



Message from Mark

A significant environmental benefit of timber is its ability to sequester carbon. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during their growth phase, storing this carbon in their wood. When timber is used in construction, this carbon remains sequestered for the lifetime of the building, effectively removing it from the atmosphere and contributing positively to the reduction of global greenhouse gas levels. For every m3 of wood used for building a total of 2 tonnes of CO2 are stored.

Having this in mind increased use of timber in buildings and construction can make a positive difference to our future climate. To incentivise greater use of timber in our domestic built environment, we are calling on this government to implement the Building for Climate Change programme into New Zealand's future policy settings. Not only will this lead to a reduction in our carbon emissions, it will also provide support to our forestry-wood processing industry and provide an additional means to meet our Paris Agreement targets.

Mark

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Better Data to tell the story of the wood processors and manufacturers: MPI short survey

The contribution of the wood processing and manufacturing sector to New Zealand needs to be better understood by government and stakeholders. Who are we? Where are we? How much we process or produce? These are key questions that we get continuously asked about as a sector. As a first step to improve our sector data collection, the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is updating a directory of commercial wood processors and manufacturing entities through a survey.

MPI has discussed the benefits of the survey with WPMA, and we encourage you to participate. The survey <https://mpi.wsp-tools.app/wpd> should take you 2-5 minutes to complete depending on the size and complexity of your business. The survey has straight-forward questions about company details, processing locations and capacity. If you have any questions, please contact kyle.wills@wsp.com

NZ/UAE trade deal offers opportunities for NZ wood product exporters

Tariff elimination across all New Zealand wood products entering the UAE through the new NZ/UAE trade deal has been welcomed by the wood processors and manufacturers association. The UAE is in a transition period where they are favouring timber-based construction over concrete and steel, signalling a regional shift towards sustainability. From a New Zealand basis we currently export around \$10 million in wood products to the UAE, with the main categories being sawn timber,

sleepers, pulp and paper. Other wood products exported include wood for flooring, furniture and joinery. It is acknowledged that New Zealand's share of \$10 million is small when compared to the total UAE wood and wood product imports of \$267 billion in 2023. However, even a minor percentage growth in NZ exports to the UAE through the CEPA will assist in providing encouraging signals to our domestic wood processing industry.



Building Amendment Bill heads to select committee

The [Building \(Overseas Building Products, Standards, and Certification Schemes\) Amendment Bill](#) was read a first time last week and has been referred to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee. This bill would amend the Building Act 2004 to make it easier for designers and market participants to use new or competing building products. In its first reading the Bill received unanimous cross-party support. WPMA will be fronting on behalf of members to ensure that our key points are heard by the Select Committee building on the points outlined in our pre-Bill feedback see: <https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Submissions/WPMA-submission-Removing-barriers-to-using-overseas-wood-products-26-June-2024.pdf>

RMA reform good news for wood processors

Mandating the processing of resource consents to 1-year for wood processing facilities and related activities announced by Government as part of the resource management reform proposals has been welcomed by the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association. With examples of resource consent renewal taking up to 13 years and costing in excess of \$2 million due to the drawn-out regional council processes, a more efficient system is essential. WPMA look forward to working alongside the resource management reform expert panel and officials to ensure that the new Resource Management settings are effective for incentivising future investment and growth within our industry.



Fast Track Approvals Bill report back from Select Committee due end of September

The Fast Track Approvals Bill continues to make progress. 384 projects have applied for Fast Track consenting approval, which will require them to be listed within the Bill. The breakdown showed 40% were housing and urban development projects, Infrastructure projects made up 24%, renewable energy projects 18%, primary industries projects 8%, and quarrying and mining projects 10%. WPMA's submission on the Bill was well received by the Committee and resulted in follow up requests for additional details. We remain engaged with officials and look forward to seeing this Bill progress to completion.

Immigration settings in need of a review

The government recently changed the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) settings as a means of reducing the current high levels of net migration. With many of our members employing overseas workers this new regulation is causing uncertainty, business operational issues, and in some cases worker anxiety. As large employers in the regions, e.g. Taranaki, Taupo, Otorohanga, Napier and Northland, wood processing and manufacturing is essential to on-going community support and regional growth. Several key solutions to the AEWV have been proposed to lessen the burden on the industry. If you have concerns with the current AEWV settings please contact mark@wpma.org.nz

You are invited to attend the WPMA AGM 2024 in Wellington on the 20 November

The WPMA 2024 AGM is scheduled to be held in cohesion with our board meeting in Wellington on Wednesday the 20 November. The AGM will run from 3pm to 6pm and will include guest speakers, along with time for drinks and nibbles. We encourage you to put time aside in your diary and attend. More details to come.

Have your Say in this year's Forest Growers Levy Vote

Voting for the Forest Growers Levy Vote will open on 1 October 2024 and close at 5pm on 31 October 2024. The vote is your chance to help build a more sustainable future for forestry.

All plantation forest owners, be they small or large-scale growers, pay a levy on the volume of wood material sold. The funds raised by the levy are invested into industry-good work that benefit all levy

payers and forest growers generally. The levy has been crucial for supporting the sector's growth. More details can be found here <https://forestvoice.org.nz>

NZ Timber Museum seeking your support

The Timber Museum <https://www.nztimbermuseum.co.nz/> was established in the South Waikato District near Putāruru in 1972 to preserve and celebrate the history of the timber industry. The Museum is run by a Trust and supported by the District Council and grant funding. The Trust is working on the expansion and enhancement of The New Zealand Timber Museum for future generations. The next redevelopment project is estimated to require a minimum of \$120,000. If you would like to know more about the Timber Museum or make a donation, please contact Ian MacGregor at macs4ian@gmail.com



Woodworks Conference

WoodWorks 2024 brings together over 200 leaders in engineered wood design and construction. The programme covers mass timber technology developments, including LVL and CLT, prefabrication and connection systems that are set to transform commercial buildings. See:

<https://woodworks.events/event/woodworks-2024-conference/>

Forest Growers Research Conference 2024 – Hold the date

The 2024 Forest Growers research Conference will be held 22-24 October in Dunedin, (24 October will be a field trip). Details are available on the FGR website <https://fgr.nz/news/>

CLT construction-stage site tour – 17 October 2024, 3-5pm: Waikato Regional Theatre

Curious about the buzz surrounding mass timber in construction? Join mid-rise construction for an eye-opening tour of the Waikato Regional Theatre project in Hamilton, where innovative cross-laminated timber (CLT) is taking centre stage. Hosted by Mid-Rise Wood Construction, this tour is your chance to explore the potential of mass timber in New Zealand's construction future. Space is

limited. [Click here](#) to reserve your spot now to be at the forefront of construction innovation!
Detailed meeting information will be provided closer to the event date.

Recent WPMA Submissions

- **Fixed dates for the *Arhopalus fesus* flight season - WPMA feedback**
<https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Submissions/Fixed-Dates-for-the-A.-ferus-flight-season-WPMA-feedback-20-Sept-2024-FINAL.pdf>
- **Response from the forestry and wood processing industry to the VET system**
<https://wpma.org.nz/assets/Submissions/A-response-from-the-forestry-and-wood-processing-industry-to-the-VET-system-redesign.pdf>

In the News

Industry supportive of resource management reform

With examples of resource consent renewal taking up to 13 years and costing in excess of \$2 million, due to the drawn-out regional council processes, a more efficient system is essential.

https://innovatek.co.nz/industry-supportive-of-resource-management-reform/?utm_hub=woodtech

Opportunities opened to NZ wood products exported to UAE

Our hope is that the successful conclusion of the NZ/UAE Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will lead to an increase in NZ wood products entering the UAE.

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2409/S00452/opportunities-opened-to-nz-wood-product-exporters-through-the-nzuae-trade-deal.htm>

NZ's radiata pine fuels global timber furniture

"Forestry is an important sector for New Zealand, significantly contributing to our trade relations with Vietnam. New Zealand's timber exports to Vietnam were valued at NZ\$80 million (\$50.8 million) in the year ending 2018, making this our second-largest export sector," according to then-NZ ambassador to Vietnam Wendy Matthews.

<https://woodcentral.com.au/hello-vietnam-nzs-radiata-pine-now-fuels-global-timber-furniture/>

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