



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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“The Log” 5 July 2010

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

You will remember some weeks ago (just prior to the Tasmanian State election), that the ABC in its “Australian Story” T V Program ran a story about the water quality of the Georges River on Tasmania’s east Coast. The program showed how some so called “scientists” alleged that the local community’s water was poisoned through run off from genetically modified Shining Gum Trees.

The Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett convened an expert panel to investigate the Water quality in the area. The panel found that as expected, the timber growing and harvesting’s effect on the water quality was – NONE.

We note that Premier Bartlett has called on the ABC to apologise for misleading the community. It will be interesting to see if an apology is forthcoming, although we believe that such an apology is highly unlikely to eventuate.

HITACHI

Hitachi Construction Machinery (Australia) Pty Ltd



JOHN DEERE

Nothing Runs Like A Deere



Valmet

Komatsu Forest

Despite the report clearing the timber industry, we hear just this morning that unrepentant, Alison Bleaney whose initial stirrings caused all of the problems, has vowed to continue the campaign that sparked the St Helens’ water saga. Local business and community leaders however have said that most of the town’s residents accepted the all-clear from the George River Water Quality Panel and believed there was no need for further investigations...

But, like all Greens campaigns I’m sure we haven’t heard the end of it.

Thanks to the Australian Trucking Association for the following:

Members who operate trucks are reminded that registration and fuel charges will generally rise by 4.2 per cent from 1 July 2010, with the registration charges on some truck combinations increasing by more than 25 per cent.

Following an Australian Transport Council (ATC) decision earlier this year, the fuel tax credit received by operators will decrease from 16.443 cents per litre to 15.543 cents per litre.

Truck registration charges will also increase across the board, but the increase will be much more than 4.2 per cent in some cases. 2010-11 is the last year of a three year phase in of higher registration charges for large combinations.

The total registration charge for a B-double will go up from \$12,214 to \$15,340, an increase of \$3,126 or 25.6 per cent. The total registration charge for a triple road train will increase from \$12,606 to \$13,372, an increase of \$766 or 6.1 per cent.



FOREST CENTRE

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Australian Trucking Association NSW Manager, Jill Lewis, urged trucking operators to increase their surcharges or freight rates to cover the decrease in the fuel tax credit and the jump in registration fees.

“Every trucking operator needs to review the effect these changes will have on their costs, and then adjust their fuel surcharges or freight rates from 1 July,” Jill said.

Jill said ATA NSW did not oppose the decrease in the fuel tax credit, because it will help pay the industry’s share of the dramatic increase in road spending that occurred between 2002 and 2009, the seven-year period used to work out the change.

“This spending got results for the trucking industry, with major road projects completed not only in NSW, but across the entire country. The bill is due, and we’re being asked to pay our share,” she said.

The ATA will continue working with the Government to secure more money for road safety and to make sure the existing money is spent as effectively as possible.”

AFCA is a member of the ATA and supports their efforts in getting the best deal for road safety, however if you have a clause in your Contracts that allows you to a review due to sudden cost increases beyond your control, we urge you to take advantage of it and discuss rates with your principle a.s.a.p.



If members do not have such a clause in Contracts we encourage everyone to ensure that such options are included in future Contracts that are entered into. This is all part of our initiative to encourage the implementation of “Bankable Contracts” for Contractors.

3.

And now some information for anyone who is considering employing trainees or apprentices. ForestWorks launched the Flexible Apprenticeship and Traineeship Workplace Guide to industry on 1 June 2010.

The guide includes a five step process of how to access apprenticeships and traineeships and also includes resources and helpful tips to streamline the process. It has been developed over the past 18 months in consultation with industry, with funding made available through the federal Governments Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. This guide promotes Australian Traineeships and Apprenticeships and demonstrates flexible trainee and apprenticeship delivery options.



The publication centre's around five key steps to gaining a qualification. By following these steps, users will find out more about how Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) can help them gain a qualification. It is also a useful resource for those unfamiliar with the Vocational Education Training (VET) sector and provides some relevant contact details.

The guide also includes a case study involving Timber Training Creswick (Victoria) and Dahlsens Building Centres where flexible training has been introduced to meet the hectic demands of a busy worksite. Timber Training Creswick have developed a flexible training model to meet the needs of their client which has lead to success in many areas of the business, including increased sales, reduction in lost time injuries and reduced staff turnover.

You can download a pdf version of the Flexible Apprenticeship and Traineeship Workplace Guide by visiting the ForestWorks website: <http://www.forestworks.com.au/topics/6026.html>

In this the depth of winter, it is good to hear of a program that is aimed at promoting safety in all conditions.



Forests NSW Hume Region employees have commenced a campaign to ensure that everyone drives vehicles and machinery in a safe manner that suits the conditions and does not subject them and their passengers or fellow workers to risks caused by poor driver behaviour.

The “turn your lights on” headlight campaign requires all Forest NSW employees to drive with their headlights on, regardless of the journey’s length or location

All Forests NSW vehicles and plant have “turn your lights on” stickers on the dashboard as a reminder of the campaign.

The campaign applies to all employees whether driving to or from work or carrying out their daily duties. It includes machinery operators, truck drivers, office staff, field mechanics and management.

Forests NSW Supervisors and staff have been monitoring the campaign and obtaining feedback from drivers in an effort to improve the driver safety culture and meet improved safety targets.

AFCA congratulates Forests NSW on the initiative and we will be keen to hear the outcome of the campaign.

Thanks to the Tumut Forest Industry Council for providing material for this article

And finally this week, make sure you check out the fantastic coverage of our Conference and Hall of Fame dinner in the latest edition of "Forest & Timber News".

Congratulations to Laurie Martin and John Hudswell who worked flat out to put the coverage together in time for this latest edition. There are some great photographs and comments on the whole event. Thanks again to Forest & Timber News for your ongoing support of AFCA.



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

AFCA Directors

- Colin McCulloch
- Greg Coverley
- Ian Reid
- Kevin McCulloch
- Garry Leeson
- David Lodge
- Barry Fennell
- David Drane

