



# Newsletter

May



## Message from Mark – Fieldays 10 -13 June 2026

WPMA will be a part of the Forestry Hub at Fieldays 2026 for the third year running. By standing alongside farmers and industry leaders at Fieldays, WPMA emphasises the value New Zealand captures from its sustainable Radiata Pine, producing high-quality wood products that support on-farm productivity and innovation. New Zealand wood has long been the preferred material for building and construction in rural communities offering a range of advantages including being light, flexible, resilient, cost effective, and readily available. I hope to see you there and please come and say Hi if you are passing by.

In addition, WPMA continues to push the case for adding wood, like wool, to Government procurement decisions heading into Election 2026. You can hear our latest media on RadioNZ [here](#):

Mark

[mark@wpma.org.nz](mailto:mark@wpma.org.nz)



## NZ fuel stocks remain above minimum requirements

As of 25 May 2026, the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) report that overall fuel stocks remain well above minimum requirements and within normal ranges, with regular shipments continuing to arrive as expected. Fuel importers have provided good confidence through confirmed orders to late June, with planned orders extending into August. On the Fuel Response Plan New Zealand remains at Phase One. More details can be found here [Fuel stock and shipping updates](#)

## **NZ Modern Slavery Bill: What you need to know**

The Government's Modern Slavery Bill is progressing through Parliament and, if passed in its current form, will introduce significant new compliance requirements for New Zealand businesses. Entities with annual revenue over NZ\$100 million would be required to prepare and publish annual modern slavery statements. While the intent of the Bill is broadly supported, several elements of the current drafting have raised concerns, particularly its divergence from established international reporting frameworks. For businesses already reporting under recognised overseas regimes, there is a strong case for allowing equivalent reporting rather than creating parallel processes. WPMA has submitted on the Bill and will continue to keep members updated on its progress. A copy of the Bill is available [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc4pryh): <https://tinyurl.com/yc4pryh>

## **NZ-India Free Trade Agreement: More than just tariff removal**

In addition to removing tariffs of 5.5–11 percent on 95% of wood products and logs entering India, the NZ–India FTA delivers several further advantages for our industry. These include developing processes to address non-tariff barriers (NTBs) such as lengthy customs procedures, an agreement not to use export subsidies that fall outside WTO rules, and the adoption of agreed risk-assessment guidelines for any phytosanitary measures. The agreement also strengthens cooperation in the forestry and wood sectors, supporting joint work on areas such as research and building standards. WPMA is strongly supportive of this FTA being ratified. You can read our submission to Select Committee [here](#):



*NZFOA CEO, Dr Elizabeth Heeg and WPMA CEO Mark Ross, presenting to Select Committee jointly on the NZ-India FTA*

## **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) revised risk assessment for NZ disappoints wood products industry**

Feedback on New Zealand's revised FSC risk assessment has now closed, and submissions are being reviewed. In its response, WPMA expressed disappointment that the revision appears to misunderstand the New Zealand context and proposes mitigation measures that are unrealistic for much of the sector. As drafted, the changes could effectively prevent controlled wood from being sourced across large areas of the country, creating challenges for wood processors, particularly when verifying logs from non-certified sites. However, with a significant number of forest owners raising their concerns, it is expected that adjustments will be made to ensure FSC-certified forestry

and wood-processing businesses can continue to meet requirements without major business disruption.

## **Gas Transition Loan Scheme Supports Industry Shift Away from Natural Gas**

The Government's new Gas Transition Loan Guarantee Scheme provides welcome support for large industrial gas users looking to move toward cleaner, more secure energy sources. WPMA supports the initiative as it offers timely relief for manufacturers facing uncertainty around the future cost and availability of natural gas. The scheme makes up to \$1.2 billion in bank loans available to help businesses transition to alternatives such as biomass, which is produced from wood residues and forestry by-products. While not a full solution to New Zealand's long-term energy challenges, it gives companies a practical pathway to reduce reliance on gas. WPMA notes that extending the loan facility to also support biomass supply-side development—such as processing, logistics, and infrastructure—would accelerate progress. This scheme is one important piece of the puzzle, and we support cross-party commitment to a long-term energy strategy that keeps businesses operating and strengthens our industry's future. See more details [here](#)

## **Agribusiness Agenda 2026 released – KPMG**

The 2026 report was released this week and highlights how resilience must sit at the core of decision making - whether responding to climate volatility, geopolitical disruption, shifting consumer demand or evolving technology. While the sector has a strong foundation, the message is clear: incremental change will not be enough. Organisations will need to adopt more intentional, system-level transformation—investing in infrastructure, innovation and capability to create long-term value and maintain relevance in global markets. Despite the challenges ahead, there is a strong sense of optimism about the opportunities available across the New Zealand industry. With the right mindset and collaboration across the value chain, the sector is well positioned to navigate change and unlock future growth. You can download the report from the KPMG website [here](#)

## **WorkSafe – help needed to improve WorkSafe notifications**

Have you ever notified WorkSafe about a workplace injury, illness, incident, or concern? WorkSafe are looking for people to share their experience as part of research to improve how notifications work.

This includes anyone who has used WorkSafe's webforms, whether you're an employer, worker, or member of the public.

### **What's involved:**

- A short anonymous survey
- Takes approximately 5-7 minutes to complete
- Your responses are completely anonymous
- Responses will be used only to improve WorkSafe services

**Take the survey [here](#):**

## **U.S. Exporters - 2026 AmCham-DHL Express Success & Innovation Awards**

AmCham invite you to join them in celebrating the 27th Annual AmCham-DHL Express Success & Innovation Awards for companies doing business with the USA. The awards honour companies using entrepreneurship and innovation in achieving success in the fast moving, highly competitive U.S market. To enter the Awards you can find more details [here](#)

### **Upcoming Events**

## **WoodTECH 2026 Rotorua -18-19 June 2026**

In June 2026 the Australia and New Zealand WoodTECH conference series will bring industry leaders and technical specialists together to network and learn. The focus is on getting the best from advancing technologies. With leading international experts there will plenty on offer. It's all about new ways of improving wood products. 2026 conference sessions will include sawing technology developments, wood treatment product advances, kiln drying improvement options, and wood processing technologies

**More details can be found [here](#)**

---



## **Timber Design Awards 2026**

**Gala Event Dinner: Friday 26 June 2026, Cordis Hotel Auckland**

Now entering their 51st year in 2026, these prestigious Awards celebrate the best in timber design and construction and provide a national platform to recognise outstanding achievement in the use of timber across the built environment.

Proudly hosted by Timber Unlimited, the Awards recognise the businesses, people, and teams who are at the forefront of the timber revolution, using timber to deliver beautiful, high-performance, low-carbon, exemplary projects – from large-scale commercial and public buildings through to residential, interior and innovation-focused work.

**[Register here to secure your ticket](#)**

---



## **2026 NZIF Conference**

**Back to Business: Forward with Confidence**  
**Showcasing how we can and do get forestry right.**  
**Dunedin, 26-18 August 2026**

Join industry leaders, innovators, researchers, and practitioners as we share success stories, highlight cutting-edge innovation, and explore strong partnerships that deliver both environmental and economic gains. Together, we'll demonstrate what good forestry looks like – sustainable, safe, and forward-focused and rebuild confidence in an industry that is vital to New Zealand's future

**For more information click [here](#)**

### **[In the News](#)**

#### **Gas loan scheme supported by WPMA**

*Mark Ross, chief executive of the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA), said energy insecurity had become a genuine threat to manufacturing growth and that the scheme offered a timely financing route to alternatives including biomass produced from wood residues and forestry by-products.*

**<https://www.bioenergy-news.com/news/nz1-2-bn-loan-scheme-opens-biomass-pathway/>**

## Potius joins Prolam Group

Prolam, a New Zealand-owned leader in engineer timber solutions has today announced its strategic partnership and investment in Potius, a specialist in prefabricated timber floor, roof and panelised wall systems for residential and commercial construction.

[Prolam Raking Portal | Engineered timber bracing solution](#)

## Canada - Forestry workers supported with training, upskilling, wage subsidies, new opportunities, project

Forestry workers, employers and communities throughout British Columbia are receiving targeted assistance through a forestry workers support grant, the Canada-B.C.

Workforce Tariff Response, a \$20.8-million investment to help employers and communities respond quickly to the needs of the sector, by providing funds for worker retention, wage support and job-creating local projects.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026FOR0014-000483>

---

## 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

Mark Ross

Chief Executive

[Mark@wpma.org.nz](mailto:Mark@wpma.org.nz)

Mob: 027 442 9965