



**MASTER BUILDERS**  
AUSTRALIA

# AUSTRALIA'S TIMBER FRAMING CLIFF

250,000 house-frames  
short by 2035



Australian  
Forest  
Products  
Association





# THE SITUATION – THE SHORTAGE

This is a warning from Australia’s forest and timber framing industries that nationally we are facing a cliff to be 250,000 house frames short of demand by 2035.



To put this in perspective – Australia is facing a timber production shortfall equivalent to the combined size of Geelong and Newcastle, because we don’t have the trees growing in the ground right now to meet that demand.

The shortfall gap will only get worse if action is not taken.

Australia's timber mills massively increased production to meet demand during the COVID induced building boom, producing more timber than ever before in 2020/21 - more than 3 million cubic metres.

Despite this, Australia is currently experiencing severe timber shortages as demand soars and timber imports dry up. This is only a glimpse of what the future holds if we don't plant more trees to increase timber supply.

## AUSTRALIA

250,000 house frames short by 2035



Geelong



Newcastle

	National	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
<b>Cumulative House frame Shortage to 2035</b>	255,342	51,068	76,602	56,175	19,150	40,855	5,106	1,660	3,319
<b>City Town Comparison</b>	Newcastle & Geelong	Tamworth & Wagga	Geelong	Cairns	Mount Gambier	Bunbury	Kingston	Tennant Creek	Kambah

## THE SOLUTION – INCREASE SUPPLY

Australia urgently needs the federal and state governments to encourage the planting of 400,000 new hectares of plantations by 2030 so we can ensure 'sovereign capability' in timber framing supply for decades to come.



## RIGHT TREES, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT SCALE

Australia's 2-million-hectare plantation estate has been declining over the past decade and we must turn that around. We have 380 million hectares of agricultural land in Australia. An increase of 400,000 hectares in forestry hub regions, is a tiny increase of one tenth of one percent of the land used for agriculture.

Not only will this create certainty in the supply for new homes and buildings, but it will increase supply of a sustainable building material that stores carbon and fights climate change!

## BREAKING IT DOWN – WE NEED

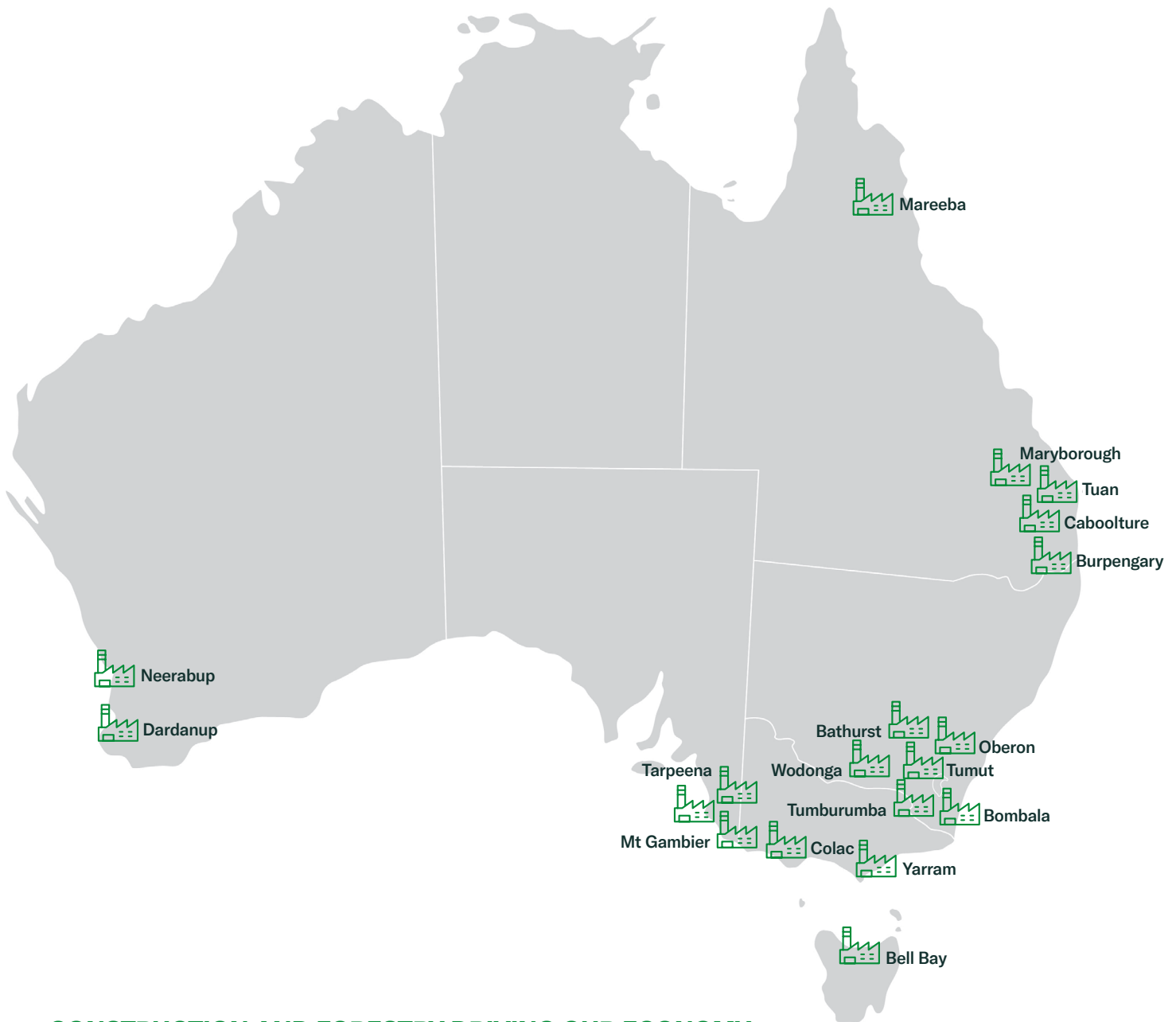
### Short term measures to ease the timber shortage

- Support for sawmills which have extra processing capacity to transport logs from further afield.
- Support for shovel-ready projects that would drive innovation and increase sawlog recovery from existing log volumes i.e. engineered wood solutions.
- Inclusion in the Federal Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy.

### Medium and longer-term measures to fast track the National Billion Trees Plan and plant another 400,000 hectares of plantation timber by 2030.

- An urgent COAG-level strategy to grow our timber plantation estate, including joint commitments to establish new tree plantings in key strategic timber processing regions and achieve the One Billion Trees goal.
- Removal of barriers preventing new plantation projects from accessing carbon credits under the Federal Government's Climate Solutions Fund.
- Policy initiatives to expand plantations/farm forestry to develop sovereign capability.
- Prioritise a new Climate Solutions Fund methodology for avoided emissions from using timber products in construction, which will support growth in Australia's engineered timber manufacturing capacity.

# TOWNS SUPPLYING THE TIMBER TO BUILD OUR HOMES



## CONSTRUCTION AND FORESTRY DRIVING OUR ECONOMY

**Australia's forest industries directly employ 80,000 people and contribute \$24 billion to the economy nationally.**

The construction industry employs over 1.1 million people and the latest ABS data indicates that the total value of construction work done across Australia was worth \$211.3 billion over the year to June 2020. As well as the towns providing the timber to build our Aussie houses shown on the map there are over 270 frame and truss businesses nationally dedicated to building the frames for Australian homes.

**Last financial year the total value related to residential building was \$72.2 billion.**

Australia relies on the timber and construction industries as a key driver our economy and as a critical stabiliser during economic shocks like the COVID crisis where the industry has been a key to our economic durability.