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Dear FWPA Member,

Welcome to the first edition of your SMAC Newsletter for 2026. There has already been a lot of activity in recent weeks, so here's a quick summary to kick off the year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the fast-approaching roundtable in Sydney, Wed 4th - Thu 5th February.

This is also your last chance to notify us of any dietary requirements that need to be catered for.

With the industry facing significant challenges, the CEO Roundtable offers a timely opportunity to refocus on the priorities that matter most for the softwood sector. This newsletter explores those issues.

Regards,

Ian Blanden

Head of Research, Development & Extension

January highlights

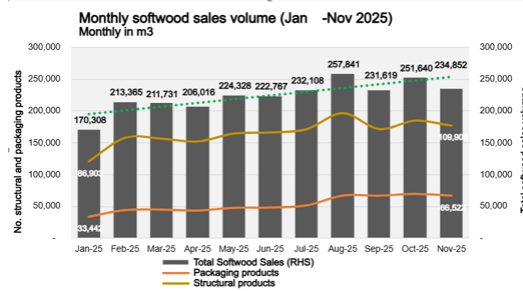
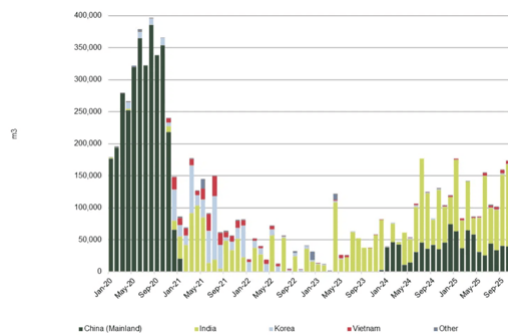
- Industry Health Check from Dr Hansnata
- SMAC Update
 - LVL issues paper – Softwood Growers & Processors
 - Share of timber in residential construction - timber vs. steel
 - Latest FWPA benchmarking report
- NCTDDL mid-term review – Industry survey in early February 2026

Industry health check

with Dr Erick Hansnata

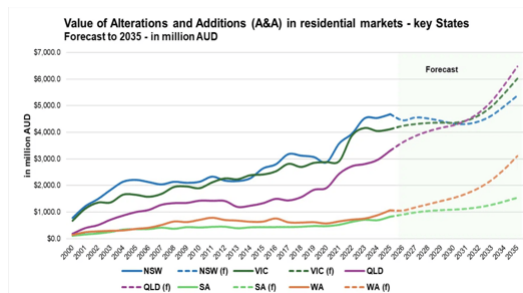
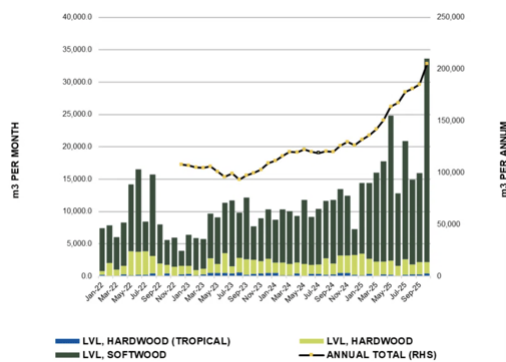
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Australia's softwood logs exports in 2025 were a **solid 43.5% higher than 2024**, but still significantly lower than the peak in 2020.

Softwood sales continued to strengthen in 2025, averaging 208,086 m³ /mth (Jan-Jun), increasing to 241,612 m³/mth (Jul-Nov).



Australia's 2026 LVL imports are under scrutiny with **China's shipments exploding** and import prices plunging to unsustainable levels.

Residential **construction challenges**, (eg. rising material and labour costs, supply chain disruptions, and capacity constraints), are **shifting preferences to alterations and additions**.

Our **data dashboard** turns Australia's forestry and wood market data into **smarter, more profitable decisions**.

Get started

SMAC Update

LVL issues paper

FWPA's preliminary investigation has highlighted several market trends relating to LVL that require the industry's attention and further analysis. [View here LVL Issues Paper](#)

Also worth noting, in case you missed it, are the latest findings from our recent reports:

[Share of timber vs steel in residential construction](#)
[FWPA benchmarking summary \(pg 12\)](#)

Access SMAC presentations & meeting material

Research & Development

ARC Advance Timber Hub

Read about the outcomes of The Hub's Strategic Planning Day in December [here](#).



National Centre for Timber Durability & Design Life

In the coming weeks, the mid-year review team, led by Ian Tyson, will be conducting interviews and distributing a survey to key stakeholders seeking feedback on NCTDDL performance. **We encourage you to take part and provide your input.**

Stay up to date on the research

Mark your calendar

4-5 February 2026

SMAC CEO Roundtable - Pullman Hotel, Sydney

9 March - 20 April

AFWI National open call - expressions of interest

24 March 2026

AFPA report launch "Building a low carbon future for Australia"
Parliament House, Canberra

29-30 April 2026

[Sydney Build 2026 Expo - ICC Sydney](#)

18-19 May 2026

[FTMA National Conference - Sunshine Coast](#)

23-24 June 2026

[WoodTECH 2026 | Innovatek - Brisbane](#)

20 July 2026

AFWI research centre project applications close

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