



# AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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## “The Log” 19 July 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, throughout the whole restructure process in Tasmania, much has been written and accusations and opinions have flown far and wide. But at last, we have come across an opinion that is balanced and realistic and puts the current situation in a clear light.

“Tasmania's forests: GetUp! and the media versus a Legislative Council Inquiry” is a piece written by Mr Mark Poynter that looks at the situation with an open mind and puts the realities out for all to see.

Mark Poynter is a professional forester with 30 years experience. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and acts for it in a voluntary capacity as a media spokesperson. He says:

“Over the past fortnight, three significant events have occurred in relation to the future of Tasmania's native forests.” He discusses the tentative peace deal in Tasmania, next phase of activists GetUp!’s ‘Save Tassie’s Forests’ campaign, and Tasmanian Government’s Legislative Council Committee released its report: 'The Impact of the Proposed Transition out of Native Forest Management and Harvesting in Tasmania'. The web site link is: [www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=12281](http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=12281),

It’s well worth a read.

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Talking about “GetUp” and their so called friends, (not the sort of friends I’d like!!), you may have heard news bulletins or read in the press about how their latest dumb deeds were to target the large retailer Harvey Norman accusing them of using illegally logged Australian native forest timbers in their furnishings and beds.



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Australian Forest Products Association, (formerly NAFI / A3P) have issued the following:

“Activist groups ‘Markets for Change’ (MFC) and GetUp! are barking up the wrong tree by attacking the sustainable Australian forest industry and the thousands of jobs it supports.

Allan Hansard, spokesman for Australia’s peak forest industry body, AFPA, said “The group is promoting potentially unsustainable forestry practices overseas. If these groups were real environmentalists, they would be promoting the use of Australia’s forests and our world’s best practice scientific management.

“Tens of thousands of people are employed and many regional communities supported by the industry. One-third of Australian furniture manufacturers are in the solid wood market, which largely relies on timber from Australia’s well managed natural forests. There’s a lot being put at risk by this campaign,” he said.

“The campaign did not deserve the airplay it has received. MFC’s report ‘Retailing the Forests’ does nothing for their own credibility. Its imagery is doctored and its language is emotive and factually incorrect.

“They claim 76% of Australia’s native forests are available for harvesting. This is simply wrong. Around 6% of Australia’s native forest is zoned as available for timber production. A very small percentage, 0.06%, of public native forest is actually harvested each year.



“All harvesting is carefully managed and then regenerated, so no deforestation occurs and these new forests store carbon as they grow.” Mr Hansard noted that timber products are produced in Australia in compliance with stringent Commonwealth and State laws; and over 90% of Australia’s commercial forest operations comply with world’s best sustainable forest management practices as certified by either the Forest Stewardship Council or Australian Forestry Standard.

“If MFC and GetUp! want to increase the amount of potentially illegal logging going on overseas, then they are doing a good job of it with their latest campaign. If they want to really help the environment, they should get behind Australia’s sustainably managed forest and wood products industries.”

Harvey Norman’s Gerry Harvey has responded to the criticism on ABC, SBS and on commercial television. He says MFC and GetUp! “will target Harvey Norman and they’ll target Gerry Harvey because it’s a name, it’s a brand and it will get them free media coverage.”

We think he just passes it off as another worthless challenge to his empire.

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Once again Forestworks annual Industry Development Conference is coming around. This years event will be held in Canberra 13-15 September. We have attached the Conference flier for your information. As usual, I and most likely other AFCA Executive members will be attending.



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And now some news for our Victorian members or for those Contractors who have Contracts in the State.

# healthcare insurance

WorkSafe Victoria has launched a statewide blitz targeting the state's most dangerous industries.

WorkSafe General Manager for Operations, Lisa Sturzenegger, said the hard-line approach would target eight industries which accounted for a quarter of all

workplace claims in 2010. They claim the campaign will focus on enforcement. Potential prosecutions will be fast-tracked to send a clear message that unsafe work practices will not be tolerated.

Wood product manufacturing and more importantly for us, road transport are part of this campaign. WorkSafe Victoria inspectors will visit more than 4000 businesses in the target industries over the next year. They'll issue notices to workplaces who fail to meet their health and safety obligations to improve outcomes in their workplace.

Musculoskeletal injuries caused by manual tasks account for 60 per cent of all workplace injuries across the state.

We urge everyone to make sure that your processes are up to scratch, and you are not in a position where the Inspectors can prosecute you should they decide to visit your workplace or depot.



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We have received some information about New Zealand's biggest ever three day forestry and wood processing event. "P F Olsen Forest Industries Expo 2011" will be held 5-7 September 2011. The Expo includes indoor and outdoor displays, a portable sawmill area and heavy machinery. There will also be 14 technology presentations by leading industry experts.

For more information, bookings and tickets: [www.fi2011.co.nz](http://www.fi2011.co.nz), is the website.

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As you read this, I will be starting out on holidays for a few weeks. Theresa McIntyre will be looking after "The Log" while I'm away, so if you have any comments or input into it please contact her at: [afca@live.com.au](mailto:afca@live.com.au),

For any urgent AFCA issues please contact our Chairman Colin McCulloch (ph: 0418 135 336). Thanks. I will be back at work on 22 August 2011.

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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

