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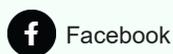


R&DWORKS.

July 2020



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Chris Lafferty
RD&E Manager
Forest and Wood Products Australia

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the latest edition of R&DWorks.

In this edition we bring you details of some of the innovative timber-focused research currently being undertaken locally, including extensive investigations into how efficiencies might be made in the log and woodchip export supply chain. We also take a look at research around the potential for commercial Indigenous forestry in the Northern Territory's East Arnhem Land.

In addition, we provide the usual round-up of international research news, including a look at how rising temperatures could reduce tree growth and carbon absorption in the future, and a new understanding about how plants process information.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Chris Lafferty
RD&E Manager, Forest and Wood Products Australia



Improving efficiencies - re-imagining log and woodchip export supply chain

A recently completed research project took an in-depth look at the various elements of Australia's log and woodchip export supply chain to discover how it can most effectively be managed.

The team behind the comprehensive study reviewed optimum conditions for storage, haulage and at ports. Their findings are now being used to identify solutions and innovations for an enhanced and more cost-effective timber export process.

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Creating a successful, sustainable forestry industry, together with Indigenous communities

A new research project managed by FWPA will investigate the potential for commercial Indigenous forestry in the Northern Territory's East Arnhem Land.

The project aims to support Traditional Owners in developing a sustainable forest-based livelihood, and will provide insights to underpin the long-term commercial viability of forestry in the area.

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Can the stars align? Investigating what it might take to achieve a seven-star energy rating for a timber-framed home.

From 2022, the Australian government will introduce a minimum seven-star thermal energy efficiency rating requirement for new homes under the National Construction Code. With the timber systems currently being used, this will present some challenges.

To ensure our industry is best placed to meet these challenges, FWPA has engaged researchers at the University of Melbourne to explore what a seven-star rating might mean for timber-framed homes. They will also consider the options for how this can most realistically and cost-effectively be achieved.

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Uncovering the residential construction industry's views on timber

New research into perceptions of timber within residential construction is set to provide the forestry and wood products industry with intelligence to strengthen relationships with the design and build sector.

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Forestry and farming unite for everyone's benefit!

As demand for wood continues to rise, the establishment of new forest plantations in Australia appears unlikely to generate the quantities of timber required. Thankfully, recent research out of Tasmania suggests another industry — agriculture — can offer solutions.

Researchers have been working with farmers to identify and quantify the benefits of integrating trees into their land, and educating them on the many rewards, financial and otherwise, that trees can offer.

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Paper gowns developed to support front line workers during COVID-19

A Melbourne-based team of researchers has developed a novel way to help address the global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This shortage has left people around the world, in particular workers on the front line, at risk of infection.

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Growers throw their support behind new technology that helps predict and control wood quality

Forest growers across Australia have been enthusiastically exploring recently-launched technology that enables easy and affordable assessment of wood quality in standing trees.

The innovative tool also supports decision making relating to planting locations and forest management practices, to best serve the future quality of stands.

The team behind the initiative believes the ability to predict, maintain and improve timber quality in plantations will help decrease risk and improve grower productivity, competitiveness and profitability.



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The most effective way to harvest? Comparing the benefits of different systems!

Damage to trees and logs during harvest and transportation can result in significant losses of wood volume and value. To prevent this, researchers are investigating productivity losses, costs and the extent of stem breakage associated with two different types of harvest system machinery.

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Looking to the future ... how rising temperatures could reduce tree growth and carbon absorption

It has long been assumed our forests will play an increasingly important role in mitigating climate change, thanks to trees' ability to absorb more carbon dioxide than they emit.

However, new research suggests the world's trees may absorb less atmospheric carbon dioxide in the future, impeding their growth and reducing their capacity to reduce the impact of the changing climate.

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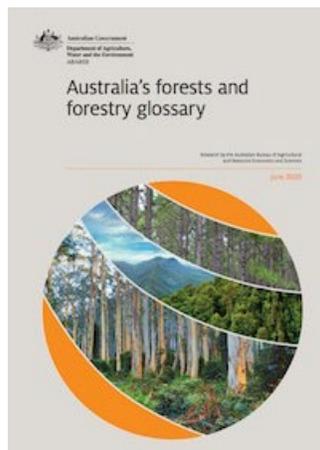
Get fluent in the language of wood with the ultimate guide to Australia's forestry terms!

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) has released an updated version of *Australia's forests and forestry glossary*.

A continuation of the glossary published in [Australia's state of the forests report 2018](#), the

updated document will serve as the definitive resource for the interpretation and use of forest and forestry terms in Australia, by bringing together a common set of words and phrases with consistent definitions.

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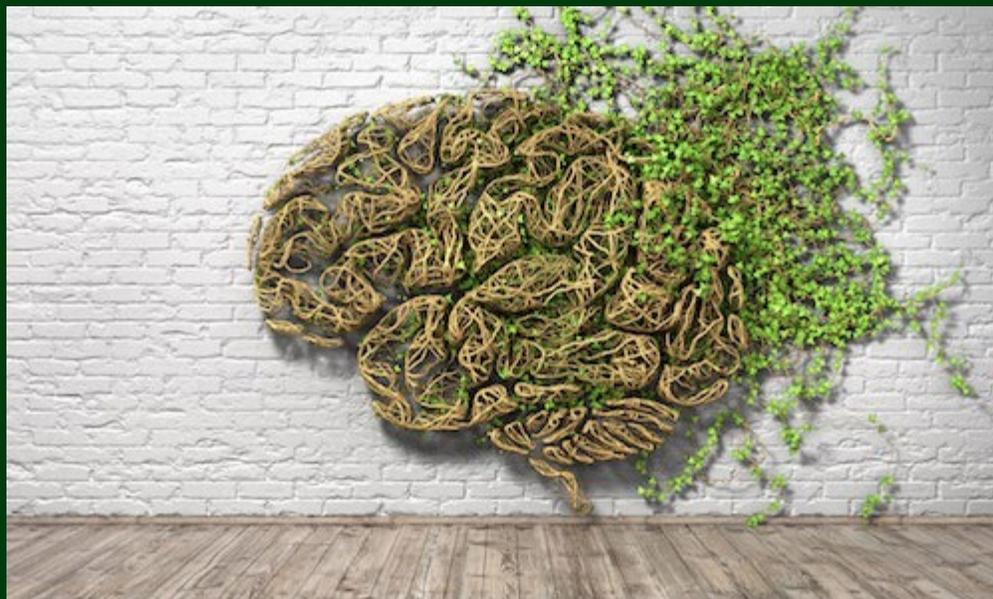


Plants think too! Understanding what could help fortify them against climate change

Recent studies have uncovered fascinating new details about the signalling networks used by plants to process information relating to their environments, before responding accordingly.

This knowledge could help develop breeding approaches that will better protect plants as temperatures rise and droughts escalate in the future.

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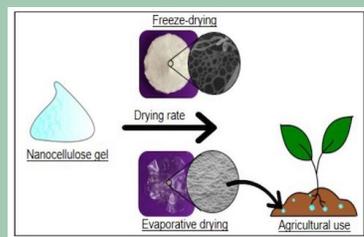
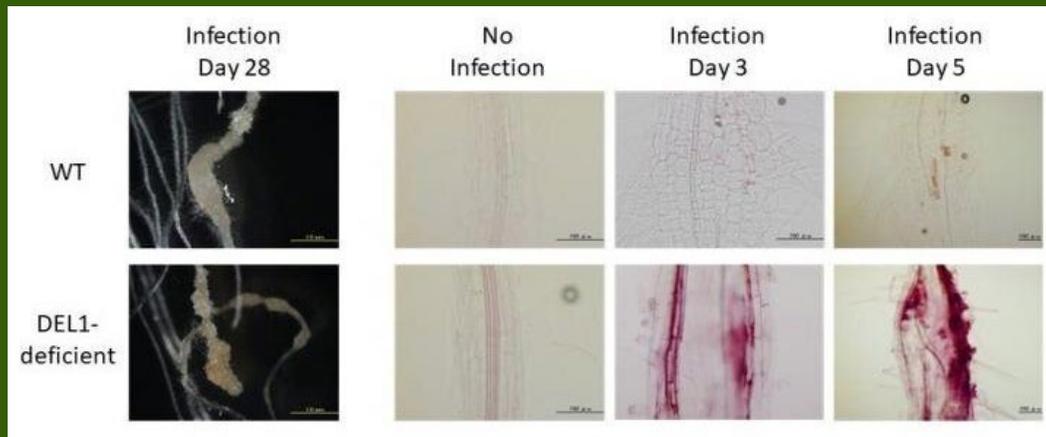
Plant growth vs defence: new discovery could support improved yields

Plants take in and synthesise protective hormones to safeguard themselves against

infection from pathogens, but it has long been accepted that excessive accumulation of such hormones can significantly impede growth.

Now a research team from Kumamoto University in Japan has made a significant breakthrough, by identifying a new mechanism that controls the balance between a plant's hormonal defences and growth, which could lead to improved crop yields.

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Soaking it all up! How a newly-engineered material could help farmers save water

Every year more than 70 per cent of our planet's available fresh water is used by the agricultural sector. In Australia, agriculture accounts for almost 60 per cent of total water extractions annually.

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