in Auckland on the 29 May. Manufacturers across different industries are invited to register for the conference, which will be held in conjunction with the SouthMACH manufacturing trade show. If you're keen to improve productivity and profitability in your operations – or just keen to 'make you boat go faster' – this is the event for you! This is a one-day-only event, with opportunities to also spend time at EMEX during the day. There is limited capacity (200 attendees) You will find all the details (programme; registration) here: <https://makenz.org/event/new-zealand-manufacturing-conference/>

In the News

Master Builders NZ appoint new Chief Executive

[https://www.masterbuilder.org.nz/RMBA/News/2024 News/New Chief Executive Announcement.aspx](https://www.masterbuilder.org.nz/RMBA/News/2024%20News/New%20Chief%20Executive%20Announcement.aspx)

Harnessing forestry waste can drive down our coal dependency

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/350225928/harnessing-forestry-waste-can-drive-down-new-zealands-coal-dependency>

Mass timber could replace concrete and steel in high-rise US buildings and significantly reduce carbon emissions

<https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/1037583>

Paris Olympics to Be a Showcase of Wood Architecture

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2024-03-09/paris-summer-olympics-will-be-a-modest-showcase-of-wood-architecture>