

About the NSW Timber Industry

Since the early days of the pioneers, the timber and forest products industry in New South Wales has been central to the economic and social viability of many regional communities across the state.

The industry's value chain begins in the forest, with sustainable management of native and plantation wood resources, continues with timber harvesting, haulage and primary processing and ends with refinement and value-adding of a wide range of home grown wood products.

As a primary industry, the timber and forest products industry makes an important contribution to the economy of New South Wales:

Industry Value Added	\$2.4 billion
Annual Exports	\$219.5 million
Regional Employment	22,000 people

Further, the industry underpins vitally important supply and demand relationships with the Australian design, manufacturing, construction and property sectors.

Exciting new opportunities also exist for the industry in the carbon abatement and bioenergy markets of the carbon economy.



TIMBER NSW



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ABOUT TIMBER NSW

Timber NSW was established in 1906 as the representative organisation of the timber and forest products industry in New South Wales.

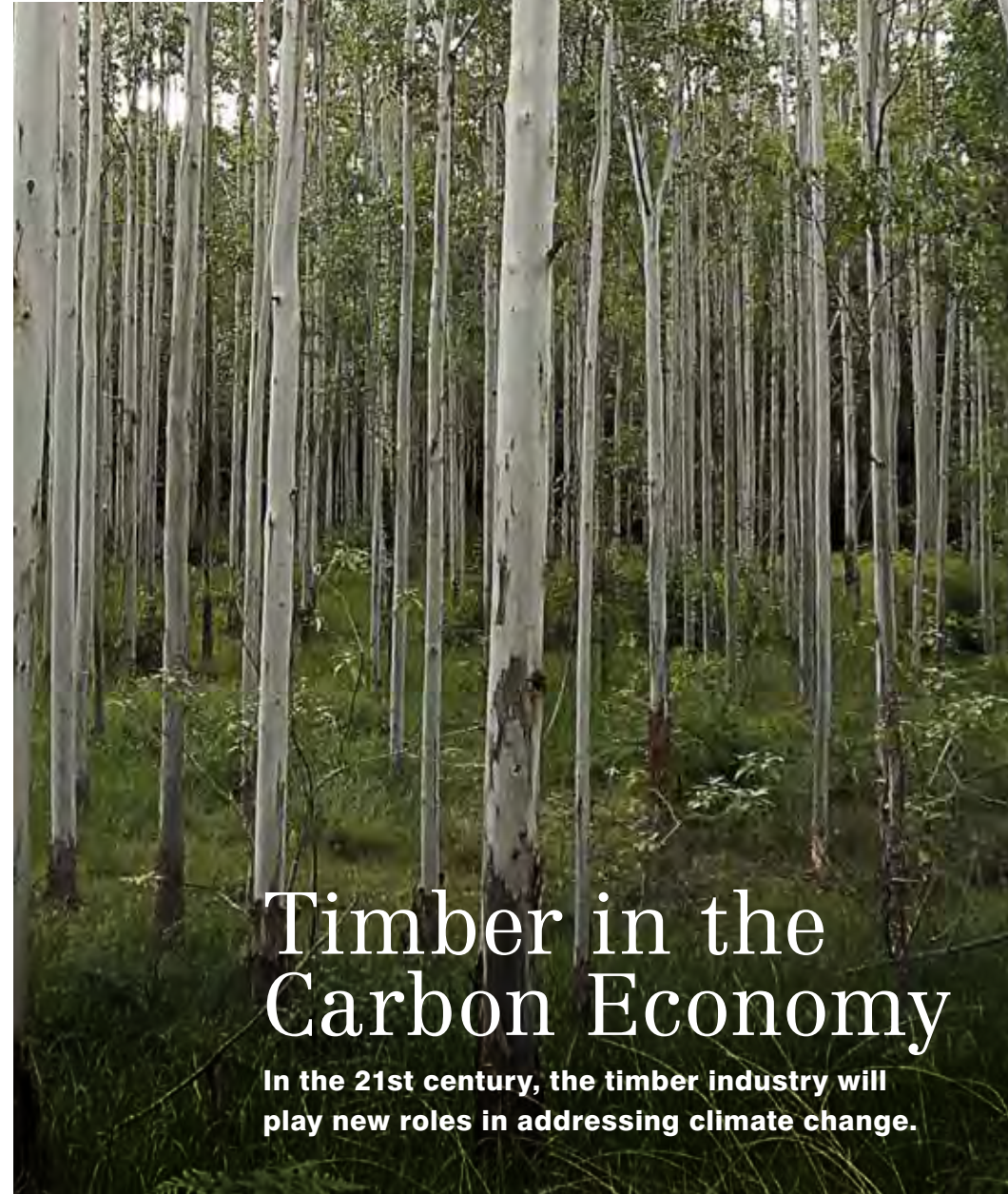
Our mission is to work with our members, stakeholders and the broader industry to build an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable timber industry in New South Wales.

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Timber in the Carbon Economy

In the 21st century, the timber industry will play new roles in addressing climate change.

Timber in the 21st Century

The role of timber in the carbon economy needs to be recognised alongside its role as a resource. Expanding into new carbon economy markets and attracting long term investment is critical to the future of the timber industry.

Forests have always been an important part of the global carbon cycle, playing multiple roles in climate regulation.

In the 21st century, these roles must be integrated within the emerging carbon economy. In Australia, this is not currently the case.

Timber is much more than a commodity. New South Wales' forests and wood product industries contribute to long term carbon emissions abatement in numerous ways.

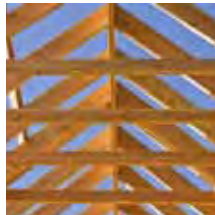
Industry and government must work together to ensure that policy recognises and supports the role that timber and forest products can play in climate change mitigation and energy substitution.

The forest estate of New South Wales can and should be managed to deliver a full range of public policy outcomes. A wider perspective is key.

Five ways timber reduces carbon emissions:



1. Carbon sequestration in growing forests.



2. A renewable substitute for emissions-intensive building materials like steel, aluminium & concrete.



3. Bioenergy from wood waste replaces carbon-intensive fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.



4. Long term carbon storage in wood products.



5. Recyclable timber products extend carbon storage benefits.

A Place in the Carbon Economy

There is strong and growing domestic demand for Australian timber. However, current predictions indicate that Australia will remain a net importer of forest products. This is despite the fact that annual timber growth in Australia exceeds the current harvest each year.

As one of the world's highest carbon emitters Australia also has a strong and growing need to develop markets for carbon abatement and renewable energy sources like wood waste.

Critical to the future of the timber industry is expanding into these new carbon economy markets and attracting long term investment. Yet timber is effectively excluded from the Carbon Farming Initiative and Renewable Energy Target scheme that drive Australia's carbon economy.

There are exciting opportunities ahead, but current policy settings and high sovereign risk are preventing the industry from reaching its potential. The role of government is critical.

Timber NSW calls on the Federal and New South Wales governments to work with the industry to develop policy settings which provide a place for timber in Australia's carbon economy.

TIMBER NSW SEEKS:

1 Solid Policy Framework

A solid, supportive policy framework that recognises the broader role of the timber industry in the 21st century.

2 Reduced Sovereign Risk

Cogent, stable regulation as a platform from which to attract ongoing industry investment and create jobs.

3 Level Playing Field

Recognition of timber in the carbon economy alongside solar, wind and other renewable energy sources.

