



28 April 2020

The show must go on...in 2021

Unprecedented became part of our January conversations as communities across our region and Australia experienced a devastating bushfire season. Now a mere three months later as many communities and businesses are still in bushfire recovery mode, all of us are expanding our vocabulary to include social distancing and self-isolation as we experience the impacts of a global pandemic.

The Australian Forest Contractors Association's (AFCA) General Manager Stacey Gardiner said "given the uncertainty around ongoing restrictions both now and over the next 12 months or more, including travel within Australia and internationally we have made the difficult decision to reschedule AUSTimber2020 until 2021."

She added "we want to ensure the show has every opportunity to be a great success and that means giving our supporters, exhibitors and partners the space now to focus on managing their way through these unprecedented events and time to recover."

Deciding upon which dates to host AUSTimber2020/21 required careful consideration of the impact on commitments already in place for the show. Ms Gardiner added "we consulted with all of our supporters, exhibitors and partners to identify a suitable date that has support, it was clear from this feedback that later in 2021 was preferred."

AUSTimber is owned by AFCA, which is a non-profit, member organisation run by a volunteer Board of Directors, and they remain committed to delivering the show. AUSTimber Coordinator, Ms Dionne Olsen said "AUSTimber is the largest timber industry show in the southern hemisphere and even though we have already commenced planning to facilitate a seamless transition to the future show in November 2021 we are dealing with the compounding financial impacts of now twice having to reschedule."

"The show must go on, and thanks to our supporters, exhibitors and partners' positive and proactive response to the decision to reschedule it will go on. We want to assure everyone that tickets already purchased will be honoured and the program remains unchanged for the new dates" said Ms Olsen. Ms Olsen added "Everyone's continued commitment means our communities will still have the opportunity to benefit, in November 2021."

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