

The Border Watch

2018 COUNTRY PRESS SA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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\$1B FOREST AGENDA

STORIES PAGE 4 AND 5

A BURNING ISSUE: The Green Triangle forestry industry is poised for significant growth amid a \$1b action agenda to grow the sector over the next 10 years. The ambitious blueprint aims to increase the region's processing sector and plantation estate. Emerging world-class technology could be the key to implementing this massive growth plan, according to bioenergy and biochar industry advocates Peter Burgess and Don Coyne (pictured). Picture: SANDRA MORELLO



REC CENTRE TENDERS RECEIVED

SIX major construction firms have expressed interest in building the Mount Gambier Community and Recreation Hub.

The tender process for the \$39.1m project closed on Friday, with City Council expected to make a decision on its preferred builder by the end of the year.

Limestone Coast companies have bid for the project rights, along with Adelaide-based firms, with council expecting local businesses to be prioritised when subcontracting.

STORY PAGE 2

BROWNLOW STYLE SHOWCASED

A MOUNT Gambier stylist made her mark on the Australian Football League's night of nights on Monday, dressing the partners of two high-profile Brisbane Lions players.

Kellie Nobes returned to the Brownlow Medal for the second year running, helping to style Julie Neale - wife of Lions midfielder and

Kybybolite export Lachie.

While Julie turned heads on the red carpet, Lachie amassed 26 votes to finish equal third in the count, the most votes of any Brisbane player in over 17 years.

STORY PAGE 3

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Have your say

The Border Watch values your opinion.

If you have a view or wish to comment on any community issue we would like to hear from you.



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EDITOR'S COMMENT

AN industry action agenda unveiled by The Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub signals the sector is committed to expansion and growth.

While the Green Triangle is already home to one of Australia's leading wood fibre baskets, the plan will potentially grow the sector by \$1b each year.

This would have a significant flow-on benefits to the regional economy if this can be achieved.

The action blueprint is certainly ambitious and shows the industry has a common agenda, foresight and ambition.

Importantly, it demonstrates the industry is no longer fractured given nine regional forestry and processing companies are part of the action agenda.

While there will be hurdles to achieving the plan, the blueprint outlines a clear way forward for the industry.

Water licensing on plantations will be among the issues that will need to be resolved to ensure this plan comes to fruition.

Land access and government policy will also play a role in the industry's growth potential.

At the core of the plan is the need to generate more fibre and greater value along the supply chain.

With the world now heading into a carbon-restrained focus, the region's forestry industry is perfectly positioned to enjoy growth and tap into emerging opportunities.

Plantations are the ultimate renewable given they play a key role in keeping our air clean and provide renewable products to a growing woodfibre market.

Boosting local processing is also a cornerstone element of the plan given this sector generates wealth and jobs in the region.

While there has been much discussion on exports flowing across the Port of Portland, the future of the industry relies on the buoyant processing sector.

Although wood exports being loaded onto bulk carriers will continue to be an income stream for forestry companies, we need to ensure there is adequate supply for established mills and future processing opportunities.

Access to the resource is a critical issue in attracting new processors to our region, we cannot allow the region to be locked out of accessing new opportunities due to fibre and log supply shortages.

Without plantation expansion, the reality is the industry will face long-term log supply issues.

The industry is making the right step in ensuring the region's wood fibre resource is expanded for generations to come.

Country Press South Australia opposes proposed advertising amendment

I WRITE to you in my capacity as president of Country Press South Australia in relation to the "Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Simplify) Bill 2018" being debated in parliament this week.

Our member newspapers totally oppose any changes that relax governments requirement to advertise in regional newspapers.

These aspects of the Simplify Bill are seen as a slap in the face to a medium that serves government on many levels.

We disseminate the government's message on many issues affecting our readers and encourage informed debate on policy.

Over 80pc of regional people read their local newspaper every week.

We are the mouthpiece for the

communities we serve and remain the most effective medium to deliver these messages to regions.

The Simplify Bill opens up options for government departments to use less focussed multinational platforms, rather than support the very medium known for its trust and accuracy in regional communities.

I ask you Mr Lucas, should the tax payer dollar be directed this way?

This is not only a slap in the face to regional publishers but also the regional communities

they serve.

It might appear to our readers the government is attempting to bury decisions made on North Terrace that directly affect regional South Australians.

It seems ridiculous that sitting Liberal members would want to work against regional press in their own communities.

Newspapers that employ their constituents.

Revenue generated from government paid advertising in South Australia helps fund local jobs for South Australians.

Regional newspapers employ journalists who strengthen the democratic process by stimulating informed debate.

We strongly encourage the Liberal Party to support the proposed amendments to the Simplify Bill.

Darren Robinson,
Country Press South Australia
president

• This letter was sent to State Treasurer Rob Lucas in response to the proposed Simplify Bill



Supportive councils praised for stance on Bight fuel bid

A REPORT by *The South Eastern Times'* "Fred" Smith of the Wattle Range Council September meeting reminded me of the comments by some councillors who found my submission "emotive."

"Emotive", according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, means "tending to excite emotion".

I believe "emotive", as used by these councillors, was meant as a criticism.

If these councillors had found these substantiated facts aroused emotion in them

I would feel a little less despair for the state of the earth.

If, however, they read these facts and refused to allow themselves to be moved, or were genuinely unmoved, I am worried.

As Clive Hamilton said - "the greatest tragedy is the absence of a sense of tragedy."

Our oceans are under dire threat of death from the overwhelming effects of coal, oil and gas, namely plastic pollution, oxygen depletion, too much CO2 and ocean acidification.

To think of the death of the oceans certainly moves me to tears.

I did not invent the facts in my submission.

I congratulate Wattle Range Council which, in spite of some misgivings, joined the 17 plus other South Australian councils, including Kingoonya, Grant and Robe, in opposing drilling for oil and gas in the Great Australian Bight.

MARCIA LORENZ,
BEACHPORT

Community reacts to second KFC construction

Very sad. The rate of obesity in Mount Gambier is astounding. **TERRI**

Good grief. It says a lot about the state of this town that people prefer this type of food. It's not cheap so you can't say that's the reason it works. **KATRINA**

Excellent news. It will be a lot better for the current one in town that is always busy. As much as people want to complain and moan about the obesity side of things, no one is holding a gun to your head to eat there. There are options. You don't have to eat there. Good to see our town opening up and not staying the same old, despite all the whingers. Jobs are a bonus. **KELLY**

I love how there are like eight pubs on the main street alone, yet people complain about a second fast food outlet. Wonder if the traffic management will be right at this one. **ADAM**

Maybe do something with the old Bunnings building. Make an arcade or an indoor go-kart track or a timezone. There is nothing for kids and families to do. Why get another KFC, the town is not that big to need another one. Have a think. **COURTNEY**

Good to see new businesses coming in this climate at all. More businesses opening means more jobs. By the way it's not up to you to decide what other people should eat or where. If you do not like takeaway food then just do not eat it. There's no drive through takeaway in that area at all. I really think it's a good thing. **BECCA**

What do we want? Target back. What do we get? Another repeat fast-food outlet. Could even use a Nandos, but no. **GEORGIA**

Love it or hate it, obviously there is demand for a second store. The current one is always so busy. **CATH**

What the? Like we need more doubles of everything. Retail businesses closing down, but we can afford takeaway? **TINA**

Mount Gambier lost Target because it was not financially viable as with other businesses that have gone. They simply cannot compete with online due to ever increasing costs of freight and the bricks and mortar overheads. We can only hope that new businesses can find an incentive to come to the area, but do not hold your breath. Mount Gambier is severely hobbled by a lack of cost effective and frequent public transport links to and from the two major cities of Melbourne and Adelaide. The airport has no interest in any expansions to allow competition for REX, so fly in fly out tourism is not going to become burgeoning industry anytime soon. **GRAEME**

This is good for the economy for Mount Gambier, but fast-food restaurants help close healthier options. However, like someone else said, people have their own mind to choose what they eat. **RICKY**

We get big increase in the prison population and a second KFC seems like the powers that be know what is best for us. **GARY**

Ambitious \$1b forestry

Regional timber companies unite in unprecedented approach to

CURRENT GREEN TRIANGLE INDUSTRY

- 17pc of the nation's plantation estate
 - Generates \$1.5b in economic output
 - Supports 7000 jobs
 - 5.8m tonnes of carbon sequestered
- ACTION PLAN GROWTH TARGETS:**
- 200 million more trees planted
 - \$1b in new investment in land and trees
 - Driving 100 million tonnes of Co2 equivalent
 - 100pc utilisation of every tree
 - 10pc jump in productivity
 - Increased local processing
 - Up to \$300m in downstream investment

DRILLING GROWTH POTENTIAL: The softwood and hardwood industry sectors are both part of the 10-year plan.



SANDRA MORELLO
sandra@btw.com.au
JOURNALIST

THE Green Triangle forestry sector has unveiled an ambitious \$1b growth action plan to catapult the regional industry into the nation's premier "fibre bowl".

Nine forestry and timber processing companies across the Green Triangle have united in an unprecedented approach to increase the sector's economic output by more than 65pc.

Potentially, this sector could grow into a \$2.5b regional industry within 10 years.

While the sector already underpins 7000 jobs, the growth plan - unveiled in Mount Gambier this week - also aims to fuel increased local processing capacity.

The industry action agenda - driven by the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub - also foreshadowed the growth target would attract up to \$300m in new "downstream" investment.

The plan will potentially mean the Green Triangle - which is already home to the nation's largest forestry processing cluster - will contribute to 20pc of the national growth target outlined by the Federal Government.

The blueprint aims to create sustainable regional wood fibre supply for construction of homes, furniture and household products and contribute to

South Australia's and Victoria's economy and exports.

Hub chair Linda Sewell - the chief executive officer of OneFortyOne - said the plan demonstrated the long-term social, environmental and economic commitment of each of the hub members to the industry and the Green Triangle.

"We are on the cusp of building this region into what we call the 'fibre bowl' of Australia and produce so much more of the product and fibre than we currently do," Ms Sewell said at the launch.

"It takes great big vision to do things like that."

She said Federal Government funding was facilitating the region to "action" the plan, which would see "more trees and more local processing capacity".

"The action agenda is the hub's 10-year plan for growing future opportunities for the region, which will contribute to the longer term prosperity of Green Triangle communities," Ms Sewell said.

"Our industry supports more than 7000 people in the Green Triangle region by providing a sustainably-produced timber source, fulfilling the needs of people for a whole range of products essential to our daily lives.

"As stewards of our industry, we want to build on the successes of the past decade and create a significant fibre bowl. The industry has gone from strength to strength, continuing to support local

The Border Watch

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SPEARHEADING GROWTH: Member for Barker Tony Pasin looks over the plan with Linda Sewell and Ian McDonnell from the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub.

Forest hub proposal a 'confidence booster'

A PEAK national forestry group has welcomed the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub's \$1b sustainable growth plan as "a major confidence booster for the region and its people".

Australian Forest Products Association SA Branch Manager Leon Rademeyer said the action agenda was set to play a significant role in ensuring the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the Green Triangle forest industries.

"Our forest industries are embedded in local communities and it is locally where the Action Agenda's outcomes promise to make a difference," Mr Rademeyer said.

"These outcomes do not only include job creation and a commitment to local processing, but also skills development, training and providing local communities with essential building materials and other products they use daily."

Mr Rademeyer said increasing Australia's plantation estate remained a crucial factor in ensuring the industry's long-term sustainability and the action agenda's goal of 200m new trees by 2030 should go a long way in achieving that. "Essentially it means the hub's plans to contribute 20pc to the Federal Government's national growth target of a billion new trees in the next decade, which is commendable," he said.

'growth plan' unveiled

increase forest industry's economic output by more than 65pc



SHARED VISION: Hub members: Laurie Hein, from Green Triangle Forest Products, Ian McDonnell, NF McDonnell and Sons, Linda Sewell, OneFortyOne, Ian Tyson, Timberlink Australia, Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin and Russ Hughes from Australian Bluegum Plantations.

communities and providing stable, long-term employment."

Meanwhile, the hub's deputy chair Ian McDonnell outlined the need to work in collaboration with governments, communities and landholders to imple-

ment the action agenda and revealed members would invest up to \$300m in local processing and manufacturing equipment upgrades to boost efficiency.

He said the action agenda was a plan for growth.

"Without action, we will not be able to meet future demand for timber products and there will be an overall reduction in Australia's national plantation estate, which will negatively impact the industry and communities

that rely on it," he said.

"This supply constraint has been identified in the Federal Government's plan, which is calling for one billion trees to be planted across Australia to meet demand and support jobs. We're

excited that our 200 million tree goal is a significant 20pc of the national target."

At the launch of the plan, Mr McDonnell said he was a supporter of local processing and the need to grow that sector.

Region prime for bio-energy initiatives

THE Limestone Coast has a significant opportunity to tap into bio-energy and biochar technology for its surplus wood-fibre waste stream, according to leading experts who visited the region yesterday.

Peter Burgess - a trained metallurgical engineer - said biochar (charcoal) was starting to be used on a commercial scale around the world, including the Green Triangle.

His visit comes ahead of an international biochar study tour being held in the Blue Lake city, which will lure people from across the world.

Delegates will include farmers, councils, foresters, road building providers, viticulturists, investors and internationally renowned experts.

Tour participants will visit the Holla Fresh bio-energy module at Tantanoola, which is the first commercial demonstration of the Australian designed and manufactured ECHO2 bio-energy and biochar technology.

Bioenergy is the production of energy using a diversity of biomass materials, including by-products of agriculture, food, forest industries and green waste from residential areas.

Speaking to *The Border Watch* yesterday, Mr Burgess said technology had been developed to convert biomass residue into biochar and clean energy.

"There is lots and lots of biomass that is being wasted - the Green Triangle is such a biomass-rich area," he said.

Moreover, the biochar technology industry advocate said he believed there was "room" for around 100 of these biochar/energy plants across the region.

"There is all sorts of timber which is wasted from the forestry processing - this all could be turned into energy and charcoal," Mr Burgess said.

Given the expansive footprint of the region's forestry estate, he said this biochar technology had the potential to be rolled out significantly in the Limestone Coast.

Ideally, he said these energy plants would be built at processing sites, which needed low cost energy. Mr Burgess said these projects would have the potential to "create a lot of jobs" and generate a sustainable circular economy.

"It means we create jobs and energy here - not in a coal field somewhere else".

He said the process was viable given the technology produced charcoal, energy and fertiliser.

"This can replace fossil energy," Mr Burgess said yesterday.

"The energy is a way of paying for it to be a low-cost charcoal."

He said the use of charcoal and biomass energy production would reduce global warming.

"Global warming is the result of large amounts of

fossil fuels being dug out of the ground for the past couple hundred of years," Mr Burgess said.

"Over time, we can reduce the amount of fossil fuels we are burning by using renewable energy."

Mr Burgess said biochar was used as a feed for livestock given its health benefits as well as making roads to replace bitumen.

The study tour - held between October 20 and 22 - is expected to attract up to 100 people, which will include a biochar scientist from China.

"China is leading the world on this, given its air pollution."

Global warming is the result of large amounts of fossil fuels being dug out of the ground for the past couple hundred of years ... over time, we can reduce the amount of fossil fuels we are burning by using renewable energy

PETER BURGESS
METALLURGICAL
ENGINEER

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