TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA

Annual Report

2025 - 2026



Strengthening communities and shaping the road ahead

July 2025, HVP Planting, Gippsland

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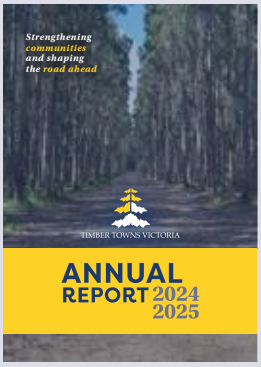
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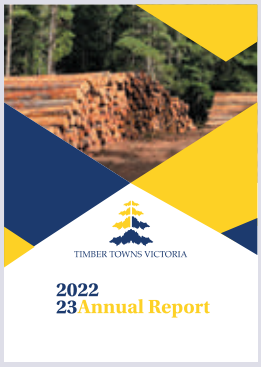


The local government voice on forestry and wood products related matters affecting communities.

Previous Annual Reports can be found on our website











Additional resources can be found on our website.

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Members

CITY OF BALLARAT

BAW BAW SHIRE COUNCIL

Colac Otway SHIRE

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

GANNAWARRA Shire Council

GLENELG SHIRE

LatrobeCity a new energy

MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

MOYNE SHIRE

WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

Presidents Report

A sustainable timber industry is fundamental to the prosperity of many of our communities.



May 2026, Parliament House

The past twelve months have been another significant year for our Association, our member councils and the communities we represent. The forestry and wood products sector continues to undergo considerable change, creating both challenges and opportunities for local government. Throughout this period, our Association has remained committed to ensuring that the voice of our member councils are heard and respected in discussions affecting Victoria's timber communities, local infrastructure and regional economies.

Advocacy has remained at the forefront of our work. We have maintained strong relationships with Ministers, Members of Parliament, government departments and industry stakeholders to ensure local government perspectives are represented in policy development and decision-making. Whether advocating for improved road funding, contributing to government inquiries, supporting bushfire resilience initiatives or providing feedback on forestry policy, the Association has continued to be a credible and respected voice for our members.

The importance of maintaining safe, efficient and well-funded local freight networks cannot be overstated. Timber haulage continues to place significant demands on council-managed roads and bridges, making sustained investment in infrastructure essential. The Timber Industry Roads Evaluation Study (TIRES) remains a cornerstone of our advocacy, providing member councils with credible evidence to support funding applications and long-term asset planning.

The Association has also continued to champion opportunities that strengthen the future of Victoria's forestry and wood products sector. We have supported initiatives that encourage investment in plantation forestry, advanced timber manufacturing, innovation and value-added processing—recognising that a sustainable timber industry is fundamental to the prosperity of many of our communities.

Equally important has been our commitment to keeping members informed and connected. Through regular meetings, expert presentations, industry engagement and timely communications, we have provided opportunities for councils to share knowledge, discuss emerging issues and contribute to policy conversations. The willingness of our members to collaborate and support one another remains one of the Association's greatest strengths.

Our Annual Forum and Annual General Meeting once again highlighted the value of bringing together local

By continuing to work collaboratively with government, industry and our communities, we are well placed to help shape practical, evidence-based policies that deliver resilient infrastructure, a sustainable forestry sector and prosperous regional communities.



government, industry and stakeholders. These events continue to strengthen professional relationships, showcase innovation across the sector and reinforce the important contribution forestry and wood products make to our communities across Victoria.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our Executive Committee, member councils, guest speakers and industry partners. I sincerely thank each of you for your ongoing commitment and willingness to contribute your knowledge, expertise and time throughout the year. I also extend my appreciation to our administration support officer, Rachael whose professionalism and dedication ensure the Association continues to operate effectively and deliver valuable outcomes for members.

As we look to the future, the Association remains committed to providing informed leadership and effective advocacy on behalf of member councils. Our advocacy priorities will continue to focus on

- securing long-term investment in road and bridge infrastructure that underpin safe and efficient freight networks.
- advancing innovative bushfire detection technologies that strengthen community safety and protect our forests and plantations.
- promote an integrated forestry and fibre policy that provides certainty for investment, supports advanced timber manufacturing and enables sustainable regional growth.

By continuing to work collaboratively with government, industry and our communities, we are well placed to help shape practical, evidence-based policies that deliver resilient infrastructure, a sustainable forestry sector and prosperous regional communities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you to all members for your continued confidence in the Association. I look forward to working together in the year ahead as we continue to represent the interests of our councils and the communities they serve.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Karen Stephens

Executive Committee


May 2026, Parliament House



President and Chair
Cr Karen Stephens
Mayor, Glenelg Shire Council



Vice President
Cr Tim Meyer
Mayor, West Wimmera Shire Council



Treasurer
Cr Tom Sullivan
Councillor, Moorabool Shire



Executive Committee
Cr Catherine Bannerman
Councillor, Wellington Shire Council



Executive Committee
Cr Garner Smith
Mayor, Gannawarra Shire Council



Executive Committee
Mark Coleman
Economic Development Officer, Wellington Shire Council



Executive Committee
Helen Havercroft
CEO, Glenelg Shire Council

Introduction

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) provides an important service to member councils which includes the increased ability to liaise with the state and federal government, an important information service and the value of being involved with a state-wide network.

Recognised as the peak local government body on forestry, TTV provides policy advice on various forestry policy and planning matters.

TTV has links with similar groups within Victoria, across other states and federally to increase local governments capacity to be effectively involved in the forestry policy setting at both the state and national levels.

A primary strategic focus for Timber Towns Victoria is the TIRES report (Timber Industry Road Evaluation Study), which seeks to identify and quantify necessary upgrades to the road network that supports the timber industry throughout Victoria.

General meetings of the Association are held bi-monthly where actions are recorded and detailed work proceeds between meetings.

Our Mission

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) is the local government voice on forestry and wood products related matters and their impact on local communities and local government infrastructure.

Our History

Timber Towns Victoria was formed to represent the interests of municipal councils in relation to forestry and has continued to develop and gradually shift its focus to align with the requirements of our members, addressing sustainability, social, economic, land use and infrastructure concerns linked to Councils' relationship with the Victorian forest sector. We work with the community, all levels of government, and industry groups and bodies to support councils in managing the impact of timber related matters. TTV supports sustainable communities and local government infrastructure, particularly road and bridge upgrade projects.

The association has developed credibility over the years by remaining impartial and acting in the best interests of the entire community. Passionate people, committed to open communication and education about the timber industry have helped the association remain relevant over time.

'Let Sanity Prevail'– The History of Timber Towns Victoria commissioned in the summer of 2014, tells the unique history of this remarkable association; one of the only associations in Victoria that represents local councils in a specific industry to help shape government policy.

Our Objectives

1. Support and assist councils to sustainably manage the impact of issues related to forestry and wood products in their communities, including those related to closure of access to native forests and a growing and enhanced role for plantation forestry, including farm forestry and agro-forestry
2. Support sustainable economic development via an enhanced role for plantation forestry and an expansion and evolution of wood products manufacturing in our municipalities, including as part of the transition from native forestry
3. Deliver leadership and advocacy for the interests of local government and their communities, particularly related to local government infrastructure (eg. roads and bridges), employment and business opportunities
4. Provide a forum for local government to share information and address forestry and wood products industry related issues
5. Be a sought after, credible and respected stakeholder on issues related to a sustainable forestry and wood products industry, representing local government in working with the community, all levels of governments and the forestry and wood products industry

Strategic Plan

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) remains committed to its mission to promote the benefits of wood and its uses, from a carbon, land-use option, local processing, business opportunities and employment perspective, especially for Victoria's rural and regional municipalities.

The opportunities extend beyond traditional applications for fibre and include biofuels and other forms of bioenergy and the future use of cellulosic fibre to manufacture a wide range of organic substitute products.

The revision to this strategy has occurred because of the decision of the Victorian Government to close access to the State's native forests for commercial harvesting, a decision which has altered the strategic direction of TTV and many of its member councils.

Timber, derived from forestry activities and the wood products industry, is important to many Victorian communities and municipalities.

The integrated and sustainable industry provides ongoing employment and business opportunities, supplying building, communication papers, timber and paper packaging and other industrial products into Australian and international markets. The industry's activities provide a net carbon benefit. [1]

The closure of access to Victoria's native forests for commercial harvesting from the end of 2024 had significant consequences for TTV and its member councils. Some municipalities will cease to have any primary forestry activities and many have experienced changes, including reduced employment and business opportunities.

Plantation forestry continues in Victoria and the significant majority of downstream processing in the State is supplied by plantations, including for exports. Plantation expansion is an industry priority for several shires, ensuring land-use considerations remain at the forefront of public policy at a municipal, state and national level.

While the changes are challenging, they also present opportunities, especially those related to plantation expansion and innovative products to downstream processing and ultimately to related employment and business opportunities.



October 2025, HVP tour

[1] XIMENES, 2023, 'Forests, Plantations, Wood Products & Australia's Carbon Balance', FWPA, Melbourne, available at: https://fwpa.com.au/report/forests-plantations-wood-products-australias-carbon-balance/

Key Strategies

Addressed in 2025 – 2026

Robust and Active Government Relations



October 2025, HVP Gippsland tour



October 2025, HVP Gippsland's annual fire training day



October 2025, AKD Gippsland Sawmill tour

Timber Towns Victoria continues to engage with State and Federal Governments in relation to timber matters.

Cr Karen Stephens represented TTV on the Victorian Forestry Transition Implementation Reference Group that was established in July 2023 for a three year period.

TTV communicates with the Victorian Forestry hubs and shares updates with members.

The National Timber Fibre Strategy was released in July 2025. TTV advocates for state government and opposition parties to put policies in place that reflect and work with the National Strategy.

TTV engaged with Jason Ross from Wood Central to assist with advocacy work through online media forest related topics that affect TTV members.

- **June 2026** – TTV wrote to John Raison thanking him after attending a bi-monthly meeting as a guest speaker and publishing the report Australia's Native Forests Can Be Sustainably Managed for Wood Production Together with Other Important Forest Values.
- **June 2026** – TTV wrote to members of the State Parliament thanking them for meeting with them in May 2026.
- **June 2026** – TTV wrote to Melina Bath to follow up on a campaign led by Forest Woods Products Australia with Adam Doville serving as the public figure and key spokesperson for the initiative.
- **June 2026** – TTV wrote a letter to Tim Bull wishing him all the best in his retirement from Parliament.
- **May 2026** – TTV members took an opportunity to meet with MPs at Parliament House in Melbourne to discuss 2026 State election priorities.
- **April 2026** – TTV wrote a letter to The Hon Michaela Settle, Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development Congratulating their appointment to the position.
- **April 2026** – TTV wrote a submission to the inquiry into the 2026 Summer Bushfires in Victoria
- **February 2026** – TTV wrote to Minister The Hon Julie Collins opposing the proposal to remove 5% tariffs on cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glulam imported from the EU as part of the upcoming Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement.



October 2025, Yarram Radial Timber tour

- **January 2026** – TTV wrote a submission to ERAC's (Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee) Consultation on the Proposed Improved Forest Management in Multi-use Public Native Forest (INFM) Method.
- **November 2025** – Minister Steve Dimopoulos responded to TTV thanking TTV for our letter regarding bushfire detection cameras.
- **October 2025** – Senator the Hon Tim Ayers responded to TTV's letter of congratulations for his ministerial appointment.
- **August 2025** – Department of Transport and Planning sent a response thanking TTV for contribution to the updating of the Victorian Freight Plan acknowledging TTVs commitment to sharing knowledge and feedback during the engagement period.
- **August 2025** – TTV wrote a letter of support to Steve Dimopoulos Minister of Environment, in support of the Bushfire Detection Camera Investment proposal by the Victorian Forest Products Association.
- **August 2025** – TTV received correspondence from Murrindindi Shire Council in response to our invitation to our Annual General Meeting during the three day forum in October 2025.
- **June 2025** – TTV wrote to the Executive Director of the Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning highlighting the positive work of the TIRES report accompanied with a summary of audit undertaken on the TIRES report with our local Government Council Members.
- **June 2025** – TTV wrote to the following Members of Parliament:
    - The Hon Clare O'Neil congratulations on the re-appointment as Minister for housing.
    - The Hon Julie Collins congratulations on the re-appointment as Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.
    - Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm congratulations on re-appointment as Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
    - Senator the Hon Murray Watt congratulations on the appointment to Minister for the Environment and Water.
    - Senator the Hon Tim Ayres congratulations on the appointment to Minister for Industry and Innovation
- **June 2025** – Senator The Hon Murray Watt responded to TTV's letter of congratulations.
- **June 2025** – TTV informed members of the DEECA forestry transition fund for grants of up to $1M for businesses and industry groups to expand, diversify or start new businesses.
- **May 2025** – Danny O'Brien, Jeff Bourman, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell's office responded regarding the ESVF levy clearly stating that their party's will be not supportive of this Bill.



Focus on Transport, Infrastructure and Sustainable Economic Development



TTV partners with the Victorian Government to provide a 5 yearly review of the Timber Industry Roads Evaluations Study (TIRES) Report 2023-2027.

The TIRES report 2023-2027 provides an evidence-based framework to prioritise infrastructure investment across the Victorian rural road network utilised by the timber sector.

Victoria's roads are a key economic enabler and essential to the state's commodity exports. The speed and efficiency with which Victoria can transport exports through its ports is fundamental to maintaining Victoria's competitive edge in international markets.

The Timber Industry Roads Evaluation Study (TIRES) report serves as a valuable resource for member Councils, identifying roads in need of improvements that underpin the transportation of timber from the industry throughout Victoria.

The TIRES report underwent a mid-term review in 2025, and more recently in 2026 an audit was conducted with Councils to understand the current status of the TIRES identified roads and whether funding has assisting in road repair / replacement.

TTV supports opportunities for expanded and new wood processing activities to be undertaken in rural and regional areas.

- **June 2026** – TTV supplied Clark Generations with a Letter of Support for their application to the Victorian Timber Innovation Fund to convert forestry and plantation residues into renewable energy and biochar through gasification.
- **December 2025** – TTV supports the State Government investment to advance Portland's Precinct Plan from a feasibility study was announced. The Future Fibre - Hardwood Timber Manufacturing Hub Feasibility Study looks at the The Future Fibre Hardwood Timber Manufacturing Hub. Known as "The Precinct", it is a proposed advanced timber manufacturing facility located in Portland, Victoria. Backed by over $7 million in government and industry investment, it aims to turn locally grown, low-value Eucalyptus globulus pulp logs—traditionally exported as raw woodchips—into high-value, engineered structural timbers for the domestic market. Once fully operational, the precinct is projected to support up to 200 jobs and reduce Australia's reliance on imported engineered timber.

Supportive Land Use Management and Planning Scheme



Timber towns Victoria recognises community safety and emergency needs, including those related to fire management should be shared across land users on a reasonable basis.

It is TTV's responsibility to its members to monitor timber related statutory obligations and members are updated frequently on relevant subjects. Some of these subjects for 2025/2026 included:

- Carbon Methods for the Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU)
- Australia's Plantation Policy Settings
- Timber and Fibre Innovation Fund applications
- Victorian Tress on Farms Program
- Victorian Trees on Farms Utilisation Program
- Victoria's State Forests By-Products Framework
- All land tenures land management

TTV is ready to assist Member Councils where needed and will research and communicate any knowledge or information in this area where requested.

TTV subscribes to AFAC (Australian and New Zealand Council for Fire and Emergency Services) updates and distributes relevant information to members on fire related subjects such as:

- bush fire and grass fire suppression research
- lessons management and key learnings
- sharing of first nations knowledge on land management practices
- Fire research conferences
- Seasonal Bushfire outlooks for each season as they come in.
- Courses and working groups



Effective TTV Communications

Timber Towns Victoria actively increases awareness of Timber Towns Victoria and timber related matters concerning communities and infrastructure through a number of different avenues including:

- Maintaining an active social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- Updating the Timber Towns Victoria website with relevant news and informative documents
- Annual Reports
- Through media releases to the broader Victorian media 2025 – 2026:
    - **July 2026** - Australia's native forests can be sustainably managed for wood production together with other important forest values.
    - **June 2026** - No Surprise for Timber Towns: Locking Up Forests Won't Cut Demand
    - **June 2026** - New research finds sugar gliders, not forestry, are killing off swift parrots
    - **May 2026** - Timber Towns Victoria takes roads, AI fire cameras and policy to Parliament House
    - **April 2026** - Timber Towns Victoria Welcomes 58c Fuel Relief for Timber Haulage
    - **April 2026** - Alpine Ash Listing Ignores Science Through Lock Up and Leave Viewpointv
    - **March 2026** - Timber Towns Victoria Welcomes Qantas-Backed Plan to Turn Green Triangle Forest Waste into Jet Fuel
    - **March 2026** - World First Glulam Made from Aussie Blue Gum a Win for Victoria's Timber Towns
    - **February 2026** - Victoria's Timber Towns Mourn the Closure of the Swifts Creek Mill
    - **January 2026** - Catastrophic Fires Highlights Coordinated Fire Management Is Essential
    - **December 2025** - Breakthrough timber engineering in the Green Triangle celebrated
    - **November 2025** - Timber Towns Victoria Acknowledges Mill Closure in Yarram
    - **October 2025** - Timber Towns Victoria tours Wellington Shire region showcasing timber towns businesses and communities
    - **September 2025** - Timber Towns Victoria welcomes funding



October 2025, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods tour

Facilitative TTV Member Services

October 2025 - Delivery of 3 day forum / AGM in the Wellington Shire Council focusing on local economic activities in the forest and wood products sector.

Timber Towns Victoria continues to maintain representation on appropriate external committees and groups ensuring consistent timber related messages are conveyed. TTV is an active member or seeks updates from the following groups for the benefit of our members:

- Australian Forest Contractors Association
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Collaborative Communications Group
- Forestry Australia
- Forest and Woods Communities Australia
- Forest and Woods Products Australia
- Forestry Transition Implementation Reference Group
- Gippsland Forest Dialogue
- Gippsland Forestry Hub
- Green Triangle Forestry Industry Hub
- Murray Region Forestry Hub
- Victorian Forest Products Association





Taking Rural Priorities to Parliament

TTV delegates from left on the steps of Victorian Parliament House: Cr Garner Smith, Cr Tim Meyer, Mark Coleman, Cr Karen Stephens, Cr Pat Quinn, Cr Lloyd Ross, Cr Jim Doukas, Cr Catherine Bannerman.

In the lead-up to the 2026 Victorian state election, Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) took the priorities of rural communities directly to Parliament House.

TTV met with representatives from six political parties to present its 2026 Government Brief and seek clear pre-election commitments across three priority areas: rural roads and bridges, AI-enabled fire detection, and a coordinated forestry and fibre policy.

Investing in the roads and bridges rural Victoria relies on

Reliable roads and bridges are fundamental to rural economies and the forestry supply chain. With plantation resources spread across rural areas and logs unable to be transported by rail, road freight remains essential to moving timber from plantations to processors and markets.

TTV called for multi-year funding for rural road repairs, together with dedicated investment in freight-critical bridge upgrades. The organisation highlighted the accelerated deterioration of key rural transport corridors as freight demands increase and communities experience more frequent severe weather events.

TTV President Cr Karen Stephens emphasised the broader importance of this investment, saying rural transport infrastructure must support both community safety and long-term economic resilience.

Expanding AI-enabled fire detection

TTV also placed the expansion of AI-enabled fire detection cameras firmly on the policy agenda.

The technology combines ultra-high-definition 360-degree cameras, artificial intelligence and satellite data to continuously monitor large landscapes for smoke and potential ignition points. Alerts are verified by human analysts before emergency services are notified, providing an additional layer of early detection across areas where rapid identification of fires can be critical.

Data provided to TTV by the Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) and the Green Triangle Fire Alliance (GTFA) showed that the Victorian network detected almost 90 unplanned fires across the 2023–24 and 2024–25 fire danger seasons — 40 fires in the first season and 46 in the second.

Experience in South Australia has also demonstrated the potential of the technology, with almost 90 fires detected since rollout across more than one million hectares. Around 90 per cent of that coverage extends beyond plantations into surrounding communities.



August 2023, The Green Triangle Tour

Rural communities need practical, long-term policy commitments rather than short-term responses.

TTV called for statewide expansion of the camera network, sustainable operational funding and a fully integrated fire intelligence system linking camera feeds with the CFA, FFMVic, SES and other emergency agencies.

While the technology has demonstrated its value, TTV identified uneven coverage, inconsistent operational funding and limited integration between agencies as barriers to achieving its full potential.

A coordinated approach to forestry and fibre

The third priority focused on Victoria's forestry and fibre policy settings.

TTV called for state policy to align with the Australian Government's Timber Fibre Strategy and provide a coordinated, long-term framework for plantation investment, timber processing and rural employment.

The organisation advocated for a whole-of-government forestry and fibre growth strategy that would streamline planning and environmental approvals for plantation and processing projects, encourage investment in engineered timber and advanced wood manufacturing, and recognise the role of forestry and fibre in Victoria's climate and housing strategies.

For rural communities, these settings are about more than industry growth. A stable policy environment provides greater confidence for businesses to invest, employers to create jobs and communities to plan for their future.

Seeking commitments for rural Victoria

Through its meetings at Parliament House, TTV made clear that rural communities need practical, long-term policy commitments rather than short-term responses.

The organisation sought a formal response from each of the six parties on all three priorities ahead of the state election.

The advocacy program reflects TTV's ongoing role in bringing rural perspectives into state policy discussions and ensuring that the infrastructure, emergency preparedness and industry settings affecting timber towns remain part of the broader Victorian policy agenda.

2025 TTV Forum and Anuual General Meeting

Timber Towns Victoria tours Wellington Shire region showcasing timber towns businesses and communities.



October 2025, HVP Plantations tour



October 2025, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods Tour.



October 2025, Alberton Timber Tour.

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) has visited the Wellington Shire Council region for a 3-day members forum incorporating their annual general meeting and tours through several businesses featuring timber processing, innovation, and economic development.

As an active member of TTV, the Wellington Shire Council's timber activities are one of the major economic drivers for the region and at the heart of these businesses that are a part of the industry are many service industries that also support the sector – including Australia's largest hardwood manufacturer and largest softwood sawmilling business, used in house framing and structural applications.

TTV President Cr Karen Stephens highlighted the importance these forums and tours are for the members and the communities visited. "It is vital for our members and the regions that we continue to visit and support these areas as the positive impact the timber industry has in Victoria can be seen and shared" she said.



October 2025, AKD Sawmill Gippsland Tour.

From left: Cr Ian Trevaskis (East Gippsland Shire), Cr Garner Smith (Gannawarra Shire), Cr Adam Shehan (Baw Baw Shire), Kirsten Power (Wellington Shire), AKD representative, Cr Pat Quinn (Gannawarra Shire), Cr Catherine Bannerman (Wellington Shire), TTV Vice President Cr Tim Meyer (West Wimmera Shire), TTV Treasurer Cr Tom Sullivan (Moorabool Shire), Mark Coleman (Wellington Shire), Francois Theron (Wellington Shire), AKD Representative.

The full day tour commenced from Sale, to Heyfield through to Yarram via a plantation harvesting prior to returning to Sale in the late afternoon and consisted of visits to several businesses including:

- Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH)
- HVP Plantations
- Radial Timbers
- Alberton Timber
- Associated Kiln Driers Pty Ltd (AKD)

Day 1 – TTV members travelled from all over Victoria and were welcomed in person by Vince Hurley for an informative introduction to Australian Sustainable Hardwoods.

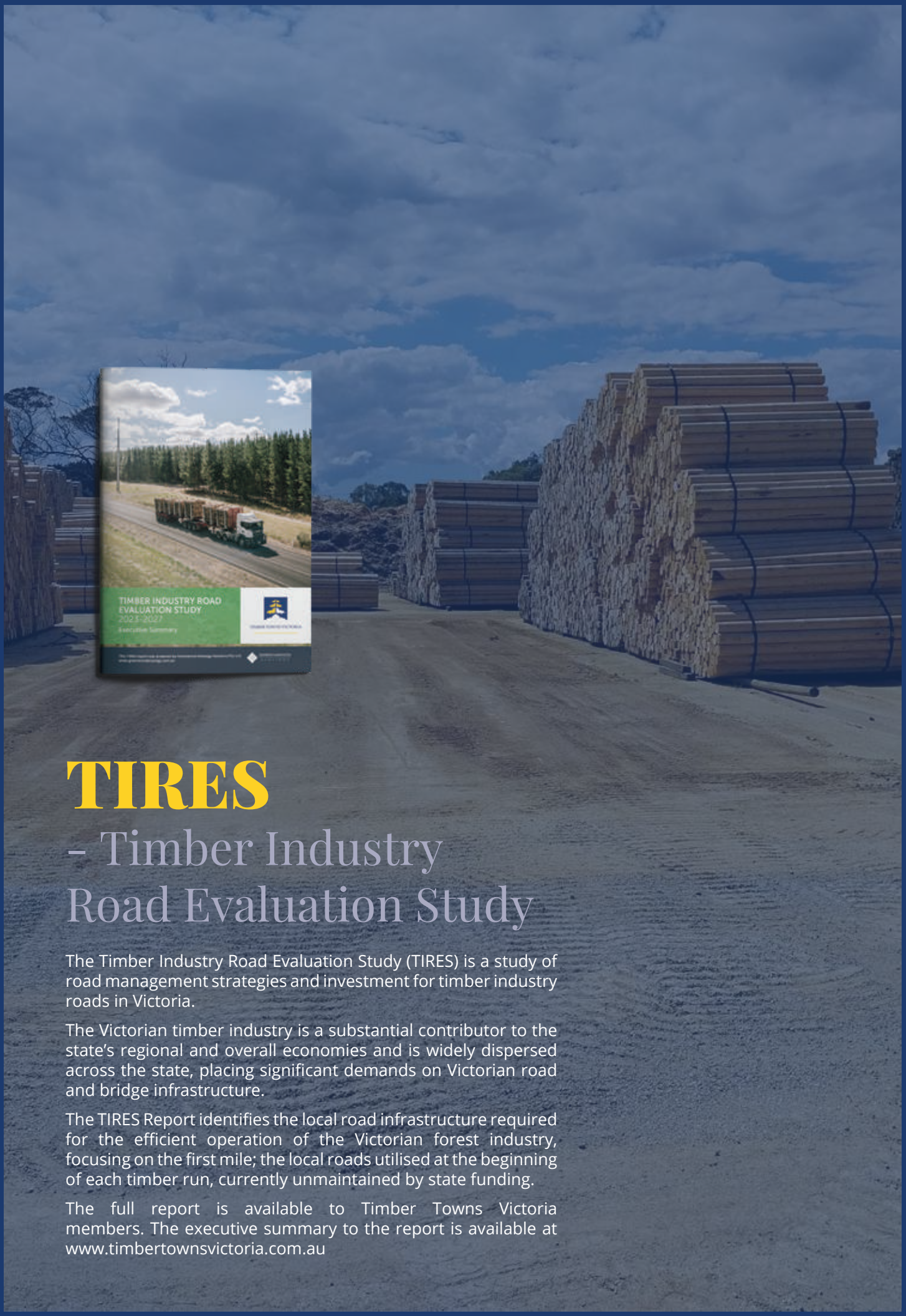
Day 2 – Economic Development Officer Mark Coleman guided members on a tour through the region visiting local businesses and communities to inform members with an understanding of the economic activity between Sale, Heyfield, Yarram, Alberton and back to Sale.

Day 3 – Members came together for their Annual General Meeting with guest speaker David Morcom, CEO Wellington Shire Council providing a vast overview of economic activity and current projects being undertaken in the Shire.

TTV President Cr Karen Stephens thanked all those who gave their time to assist in the success of the three-day forum.

Timber Towns Victoria offers a very special thank you to the businesses we visited and their time they gave freely to us including Vince Hurley, Craig Dunn, Chris McEvoy, Tony Britton, Luke Olarenshaw and Glen Davis

> **These businesses are all thinking ahead, embracing innovation, and finding new market opportunities while working together. It's truly fascinating—just like timber—and we applaud their efforts and support this kind of collaboration.**
>
> - TTV President, Cr Karen Stephens.



TIRES
– Timber Industry Road Evaluation Study

The Timber Industry Road Evaluation Study (TIRES) is a study of road management strategies and investment for timber industry roads in Victoria.

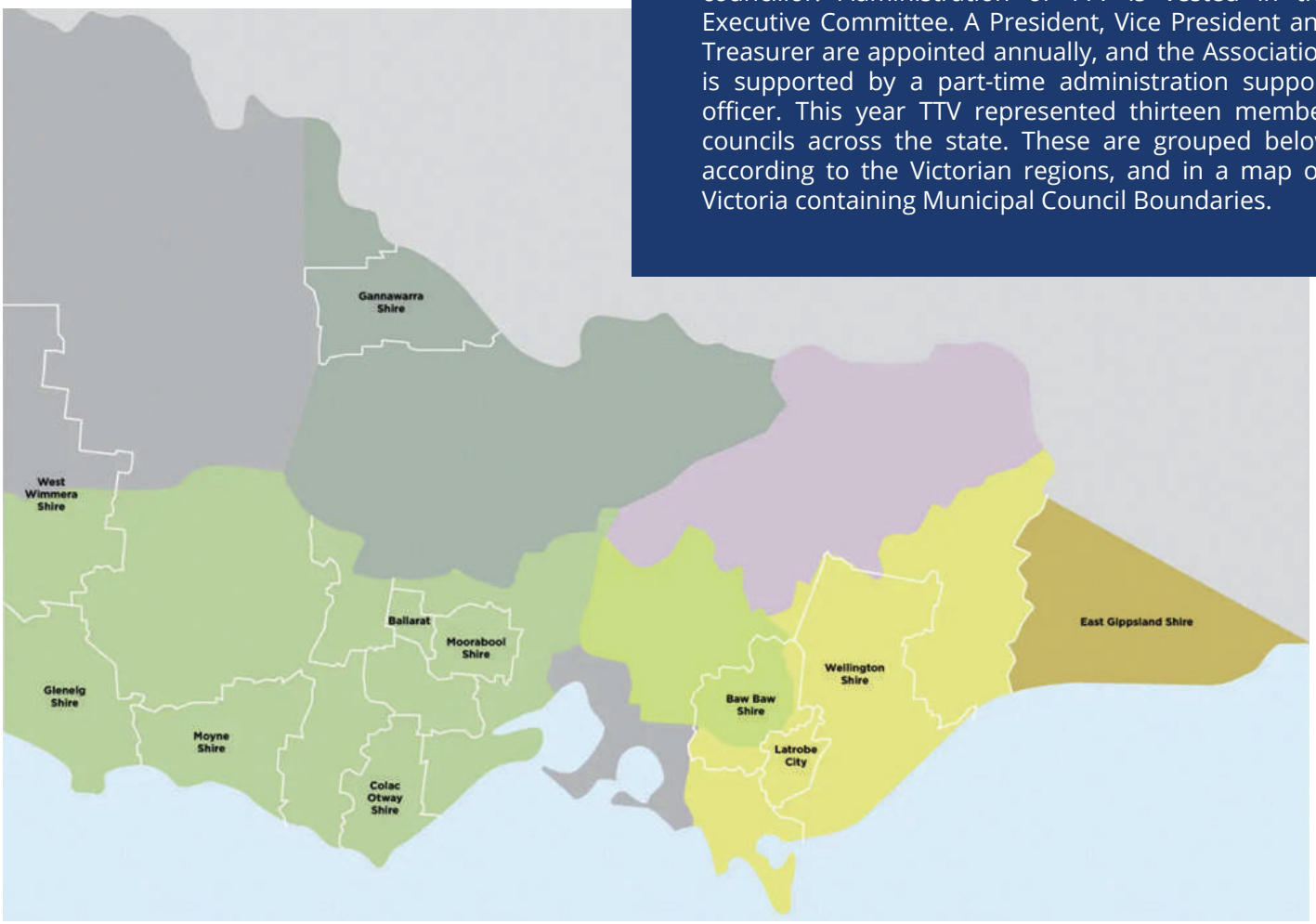
The Victorian timber industry is a substantial contributor to the state's regional and overall economies and is widely dispersed across the state, placing significant demands on Victorian road and bridge infrastructure.

The TIRES Report identifies the local road infrastructure required for the efficient operation of the Victorian forest industry, focusing on the first mile; the local roads utilised at the beginning of each timber run, currently unmaintained by state funding.

The full report is available to Timber Towns Victoria members. The executive summary to the report is available at www.timbertownsvictoria.com.au

Membership

Membership of the association is open to all Victorian municipalities where forest industries are recognised as significant contributors to the economy and community. Forest based industries and other interest groups are not represented by the Association. Each member council may nominate two representatives to attend meetings, one of whom must be an elected councillor. Administration of TTV is vested in the Executive Committee. A President, Vice President and Treasurer are appointed annually, and the Association is supported by a part-time administration support officer. This year TTV represented thirteen member councils across the state. These are grouped below according to the Victorian regions, and in a map on Victoria containing Municipal Council Boundaries.



Gippsland	Central	South West	North
Baw Baw Shire Council	Colac Otway Shire Council	Glenelg Shire Council	Gannawarra Shire Council
East Gippsland Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council	Moyne Shire Council	
Latrobe City Council	Ballarat City Council	West Wimmera Shire Council	
Wellington Shire Council			





October 2025, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods tour

TTV membership and services

Timber Towns Victoria delivers information and updates, to members keeping members informed on industry issues and activities. Throughout the year invited guests attended and/or made presentations at TTV meetings, including:

- **June 2026** – John Raison Australian Forestry on the Report 'Australia's Native Forests can be Sustainably Managed for Wood Production Together with Other Important Forest Values'.
- **October 2025** – Vince Hurley, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods on the future of MASSLAM Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) ratings, and active forest management.
- **October 2025** – Craig Dunn HVP Plantations on their plantation estate and harvesting operations.
- **October 2025** – Luke Olarenshaw Alberton Timber on their timber mill operations.
- **October 2025** – Glen Davis from AKD Sawmill on their timber mill operations
- **October 2025** – David Morcom CEO Wellington Shire Council on the economic development of the Wellington Shire region.
- **August 2025** – Beth Weldon, Forest Learning and Pat Groenhout from Greenwood Strategy
- **June 2025** – Jason Ross Publisher of Wood Central on the Gottstein Report update.
- **April 2025** – Andrew White CEO Victorian Forest Products Association on the Victorian Wood Fibre Roadmap to 2050 and VFPA policy priorities



TTV delivers an important communication service to its member councils, providing regular information about forestry policy and management initiatives. The association communicates directly with member councils through delegated representatives, with circulated media releases, submissions, through the association's Facebook and a resource portfolio on our website.

TTV facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and information between its members through regular meetings of representatives and other communication channels.

Timber Towns Victoria encourages members to actively participate and provide feedback / comments to documents such as the creation of government submissions, the periodic reviews of the Strategic Plan the adoptions and implementation of a Timber Encouragement Policy for their Council.

Members have access to a member only area of the associations website where sensitive documents can be viewed with a members log in. The TTV website is: www.timbertownsvictoria.com.au

Timber Towns Victoria offers presentations on TTV to member councils on request where there is a desire to gain a broad overview on TTV functions and current activities.

TTV is a voice for the members to be heard on current timber industry related issues that are affecting them. TTV listens to what is happening on the ground from our members, and advocate to the State and Federal Governments on behalf of our members for their best interest and desired outcomes.

Members are given opportunities to contribute, ask questions and present ideas throughout the year. An annual membership survey is undertaken to provide feedback on business and strategic planning activities.

Some of the key themes and overall perception of Timber Towns Victoria that was extracted from the survey include

- Advocacy is the strongest perceived value
- Roads, freight and forestry matters dominate priorities
- Members support practical collaboration
- Fire and land-use planning are recurring themes
- Strong support for a united regional voice

As heard from our members, summary of important actions over the past 1-3 years

- Maintaining Relevance
- Options to diversify
- Sustainability
- Strategic direction
- Policy advocacy
- 3 day forums
- Addressing the closure of native timber industry
- Timber industry roads evaluation study (TIRES) refresh
- One loud voice
- Focus on road investment
- Community support



Treasurer's Report





TIMBER TOWNS ASSOCIATION INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2025 TO 30TH JUNE 2026

CASH BOOK BALANCE AT 1ST JULY 2025	**$28,810.00**	
ADD RECEIPTS		
GST Collected	1,800.00	
Subscriptions	18,000.00	
Transfer between accounts	23,035.00	
ATO BAS Refunds	2,304.00	
Rachael Healy Reimbursement-Incorrect Card Used	55.90	
Tom Sullivan (meal)	40.00	
CommBiz Refund	18.88	45,253.78
		$74,063.78
LESS PAYMENTS		
ATO BAS Payments	830.00	
Accommodation	542.66	
Accounting Fees	2,700.00	
Advertising	1,577.27	
Bank Fees	13.56	
Consumer Affairs	49.00	
Fuel	344.64	
Meals	1,066.55	
Transport Costs	1,205.45	
Printing & Stationery	1,879.52	
Office Equipment	363.59	
Conference & Meeting Costs	431.94	
Three Day Forum Gifts	509.09	
GST Paid	4,730.61	
Secretarial Fees	35,999.55	
Transfer between accounts	3,035.00	
Subs & Fees	237.28	
Rachael Healy – Incorrect Card Used	55.90	
Website Costs	454.54	56,026.15
CASH BOOK BALANCE AT 30TH JUNE 2026		**$18,037.63**
Transaction Account Balance at 30th June 2026	17,925.51	
Debit Card Account Balance at 30th June 2026	112.12	$18,037.63
BANK STATEMENT AS CASH BOOK AT 30Th JUNE 2026		**$18,037.63**



October 2025, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods tour

TIMBER TOWNS ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2025 TO 30TH JUNE 2026

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Moorabool Shire Council	2,750.00
Gannawarra Shire Council	2,750.00
Wellington Shire Council	2,750.00
West Wimmera Shire Council	2,750.00
Latrobe City Council	2,750.00
Ballarat City Council	3,025.00
Moorabool Shire Council	3,025.00
TOTAL	$19,800.00

TIMBER TOWNS ASSOCIATION INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
SANDHURST SELECT 90 FUND
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2025 TO 30TH JUNE 2026

SANDHURST ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 1ST JULY 2025		**$109,540.47**
ADD RECEIPTS		
Interest Received	4,378.65	4,378.65
		113,919.12
LESS PAYMENTS		
Transfer to Commonwealth Bank Transaction Account	20,000.00	20,000.00
SANDHURST ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 30TH JUNE 2026		**$93,919.12**

Timber Towns Victoria Presidents

Start	Finish	Name	Council
1984	1987	Brenda Murray	Shire of Orbost
1987	1988	Alan Billing	Shire of Colac
1989	1990	Paul Gilmore	Shire of Alexandra
1990	1990	Kevin Smith	Shire of Myrtleford
1990	1990	Paul Gilmore	Shire of Alexandra
1993	1994	Jim Ure	Mitchell Shire Council
1994		Amalgamation	
1995		Missing Data	
1996	1998	Jim Ure	Mitchell Shire Council
1999	2000	Noel Harvey	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
2000	2003	Bob Orr	Hepburn Shire Council
2003	2003	Jenny Blake	Golden Plains Shire Council
2003	2010	Malcolm Hole	Wellington Shire Council
2011	2012	Bill Harrington	Baw Baw Shire Council
2012	2016	Jan Vonarx	Alpine Shire Council
2017	Current	Karen Stephens	Glenelg Shire Council



October 2025, Alberton Timber tour















July 2025, HVP Planting, Gippsland.

TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA

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