



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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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.

Firstly this week, the Cooperative Research Centre Forestry (CRCF) have released the latest of their Bulletins.
“Productivity of the Bruks chipper when harvesting forest biomass in pine plantations.” This study explores the forwarder mounted Bruks chipper collecting and chipping biomass material with 5 different work methods on a Pine plantation clear fall.

When mounted on a forwarder, this chipper can be used to collect and chip harvest residues from across thinned and clearfelled sites, and to chip concentrated residues and/or logs at the roadside.

In Australia, interest is growing in using plantation harvest residue for energy generation, so anyone that is interested in this needs to be able to identify economical methods to harvest and handle residue in their own particular operating conditions.

As usual, if you would like a copy of this Bulletin, please contact me and I can forward it to you either electronically or by mail.



At long last, the Australian forest, wood, pulp and paper products industry has been given an opportunity to provide input to the Federal Government’s climate policies as part of the Land Sector Working Group.



FOREST CENTRE

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA – formerly NAFI & A3P) was recently named as a member of the group by the Hon Greg Combet, Climate Change Minister, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, Forestry Minister, and the Hon Mark Dreyfus, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change. AFPA will work with the group on key climate policies such as the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and the proposed carbon price mechanism.

Mr Allan Hansard, transitional Chief Executive Officer of AFPA, said it was important that the forest industry was part of the group as the only carbon positive sector of the economy.

“Given the right policy environment, the forest industry has the potential to make a significant contribution to Australia’s carbon balance sheet,” he said.

“AFPA has been established to represent a variety of businesses – such as tree growers, harvest and haulage contractors, sawmillers, exporters and pulp and paper processors. It is critical that we are involved in this debate.”

AFPA representatives have also appeared before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on the Carbon Farming Initiative Bill.

Mr Hansard told this Committee that “Without substantial amendment, the proposed current Bill is a missed opportunity for recognising the full potential of the forest industry to provide cost-effective emissions abatement,”

“The forest industry can make a major contribution to removing carbon from the atmosphere by Storing carbon in actively growing forests; Storing carbon in wood products, Substituting emissions intensive building products with wood; and creating renewable bioenergy by utilising forestry and processing wood-waste”.

Thanks to AFPA for supplying information used in this article.

KOMATSU

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Just a reminder to the hauliers among our members that the Australian Trucking Association is conducting its annual Australian Trucking Convention 2011 at the National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra from Wednesday 25 – Saturday 28 May 2011

As a member of the ATA, AFCA will be attending the 2 day conference that is part of the Convention. This years conference includes sessions on truck safety research, seat belt culture change, supply chain safety, the new heavy vehicle regulation laws and resisting new high vehicle registration fees.

We will bring you details of the information released at this conference in following editions of “The Log”

In addition to the conference for ATA members, there is always a magnificent exhibition of the latest in haulage vehicles and everything that goes with them that is open not only to members, but also to people from right across the road freight industry. If you would like to

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attend this exhibition, its still not too late to register. More details can be obtained from the ATA website, www.ataevents.net.au/atc2011 .

For the first time, trucking operators throughout South Eastern New South Wales can attend the exhibition for free. There is also free entry to young people thinking about a career in the road freight transport industry.

So if you are involved in haulage, and have not yet registered, we recommend that you try to have a look at this exhibition. If it's anything like the 2010 one, it will be well worthwhile you going along.

In previous editions of "The Log" we have mentioned two local Government organizations that exist to further the timber industry within their own local municipalities. "Timber Towns Victoria" and the "National Timber Councils Association" are the local government voice on timber related issues. They have a range of responsibilities around lobbying Government and managing timber interests in their communities.



Recently I attended the Annual Meeting of Timber Towns Victoria and have also been invited to talk about our sector of the industry at a forthcoming meeting of the National Association which is to be held in Canberra in June 2011.

The major concern which emerged for me at the Victorian meeting was their lack of communication to date with harvest and haulage Contractors who after all are the ones whose efforts bring the greatest benefits to the communities that these Councils are responsible for. It is disappointing that the Victorian groups industry steering committee listed in their Annual Report includes representatives from a number of companies (VicForests, Hancocks etc), yet there is no mention of any input from Contractors whose realistic input I would think could be very valuable in helping the development of the industry locally.

Similarly, we learned that a major report on a timber industry roads needs study that was delivered at the meeting had no input from the people who drive over the roads during its compilation. It would seem that a major opportunity for realistic and valuable input by timber vehicle drivers was lost



Both of these issues are something that we will take up with both the Victorian and the national body.

However it also opens up the opportunity for all of us to be raising the issues with our local councils wherever you are across the country. Does your local council belong to these bodies? If not why not? What structures do they have in place in relation to the development of the timber industry in their areas? Are their opportunities for contractors (you) to have input that would help benefit the industry locally?.



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AFCA recommends that you raise these issues with your local Shire Councillor. Our sector can provide enormously valuable and realistic input into the local scene, and if local government wants maximum value from the timber industry, they should be listening to us.

AFCA will be leading the way at our level, but we suggest that if everyone gets involved, we can make sure that decisions made by local Councils are based on level playing field information.

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

