Welcome

The timber industry has important new roles to play in the 21st century. But it remains at the heart of our communities.

For more than 100 years, Timber NSW has represented the timber and forest products industry in this state. Our members work shoulder to shoulder with the state-owned Forestry Corporation of NSW and private forest owners to meet the growing demand for our hardwoods and softwoods.

Each year every man, woman and child in Australia consumes the equivalent of one cubic metre of timber. When we build our homes, renovate our kitchens and fit-out our offices, we rely on timber. For key infrastructure like wharves, bridges, railway sleepers and telegraph poles, we rely on timber.

But in the carbon-constrained economy of the 21st century, timber is much more than a renewable, recyclable, sustainably-produced resource. New South Wales’ forests and parks must now be actively managed for a variety of values and outcomes. We must recognise that forests and wood products are long term carbon stores, and forest residues are renewable energy substitutes for fossil fuels. We must take a wider perspective.

The timber industry can play an important role in the carbon economy. To do so, our industry needs an environmentally and economically sustainable supply of timber and a supportive, stable policy environment. These will provide an important platform for attracting investment and creating jobs over the long term.

I encourage you to find out more at our new website www.timbernsw.com.au.

Andrew Hurford
Chairman

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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The Story of NSW Timber

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.

From Eden to Kyogle, Barham to Barradine there are 22 million hectares of native forests in New South Wales and nearly 400,000 hectares of plantations.

The state-owned Forestry Corporation of NSW and private forest owners supply timber, providing log products under contract to sawmills throughout New South Wales.

For more than 130 years the timber industry has worked to harvest, haul and process a small percentage of this natural resource to meet the growing demand for the unique forest products of New South Wales.

Now, exciting new opportunities also exist for the timber industry in carbon abatement and bioenergy markets.

In New South Wales there are 63 hardwood mills and 13 softwood mills processing more than 5.6 million cubic metres of sawlogs every year.

HARDWOODS

Almost all native timbers harvested in NSW are from hardwood eucalypt species, with the exception of Cypress, a native softwood.

Native hardwood forests provide timber that is visually attractive, dense, strong and durable. It is sought after for flooring, decking, furniture, structural and internal/external finishes.

SOFTWOODS

NSW produces one third of Australia’s softwood – a third of the softwood used in the Australian design, manufacturing, construction and property sectors.

The timber and forest products industry in New South Wales is an important component of other industry sectors in Australia.

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

Timber NSW Policy Priorities

With its state and federal counterparts, Timber NSW seeks:

1. Plan for a renewable future: recognition of the environmental and socio-economic value of a vibrant timber and forest products industry.

2. Carbon economy: a better regulatory environment and program of direct action to recognise carbon sequestration in multiple use production forests and wood products through payments for carbon storage.

3. Renewable energy: policy settings which support a market for the use of biomass as a source of renewable energy, alongside wind and solar energy.

4. Tenure-neutral: legislative reform to create a single public land management agency in New South Wales, focused on overarching management of our public native forests.

5. Building resource security: capital investment in forestry infrastructure, new softwood plantations and fewer restrictions on access to regrowth forests to ensure sustainable timber supply.

6. Investment environment: facilitation of investment comparable to other countries via reducing sovereign risk, transparent planning and investment incentives.

7. Infrastructure & R&D: better infrastructure, skills promotion and increased funding of R&D in sustainable forest industries.

Building Regional Australia

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75% of sawn timber produced is used in residential construction.

20% of timber consumed in Australia is used by the furniture industry.

5% of timber usage is by the kitchen sector alone.

Supporting Regional Communities

New South Wales’ timber and forest products industry contributes millions each year to the state’s economy. It is also a major employer in rural and regional New South Wales, supporting many communities.

| Timber Producer | Industry Value Added | $2.4 billion |
| Exporter | Annual Contribution to Exports | $219.5 million |
| Regional Employer | Total Employment | 22,000 people |