



FORWOOD



Forward



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Managing Director's Update February 2016



Ric Sinclair, MD

Welcome to the February 2016 edition of ForWood.

In this issue we cover the formation of the new WoodSolutions technical field force, the formation of a new durability advisory group, the launch of the new safety data benchmarking series, activities in the codes and standards and promotional areas and more.

We would be happy for you to share this information with your colleagues via our share buttons.

Ric Sinclair
Managing Director

Location: Los Angeles, CA | Architect: Togawa Smith Martin, Inc.
Photo: Togawa Smith Martin, Inc. | Source: www.woodworks.org/



New WoodSolutions technical field force USA

experience workshops – would you like to attend?

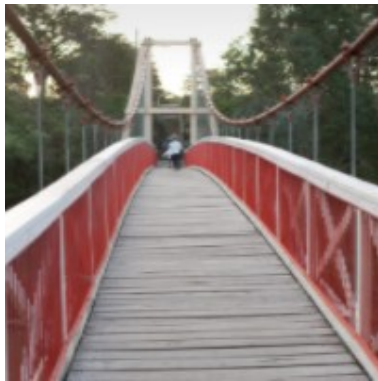
The recent changes to the building code that make it easier and more cost-effective to use timber framing and massive timber in buildings of up to 25m (usually 8 storeys) offer a once in a generation opportunity to the timber industry.

Through the WoodSolutions program, FWPA is managing a jointly funded technical field force three-year pilot program in Victoria, with a minor extension in Queensland, which following the northern USA example is expected to expedite the adoption of the code changes and contribute significant sales to the sector.

If you are an existing or potential investor in the field force and would like to attend a workshop where Jennifer Cover, executive director, USA WoodWorks program, explains the success of their field force, please contact ric.sinclair@fwpa.com.au

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News



New durability industry advisory group – member applications invited

Timber design life and durability activities are an initiative of FWPA to create a robust system that is evidence-based and improves the market opportunities and competitiveness of wood products.

If you are interested please contact

ric.sinclair@fwpa.com.au

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Statistics and Economics



Forest Safety Benchmarking Data Series Launched

The Forest Safety Benchmarking Data Series has been launched with 18 forest companies contributing 2 years of historic data. The data series aggregate each contributing company's safety data to provide coverage of 10 safety metrics.

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Keep up to date with the Statistics Count Newsletter

FWPA's industry data dashboard and newsletter gives industry access to proprietary and public domain data sets in easily accessible locations. Subscribe to the newsletter today.

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Housing data sends mixed messages

Australia's monthly housing data appears to indicate the longest run of steady growth in history has ended, with still recording record annual approvals, down almost exclusively by the continuing growth of so-called apartments. Although total approvals grew 15.1% to the end of November 2015 on a year-on-year basis, they declined by 6.7% in November, compared with the prior month.

[More](#)



First home-buyers continue to improve their position

In November 2015, first home-buyers accounted for 12.1% of the total value of the nation's housing finance, up 0.2% on the prior month. At the other end of the finance spectrum, investors accounted for 44.1% of loan value, down from their peak of 53.5% in August 2015, signalling the prudential pressure on lending have probably begun to take hold.

[More](#)



Local softwood sales decline 4.0% YoY

Sales of locally produced sawn softwood declined 4.0% for the year-ended November 2015, according to 7 631 101

Standards Coordination



Standards Australia Timber Committees

Click through for a summary of the extensive work currently being undertaken by the Timber Committees.

[Read more](#)



National Construction Code (NCC) mid-rise timber buildings - update

Work is continuing on developing the technical resources to support and encourage the uptake of the NCC mid-rise timber building code change.

[Read more](#)

Promotions



Communicating the code change – specifier program under development

To maximise industry adoption of the recent code change that, from May 1st 2016, will allow timber framing and massive timber in specified mid-rise buildings, a specifier information program has been developed.

[Read more](#)

WoodSolutions website user interface testing

To ensure this industry-leading website offers an optimum experience to its users, WoodSolutions has



engaged a user design consultancy, to conduct in-depth website testing. The results, while indicating areas of potential improvement showed the site was well structured and provided valuable content on all aspects of building, specifying and designing with timber.

[Read more](#)



Wood encouragement policies gaining traction in Western Australia

Promoted by Planet Ark through their Make it Wood campaign, Wood Encouragement Policies (WEP) aim to increase the use of wood and wood products by local government. A presentation in WA on the benefits of WEP was well-received by local government attendees.

Image attribution: LOVESTORY shop by MORQ.

Image: Peter Bennetts; Finalist Australian Timber Design Awards 2015

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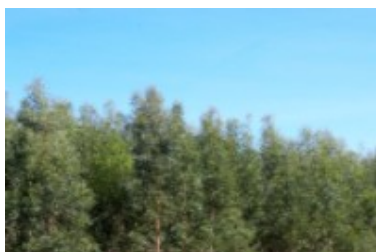
RD&E - News, Project Reports and Updates



FWPA call for project funding proposals February 2016

FWPA invites the submission of detailed research proposals for projects commencing from 1 May 2016 addressing published FWPA industry research priorities. Details of current research priorities are available in the series of industry investment plans available from the FWPA website.

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Commonwealth R&D for Profit Program

The second funding round of the Commonwealth Government's Rural R&D for Profit program closed on 1 December. Three forest industry specific proposals were submitted via FWPA.

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New and Completed Projects

FWPA's RD&E program invests in projects in the three areas; Market Access and Development; Wood



Products and Sustainability & Resources.
The projects and their resultant outcomes are published on the FWPA website, along with some recently completed projects and their associated links.

[Read more](#)

Capacity and Education



Forest Industry Education Campaign – Become a Champion

Do you have a connection with a school or schools catering to kinder – year 12 and are you ready to become a Champion for the ForestLearning campaign? As a Champion you'll help promote the benefits of ForestLearning to teachers and schools.

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