



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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“The Log” 17 January 2012



Hello and welcome to the first edition for 2012 of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

We hope that everyone had a terrific Christmas and New Year, enjoyed a holiday break however long, and is now ready to get back and face up to the challenges and whatever else 2012 throws at us. As is previous years, we will try and bring you a weekly range of news pieces and other items of interest to keep you up to date with what is happening in our industry across the country.

And as always, PLEASE, if you have anything that you would like included, or a lead on anything that you think will be of interest to our Members and supporters, please let me know. The Log is our Member’s Newsletter, and we try and keep it as relevant as possible, so please contact me if you have any news or comments.

Please excuse anything unusual in the layout of this Newsletter for the next couple of weeks. Theresa McIntyre who usually places the sponsors Logo’s and makes sense of my writings, is currently enjoying a family celebration holiday in Hong Kong, so I am stretching my computer skills to the limit, and putting the whole thing together and sending it out. I hope it all looks o.k by the time it gets to you.



JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deer[®]



We start this week by bringing you an item from Hall of Fame Member John McConachy of “J C Contractors” in Victoria who has a couple of trucks and trailers for sale.

Firstly, he has a 2007 Kenworth T950, Registration Number WAY 083, that has traveled 336,252kms. It has a Cummins Signature 620hp Engine No 79258193. Road Ranger Gearbox, Rockwell Driveline Air Suspension, and is fitted with a Kennedy Mini B Jinker, York axles, Disc Brakes, Air suspension and self tensioning load binders.

Road Worthy Certificate is supplied, and the unit is in as new condition

John also has a 2010 Western Star 4964FXC, Registration Number XNI 153, that has only traveled 135,650kms.

It has a Cat acert 620 hp Engine no NXS32934, Road Ranger Gearbox, Rockwell Driveline and Air suspension.

There are also a couple of Kennedy B Double Skell Trailers available:

A Trailer 2003, Tri axle with York axles, Disc Brakes, Air suspension and self tensioning load binders, and

B Trailer 2010, Tandem with BPW axles, Disc Brakes, Air suspension and self tensioning load binders.

RWC 's supplied and both Units are in as new condition.

Prices for any of these items are available on application and if you want any more information, please Phone John McConachy on 0428 388 115.

If you have anything that you would like to buy or sell, please let me know and we will be happy to include it in the Log for you. This is a free service to our members, so please contact me if you would like us to let our readers know what you have available.

AusTimber2012 is fast approaching and the organising crew have sent us the latest news on what's happening in the preparation for this major event.



“The development of the site for the event is progressing on target and it looks absolutely fabulous. The Forest Walk expo area is being paved with woodchips in readiness for the large number of people expected to pass through it.



**FOREST
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EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

However, Registrations for the expo and the Conference are a little disappointing at this stage, so please take the opportunity to register now. This can be done on our on-line booking system, or using the booking forms which can be downloaded from the website, www.austimber2012.com.au.

David Quill and his team look forward to hosting you in the vast plantations, natural beauty and friendly environment of the Green Triangle.

The AusTimber2012 celebrations kick off with an “AFCA Contractors Hall of Fame” Induction Dinner in Mt Gambier on Wednesday 28th March 2012, followed by the event Conference on Thursday 29th, and then the expo on Friday and Saturday 30th and 31st March.

So once again, if you haven't registered yet, please do so soon, and don't miss out on this terrific event incorporating the latest in equipment and innovation for our industry.

Unfortunately, the situation in Tasmania continues to remain in a mess with decisions being made and implemented that make no contribution to it being improved. The latest being an agreement being signed late last week. The following comes from the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)
On Friday afternoon, the Tasmanian and Australian Governments and Forestry Tasmania signed a Conservation Agreement to progress the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The legally-binding agreement with Forestry Tasmania, excludes logging from about 428,000ha of the 430,000ha of native forest identified for interim protection.



Forestry Tasmania said the agreement gave certainty to its employees, contractors and customers, while the independent verification of the Environment Non Government Organisation's (Greens) proposed high conservation value forests, continues under the Tasmanian Forests IGA.

AFPA said the agreement was a step forward, but reiterated the importance that the supply of logs to industry be guaranteed. "While the agreement has identified limited areas to supply the needs of the local industry, the number of coupes has been reduced significantly to twelve. This has potentially increased risk to the supply of wood to the Tasmanian industry," AFPA CEO David Pollard said.

Environmentalists were quick to rubbish the new deal, saying it delivered little. "This has severely shaken the confidence of environment groups," The Wilderness Society's Vica Bayley said in a statement. Senator Bob Brown said the agreement was a blueprint for the utter destruction of more than 20 square kilometres of high conservation value (HCV) forests.



Meanwhile, our "Commentator" on the Industry, Federal Opposition Forestry spokesperson Senator Richard Colbeck, has described the whole situation as a complete sham. Here is an extract from his latest summary of the situation



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"The current debate over who should be doing what, if anything, in 430,000ha of possible High Conservation Value Tasmanian forest actually highlights a much more serious issue with the Tasmanian forests Agreements..

As much as it might pain me to say so, Bob Brown is correct when he says the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for Tasmania's forests states the 430,000ha claimed by environment groups (ENGOS) as High Conservation Forest will be immediately put into interim reserves while it is assessed to determine whether in fact it exists and if it will be protected in the longer term.

The Inter Government Agreement goes on to say that if it is not possible to meet contracted supply from outside those areas, then companies will be compensated financially from the adjustment package rather than receive logs. It is, frankly, ridiculous to suggest that compensation instead of supply is an option. No business can operate with such uncertainty. Supply must be maintained.

The clause was inserted after industry representatives read what they thought was the final draft of the IGA. It was inserted at the urging of the Greens and ENGO's, and it was based on an assessment drafted by former Wilderness Society National Director, Professor Jonathon West.



All of the available data at the time contradicted West's assessment, and this has subsequently been confirmed more than once by the Independent Schedulers Reports that has subsequently been conducted within the IGA process.



So as not to expose its incompetence in relying on West's poor report, the Federal Government continues to refuse to release the Independent Schedulers Reports.

look at the makeup of the IGA assessment panel - four of six members (led by Professor West) are either directly involved or have close links to the Wilderness Society. What chance a fair outcome for industry amidst that bias?

If there was any doubt about the lock up objective, just

This sham process will leave the Tasmanian forest industry even less sustainable and under more pressure.



The Greens, Labor and the environment groups are instead intent of squeezing what is left of the industry into an ever smaller area. This will most likely result in higher harvest intensity, bringing us more pain in a few years time and certainly no peace."

What a mess!!



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

