



# AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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## “The Log” 6 December 2011



Hello and welcome to another 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, a look at our industry from a different perspective. Air CTI is a Victorian based company that supports AFCA and Contractors across Australia. Its owner Chet Cline takes a look at where we are and highlights areas where he thinks we can improve.

“Naturally, the timber industry and its continuation is very important to my business. We are proud to be part of the timber industry, and will do what ever we can to benefit. Tyre pressure, related damage, and the absolute necessity of correct tyre pressure on log trucks, and associated heavy vehicles, I believe, is paramount to any continuation of commercial logging in this country. The green movement is decimating timber farming. They are winning the war, and we are losing. Tasmanian logging is sliding into the ocean. Victorian logging is shrinking rapidly. South Australia wants to privatise all of their plantations. Our government thinks logging damages the environment. We need to get smarter.

We need to join together and promote our product and industry for what it is, countering their emotional led bull. Timber is the only carbon neutral building material, or packaging material available. Europe encourages timber use for heating, hot water and power generation, yet we get hammered. We are not countering our ignorant detractors. And we are not showing our care and responsible operations. Even down to the words we use, like logging. We should be timber farmers, providing an essential service, just as farmers do. We harvest our crops on a sustainable crop rotation. We do minimal damage by staying away from creeks and streams. We also create fire breaks, and tracks to help fire fighting. We pay millions in road tax (fuel tax) and in royalties. And we employ tens of thousands. But we aren't telling anyone. We aren't showing our care.

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We don't even tell anyone that we are often the first at fires, we have the machinery and transport, we have the knowledge of most areas, knowledge that you can't get from universities. Yet, we don't tell anyone.



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And we need to ensure we do everything we can to minimize damage. Recently, I stopped by a logging and transport company in Corio, which has won several new contracts, yet only a few of their trucks have CTI. I was told that they undercut several other companies to get the job. They are buying quite a few new trucks to do the contracts, yet claim that they can not afford CTI. If they knew the facts, they would know they can not afford to log without CTI. Yet, that appears to be what they are doing. I believe that they will go broke, further damaging our industry with bad publicity.

There are a lot of trucks around that do not run CTI. They are simply dumb. They throw away around \$10,000 every year on every truck, and damage roads, tracks and tyres, and they cause much more silt run off into the streams.

Theses people are damaging our industry twice. First they use way too many tyres, they damage their trucks, and they damage our environment. Secondly, the lack of those little external air hoses demonstrate their lack of care. The greens could run with this. They could embarrass the entire industry. It would make a great TV show, but it would not be great for us.

I don't know who or how to keep our industry in existence. The writing is on the wall for all to see. Doing dumb things will certainly make it happen sooner. Not getting our industry's image back in order, and out in the public only helps our enemies”.



If you would like to have a chat to Chet about the benefits of using AIR CTI, give him a call on 03 5127 6128.

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Last week we mentioned the online petition supporting sustainable forestry that has been created by Opposition Forestry Spokesman Senator Richard Colbeck. So far it has received almost 800 signatures. AFCA would like to again encourage all of our members and your families to sign it and also to tell all your friends and fellow timber industry supporters to also go the link and leave their name.

We need our industry to compete with detractors such as Get Up, which has recently organised a petition of 40,000 signatures *against* forestry.

[http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/supporting\\_australian\\_forest\\_industries/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/supporting_australian_forest_industries/) is the address. Please do it today.

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You may have read or heard that the Federal Government recently released the results of its Inquiry into the future of the forestry industry in Australia. The inquiry Committee made a number of suggestions that which if implemented will go towards ensuring a future for the industry. Among them was that the Government should



provide funding to FSC Australia to support the development of the proposed FSC national Certification standard, with the expectation that the FSC national standard will replace the current interim standards within the next five years. FSC have estimated that \$1M

would be needed to ensure that this development could be achieved.

Across the country that has been generally been a lot positive response to the Government's Recommendations.

However, the Australian Forest Products Association Board has adopted a policy position to the effect that it believes in the principle of certification – over against non-certification: and that either the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system was acceptable in the interests of getting more product certified. Further, it believes that Federal funding (if available) for standard development should go to the FSC only if counterpart funds were available to the AFS for its own Standard rewriting task.



This seems to be a fair thing to be asked for and we await the outcome with interest.

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AusTimber2012 is fast approaching, and we are pleased to attach the latest Newsletter about the event. Please have a look at it. If you haven't registered yet we suggest that you give it some thought and get organised soon.



The end of March 2012 is not far away. Remember that there are significant discounts on entrance and registration fees for AFCA Members and your employees. Please make sure that you take advantage of them.

I will be staffing an AFCA Booth in the Indoor Expo area and I hope you will all come past and say hello.

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And finally, here's a message from Worksafe Victoria that relates to all of us.

WorkSafe is issuing an urgent call for businesses and workers to remain extra vigilant in the lead up to the busy Christmas period following two horror weeks where six workers have died in tragic circumstances, the latest three in a 24 hour period..



While WorkSafe continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incidents, Health and Safety Executive Director, Ian Forsyth, said the past two weeks were a grim reminder of the importance of workplace safety.

“Christmas is traditionally about spending time with loved ones and we want to ensure this happens. Every worker deserves to go home at the end of the day. Tragically, 22 workers so far this year didn't get that opportunity,” he said. “The devastating consequences of a workplace incident are not only felt by the individual, but by the family, friends and the wider community and can last a lifetime.”



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Mr Forsyth said while Victorian workplaces were safer than ever before, more could be done to improve safety standards for workers. He urged workplaces to remain extra vigilant in the lead up to Christmas, with December being one of the busiest periods for many industries.



“What we have is an influx of young workers about to start work, industries such as hospitality and retail entering their peak season and other businesses finishing off large amounts of work before long term breaks are taken,” he said.

“Unfortunately, when businesses are flat out trying to keep up with demanding workloads, health and safety requirements can sometimes be compromised.” “We want employers and workers to question what is at stake if corners are cut. It’s simply not worth it.”



Of the 22 fatalities so far this year, 12 have occurred in regional Victoria.

There is a real message in this for all of us. Please take extra care so that you can spend the coming Christmas period with your families and friends.

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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

