



## President's Column

### President's July Report

Welcome to the July report which may or may not contain everything that I intended to report. So here goes.

Min. Warren Truss has announced the Bridges to Recovery funding, open to all councils. Many of you who were at the Bunbury W.A. National Roads Congress about 3 years ago would have seen our presentation on Timber Impacted roads and bridges, using Kyogle Shire bridges to support our case for funding increases. I also had the opportunity shortly after to have Warren Truss meet with me and I took him to the Glenmaggie Bridge just outside Heyfield. So get your applications in as per the guidelines and best of luck.

Protecting jobs in rural areas is another one of our challenges, and we have been very strong in our submissions to Federal Governments for their support. Last week, we were advised that the speciality paper producing mill near Shoalhaven has had an extension to its life. It was marked for closure, as most of you would be aware. SW east coast councils may be aware of the numerous radio news grabs from last week that I did on behalf of the NTCA of our success. It would be good if some more of you councils joined this Local Government association to add more strength to our arm. Cost of membership is low. We are, and have been, working to have the Federal Government procurement policy amended; particularly in rural and regional production. A4 paper has been on our agenda for some years, as REFLEX paper is made in Victoria, using Australian labour, providing thousands of

jobs outside the city. But A4 imported paper gets preference. We saw Hon. Greg Hunt's two senior advisers on forestry and biomass, so it was a very busy Tuesday. The strategic directions as approved in our annual report were the main topics dealt with.

Thank you to all who made the June catch-up meeting on the Monday night. Our guest speaker provided some very interesting statistics on future potential in the use of Timber. Those councils that attended, we trust you are making good use of the new knowledge to give your council a head start with new industry and jobs in your shire.

We are now preparing for our annual meeting in November, and the date and venue will be advised very soon. What we need from you beforehand is any suggestions for proposed strategic future directions. This is your association, if you are a member.

Keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> Local Government Timber and Forestry conference in your diary - April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. Arrangements have been made to allow more attendees to get a seat, but it will still be on a first come first served basis.

Til next month,

Kind regards

Cr Malcolm Hole  
NTCA President



## **20 million trees**

The Australian Government, represented through the Department of the Environment, will work with the community to plant 20 million trees by 2020, to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.

The Programme has four strategic objectives:

- 20 million trees – 20 million trees and associated understorey planted by 2020.
- Environmental conservation – support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species (including threatened species and threatened ecological communities)
- Community engagement – work cooperatively with the community
- Carbon reduction – contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

The 20 Million Trees Programme is part of the [National Landcare Programme](#), and will complement and align with other Australian Government environmental initiatives, such as the [Green Army](#) and the work of the [Threatened Species Commissioner](#).

The Australian Government has committed \$50 million over four years to the 20

Million Trees Programme, with funding to commence from 2014-15. The programme will involve competitive grants, delivered by individuals and organisations, and larger-scale plantings, delivered by national service providers. For further information, please email [20milliontrees@environment.gov.au](mailto:20milliontrees@environment.gov.au)

### **Joel Fitzgibbon commentary of Forestry**

As part of the recent delegation to Parliament House the NTCA met with Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs who spoke in support of the forest industry.

In the following discussion, he asked if we were able to share his recently penned article on forestry to the NTCA members. Here is the link.

### **Forest Industry R&D Funding**

One of the issues that the National Timber Councils Association has advocated strongly for is funding for forest and timber industry research to keep the regions of our members strong.

A recent funding announcement made by Senator Richard Colbeck for research and development was welcomed by the NTCA, please see the link below.

[Here is the link to Senator Richard Colbeck's Media Release](#)

### **NTCA on Twitter**

Come and join the Twitter Party! Follow all the action and receive instant news updates by following the NTCA Twitter account @NTCAOnline

### **New Member**

Our growing organisation is joined by a new member: Oberon Shire Council from New South Wales.

We would like to wish a warm welcome to Oberon Shire Council, and look forward to supporting positive outcomes for their council, along with all of our other members.

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