



# AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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## “The Log” 10 May 2011



Hello and welcome to another weekly edition of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

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Firstly this week, AFCA is forever extremely grateful for the support that we receive from our corporate partner sponsors, and we are pleased to bring you some news from Forest Centre Pty Ltd about some staff changes.

Adrian Paalvast has been appointed as the new General Manager of Forest Centre Pty Ltd. Adrian has many years experience in the forest industry including having previously been a site manager for a wood products mill.

Also, with the retirement of Keith Shelley, Phillip Turnbull has been appointed as the new Sales Representative covering both the east and west coast of the country. Phillip will be able to hit the ground running, already having a comprehensive knowledge of the Company after 10 years in the spare parts division.

As a result of Phillip moving across to sales, Reymund Kell, “Raybo” Bocquet and Jacky Kruse will look after the spare parts division.

We wish all of these people all the best in their new roles.

Forest Centre has also been appointed as a dealer for Bandit Industries who supply large chippers, grinders and other waste recycling equipment. So for your inquiries in the biomass area they are the people to see.

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And now some news of interest to haulage operators with thanks to the Australian Trucking Association.



**JOHN DEERE**  
Nothing Runs Like A Deere

”The road transport industry is expected to continue losing skilled workers to the mining and construction industries, the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC) has warned in its 2011 Environmental Scan.

“Employers in this sector express concern that the movement of skilled workers to the mining and construction industries is expected to continue or even accelerate, which will result in a higher turnover of workers,” the scan says.

“The impact of high staff turnover and the costs associated with inducting and developing new employees is further compounded by the difficulty of accessing trainers and assessors with the required experience,” it says.

The scan looks at solutions, including the need to employ people who do not have the required skills and train them. It warns, however, that the associated training costs are high and that accessing funding to offset those costs is a challenge for small businesses.

The scan argues the industry is facing the following key issues:

- how changing technology will drive the need for higher skill sets in an environment where issues already exist relating to language, literacy and numeracy;
- phasing in retirement options including how to successfully transfer skills and knowledge base from a large and aging workforce to new employees;
- how to ease the considerable economic burden of training people for entry-level positions who then leave the industry for better-paid mining and construction jobs; and
- pressures for the industry to lessen its carbon footprint and the proposed carbon emission scheme that will make ‘dirtier’ vehicles more expensive.

TLISC publishes its environmental scan each year. The scan aims to act as an early warning system about the industry’s workforce planning and development needs, and its projected reliance on the national training system”.

AFCA is a member of a TLISC advisory committee that looks at the training area and advises on changes to, and reviews of, training courses.

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In recent editions of “The Log” we have reported on the proposal by the South Australian Government to sell off forest ownership, and the protests lodged by the people of the Mt Gambier/ South Eastern part of the State.



Despite all of these protests and all of the submissions put to the South Australian Government recommending against the idea, they have decided to proceed on a limited basis. The following is an extract from the media release put out by the State’s Treasurer.

**“FORWARD SALE OF FOREST ROTATIONS TO PROCEED**

Conditions will be put in place to support the long-term viability of South Australia's timber industry after the State Government announced it would proceed with the forward sale of three forest rotations in the South-East.



Treasurer Jack Snelling said the Government had decided to approve the forward sale of forest rotations after a Regional Impact Statement prepared by independent consultants ACIL Tasman concluded that it would have no significant economic, social or environmental impact.

Mr Snelling said however the specific conditions that would be put in place so that the South-East community could be confident their important timber industry has a long-term future, these include the guarantee that ForestrySA, the forest land and other assets will remain in Government hands.

“From this report – which included consultation with nearly 40 industry and community leaders - I am satisfied there will be minimal impact on the South-East community from the forward sale of forest rotations and it is in the interests of the state to proceed,” Mr Snelling said.



“After meeting with local sawmill owners earlier this month however, I believe there are further steps I can take so the people of the South-East are assured that their interests are protected now and into the future.

“We will ensure the Government retains ownership of the forest land as well as the water and carbon

rights and ForestrySA staff will continue to be employed by the Government.”

As a direct result of the decision, Mr Snelling said the Government would;

- Establish a South-East Forest Industry Roundtable to be chaired by former Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union National President Trevor Smith and other key interested parties. This will provide recommendations to Government on the conditions of any forward sale before going to market and the long-term viability of South Australia's timber industry;
- Provide sawmill owners who have existing log supply contracts with ForestrySA an option to extend their current contracts by up to a further five years. This will protect job security;
- Ensure any sale condition includes the new purchaser agreeing to target rotation length consistent with the current and planned ForestrySA standard. This will keep the integrity of the standard of forest product coming out of the region;
- Ensure there is a commitment from the new purchaser to match ForestrySA's current level of planned viable domestic supply. This will guarantee a future local timber industry; and
- Create an obligation on the successful purchaser to report yearly to the Government. This will ensure they are meeting the conditions of their purchase.

We will watch with interest.

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We have received some information from a company called Spreadmaster Pty Ltd who supply dump trucks to a wide range of industries ranging from spreading quarry material through to carting coal and grain.

Their reason for contacting us is that a number of harvesting and haulage Contractors have attended their field days across the country and have indicated that their trucks would be suitable for the laying of material during the preparation of roads in Coupes.

For more information in this area we suggest that you either have a look at their web site, [www.spreadmaster.net.au](http://www.spreadmaster.net.au), email [darrenh@spreadmaster.net.au](mailto:darrenh@spreadmaster.net.au), or ring Darren House on 0417 976 173.

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Attached to this edition of "The Log" is some information about the latest AIR CTI- Central Tyre Inflation equipment. The suppliers of this equipment are also supporters of AFCA so we are pleased to bring you their latest news.



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Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "The Log". We hope you all have a safe and profitable week and we look forward to bringing you some more news from our industry again next week.

Regards to all  
David Drane

