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Tarpeena upgrade update

Timberlink's unprecedented Tarpeena mill upgrade investment and innovation will see our maximum output increase whilst future proofing our mill by making it world-class.

Log infeed

The new log infeed structural and mechanical package will feed logs into the new Green Mill.





View of new Green Mill from the Control Room



A brand new highly automated saw shop will improve cutting consistency and safety.



Saw shop

Green Mill construction

Construction is coming along rapidly and remains on track.

Export chip system

An aerial shot of the new Green Mill building with export chip system and bunker in the foreground.



Export chip system



Timber supply...

We answer your questions.

How is Timberlink responding to the high level of timber demand?

- Nationally timber supplies are tight. Timberlink is running every available hour at both our mills and is producing more timber than ever before.
- Timberlink has invested over \$150M to expand production at its Australian mills and now produces significantly more timber than when Timberlink began as a company in 2013.

Australia has been successful at suppressing COVID-19 and the economy has recovered well. Housing demand has boomed, with rapidly accelerating house prices and strong uptake of the HomeBuilder scheme. The weight of this demand is causing labour shortages for key trades. Many material inputs are also proving scarce. Structural timber demand has surged globally at the same time the pandemic has caused supply chain issues.

Timberlink investments have resulted in both mills producing more timber than at any other time. Our Australian Mill upgrade investment program will shortly further increase our production capacity. The new infrastructure will ensure we have world-class timber mills that keep the business competitive for the next generation, whilst improving the consistency and quality of our timber. The total investment has created hundreds of jobs during construction and a number of new full-time jobs at our mills.

Timberlink partners with Hundegger for precise CNC machinery

Computer Numerical Control (CNC) panel machining technology to be provided for Timberlink's state-of-theart CLT & GLT plant.

Timberlink Australia is delighted to partner with Hans Hundegger AG who will supply the key CNC machining equipment for the new Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) and Glue Laminated Timber (GLT) plant being built in Tarpeena, South Australia. The decision to commission Hundegger Australasia Pty Ltd comes following an extensive international review to find the best Computer Numerical Control (CNC) panel machining technology for Timberlink's state-of-theart plant.

"Timberlink is building a \$60m CLT & GLT facility to be opened in 2023, creating 50 full-time permanent jobs at full output" said Timberlink CEO lan Tyson. "The significant investment will see the construction of Australia's first combined softwood CLT & GLT manufacturing plant."

The initial phase of the CNC machinery supply includes a Hundegger PBA Industry machine, that will be able to process the full range of CLT products for the emerging residential and commercial solid timber market in Australia. The machine will be the first Hundegger PBA Industry CNC line delivered to the Southern Hemisphere and will use the latest in CNC automation technology to precisely custom cut CLT pieces to order.



The new Hundegger PBA Industry machine weighs around 80 tonnes and this critical mass allows the single or dual processing spindles to take full advantage of their 63kW power to deliver unparalleled speed and accuracy. The tool magazine and automatic tool changer ensure maximum productivity and the Hundegger CAMBIUM software helps deliver high efficiency and process optimisation.

Hans Hundegger AG in Bavaria, Germany are one of the world leaders in building multi-axis CNC machines for solid timber processing with a proven track record with local support, industry expertise with mass timber processing. Along with the specialised Hundegger CAMBIUM software, these were influential factors in the decision to choose Hundegger as the CNC machinery partner.

"The combined project experience of Timberlink and Hundegger and the understanding of the market expectation and opportunities in mass timber will help ensure a successful project" said Sam Rowe, General Manager of Hundegger Australasia.

IHG Expo









The IHG Expo was held virtually during February, continuing a trend that has spread around the world. Members were able to log into the virtual hall, choose suppliers they wanted to see and book times to talk to staff in either "Zoom style" meetings or just chat through messages.

National Key Account Manager Sue Wood said "there were lots of learnings for suppliers and members alike. As expected, the most frequently asked question was regarding timber supply. This was an opportunity to discuss the current market conditions regarding unprecedented demand, reduced import volumes and also Timberlink's positive production performance."

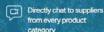
"I believe there will be more virtual expos going forward. We may see a more hybrid type event where it's easier for members to attend. Nothing replaces face to face engagement but certainly the content of the expo can be made available to a wider audience for customer members and suppliers" said Sue.













TIMBER CARE

Timberlink is improving timber quality through investment and innovation

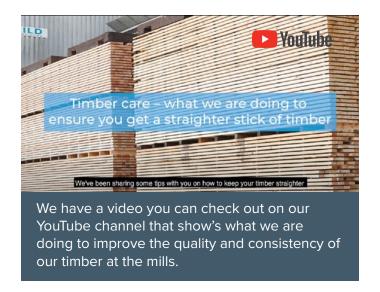
Here at Timberlink we take the quality of our timber seriously and we know the importance of a consistent stick of timber for our frame and truss manufacturer customers.

The Lucidyne scanner is an example of our investment in process control that ensures each piece of timber is scanned for key attributes to meet grading specifications. Timberlink has installed Lucidyne scanners at both Tarpeena and Bell Bay mills as part of the \$100m Australian mill upgrade program to be completed this year. Upon completion of the Tarpeena mill upgrade, production volume will increase by around 15% to service our loyal customers.



Lucidyne scanner

- Photographs each board as it passes through at an incredible two boards per second
- Analyses images for patterns that the software has been trained to recognise, such as knots, saw marks, and more than 50 other characteristics
- The machine learns from continuous feedback and becomes faster and more accurate over time



Quality Management Strategy

Timberlink's investment is further supported by the Quality management strategy. The underpinning strategy of Quality management at Timberlink encompasses four pillars to deliver consistent product quality, optimise performance and exceed customer expectations.

Quality is paramount to Timberlink's journey and we continue to strive towards improving the processes and systems to ensure we produce the most consistent stick of timber possible from this natural product.







Meet Dinu ChettiarGroup Quality Manager

In addition to investing heavily in the latest, state of the art and efficient plant technology from around the globe, we now have the skills and experience of a highly qualified professional Dinu Chettiar in the role of Group Quality Manager to help further improve the consistency of our timber.

Dinu is a man of many talents, an engineer by trade with a master's degree in engineering, MBA and a certified six sigma green belt professional along with several other lean certifications under his hat.

Having worked in sales, operations, procurement, kaizen and supply chain, Dinu has seen all facets of manufacturing within various businesses. He has spent 17 years working in industries across various business models including plastics, metal, beverages and aluminium to name a few.

The new position of Group Quality Manager was created to support Timberlink's drive for continuous quality improvement, and we are delighted that Dinu has joined the team. Dinu has been rapt with the move so far "it is a fantastic bunch of people here at Timberlink, they're open to new ideas, show great teamwork, they're always looking for new technologies and looking to invest which is certainly not always the case with all businesses".

Having collaborated with residential and commercial projects in the construction industry, Dinu had some knowledge of timber as a building material, and it is part of what made him make the switch to Timberlink. "Sustainability and the environment was a key attraction, I'm a big believer in environmentally friendly building and renewability."

Q. What are the major improvements you are looking at implementing? Did you come in with an overall philosophy or did you come with an open mind?

A. Quality management is a fundamental concept you can apply to any business, it is a continuous improvement journey, and it is up to the business on how much effort and focus they put into it. Here at Timberlink I'm pleased to say that they are investing heavily on quality and continuous improvement

Specifically on how to go about it, at the end of the day if you do not measure then you do not improve. So, at Timberlink we've listened to our customers and have committed to improving and setting the standard of quality in the business with the clear criteria of what is to be done to achieve results aligned to consumer demands.

In Dinu's spare time he loves travelling, playing cricket, badminton and basketball. We hope you join us in wishing Dinu all the best in his new role and hope you notice that Timberlink's investment results in a more consistent stick of timber.



Australian construction activity

Demand for house construction has increased since the introduction of the government's HomeBuilder assistance program in June 2020.

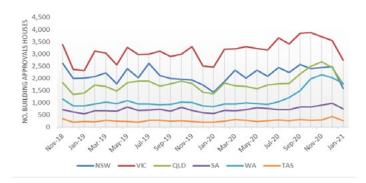
In addition to this demand it is being stimulated by new build owner-occupiers having access to the First Home Loan Deposit Schemes and the various State Government first homeowner grants. Although COVID-19 restrictions have negatively impacted employment, economic growth is gradually improving while home mortgage rates remain at record low levels and lending guidelines have eased.

Originally planned to finish in December 2020, HomeBuilder was extended to March 2021 with construction commencement requirement extended from 3 to 18 months, prolonging the deadline for prospective home owners to commence new builds or major renovations. Compared to the same period last year, in the 3 months to Jan-21 building approvals for houses were 45% higher nationally. All States experienced significantly higher approval levels, with WA more than doubling.

Easing in residential building activity is expected when HomeBuider ceases in Mar-21 with a substantial level of future demand pulled forward to take advantage of the \$25,000 grant, however given the improving economic conditions the decline is forecast to be short lived.

The construction pipeline for houses as at Sep-20 was expanding as the number of houses under construction grew by around 2,500 to reach 58,400 nationally, with NSW, WA and VIC experiencing the highest growth at 7%, 6% and 5% respectively. As commencements are outpaced by building approvals the number of approvals not yet commenced has grown by over 1,000 over the 12 months to Sep-20, with the largest increases in NSW and WA.

Number of house building approvals

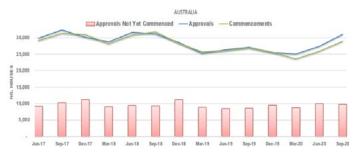


Source: ABS

Alterations and Additions (A&A) expenditure has also experienced a HomeBuilder boost with a \$25,000 grant available for substantial renovations. In the 3 months to Jan-21 national A&A spend reached \$2.3 billion representing almost a 30% increase above the same period last year, with WA and QLD leading growth amongst the States.

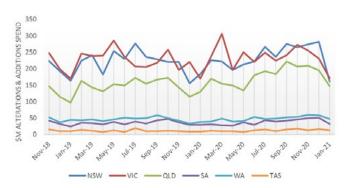
Small scale 'Do It Yourself' projects, not included in A&A expenditure, have also been growing rapidly, as COVID-19 'stay at home' restrictions have created more attention to home improvements. Retail sale of hardware, building and garden supplies, including timber, have increased by 21% comparing the 3 months to Jan-21 to the previous year.

Number of houses



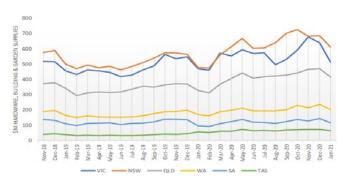
Source: ABS

\$M Alterations & additions spend



Source: ABS

\$M Hardware, building & garden supplies



Source: ABS



Women in timber

The timber industry was historically dominated by men, but things are changing fast both inside the mill and in the office. We spoke in depth with Denise Morrison and Carley Murphy, about their careers, the challenges they have faced and about why a career in timber is something young women should consider.



Q. What is your background and how did you enter the timber industry?

Denise: I moved to take up my current role as Operation Excellence Manager at Timberlink's Tarpeena Mill in Dec 2019. Prior to that, originally from Melbourne, I moved to Tumbarumba for family reasons and had a personal training business. I began working nightshift at Hyne and moved my way up to be the production manager of the Dry Mill.

Q. How did you end up in your current role - Operational Excellence Manager?

D: My original goal at Hyne was to become Dry Mill manager but my interest in lean manufacturing to help minimise waste in the business led me into a Business Excellence role supporting all managers and personnel on site, to implement change and improvements.

My lean manufacturing journey is now continuing as Operational Excellence Manager at Timberlink and I'm really enjoying getting stuck into the role.

Q. What are some of the challenges as a woman working in the industry? What can be done to improve this? What steps have been taken in your time that you have seen improve things for women?

D: From where I started in a small town, the boys were very "boysy". It wasn't until some people came from outside the town that women began to be promoted through the business. However I've been very lucky in that the people I've worked with and companies have been great.

There are always some guys around that try to be more dominant but I won't put up with it. I'm probably one of the lucky ones in that it hasn't affected me.

Q. What advice do you have for women who are thinking about entering the timber industry or male dominated industries in general?

D: Be yourself, do the right thing, work hard, you will be acknowledged, there are no limitations on what you can achieve. It's about hard work and putting your best foot forward. Be confident and speak up when the opportunities are there.

Q. People often assume working at a sawmill involves a lot of lifting and manual labour. Can you talk a bit about the automation of the industry?

D: Typically mills were about manual labour a long time ago, but with the automation there is no limitation to what we can do in any role. A timber mill is a highspeed manufacturing plant. We are there to oversee the machinery, not to run the machinery, there is minimal manual work. It is hands off not hands on. Your physique is not an issue, it is about your mind. There is mechanical, electrical, HR, sales, safety and admin not just operators. So I encourage anyone to get involved in timber. It is a great career and it feels good knowing you are working with a renewable resource.

Q. What is your background and how did you enter the timber industry?

Carley: I previously worked in Real Estate for 3 years but was looking for a job where I would spend more time out of an office and more time doing a task that required more thinking and more physical work. I enquired about the job advertised at Timberlink at the time and was told that I would start in the wrapping station with the opportunity to move up. It has been over a year now since being employed by Timberlink and so far I am enjoying each day and the people I work with.



Women in timberCarley Murphy, Dry Mill treatment re-wrap

Women in timber

Jo Dubash, Risk and Governance Manger (Left) Marita Pierce-Indugula, Group Product Manager (Right)

"I've loved working in the timber industry and there are so many opportunities in so many different fields" - Marita Pierce-Indugula

Q. What do you enjoy most about your role and the industry as a whole? How did you end up in your current role? Dry Mill treatment re-wrap

C: My current role here at Timberlink is treatment rewrap on the Fromm (pack wrapping) line. This involves wrapping the packs that have been treated so that they are ready to be sent out to our customers.

Other areas I have been trained and worked in are the grade station and the other main wrap station line. When I first started, I had no idea how many different grades of timber there were. Over the past 12 months I have been shown how to identify different grades and what each grade means. I found this really interesting and beneficial as now I have a great understanding of why we cut so many different sizes of timber and that each size and grade has a different purpose.

Q. What advice do you have for women who are thinking about entering the timber industry or male dominated industries in general?

C: To be honest I don't believe there are any challenges as a woman in the industry. When I first started, I worked with 3 other women at the wrap stations and felt completely comfortable, and the men I have dealt with on my shift have also been wonderful and have helped me if I had any questions and have helped me with learning new machinery throughout the mill. I have also noticed throughout my time here that more and more women are being hired and I think that is also great.



Q. People often assume working at a sawmill involves a lot of lifting and manual labour. Can you talk a bit about the automation of the industry?

C: Going from an office job to a sawmill was a big change for me, I had no idea what to expect or what it would even be like. It was nothing like I thought it would be, the jobs are definitely not what you think they will be when you picture working in a sawmill, it is all automated.

Previously packs were wrapped individually with just a trolley and plastic roll set up. Now that the Fromm line is installed the process is all automated so that the pack is called, the plastic is dropped on top on the way through, operators staple the plastic down and then it is sent through a strapper ready to be placed in dispatch. This automation makes things so much easier and more efficient, as well as taking some of the physical work out of it making it easier on the operators.

So overall the experience I have had so far has been great, and I would strongly encourage any young woman if they were looking for a change in their current lifestyle to jump in and have a go! The experience and knowledge you can gain could lead you down any path in the timber industry as there are definitely a lot more opportunities in this career.

Why Buy Aussie Timber First?

10 Top Reasons



Keep 45,000 local timber jobs

Sustain a whole supply chain of jobs and livelihoods especially in regional areas.



Supports Aussie homes and families

Buying Aussie timber supports Aussie homes, Aussie jobs and Aussie families.





Generate economic benefit of \$24bn in 2021

Help the country recover from COVID-19.



Short Lead times

Our domestic deliveries leave the mill gate & reach our customer within a few days.

Market understanding

Local knowledge helps us to anticipate changing market requirements.



Local supply you can trust

Local supply, local relationships that you know and can trust.





Support The Ultimate Renewable™

Aussie timber is manufactured for today and replanted tomorrow.



Store carbon from the atmosphere

Choosing timber in design and construction can help tackle climate change through storing carbon for life.



Any last-minute changes or variations are easily made onsite by carpenters equipped with all the tools they need.



Fire predictable

Timber maintains its structural integrity for a long time as it chars at a predictable rate.



Fun Facts!

Every house built stores almost 3 tonnes of carbon absorbs more than 7 tonnes of CO2 from the air

Australian softwood timber plantations would re-grow an average house frame in less than a minute

Australia's forest industries are renewable and replant more than 70 million trees every year.

Join our Buy Aussie Timber First Campaign:

www.buyaussietimberfirst.com.au

Join the conversation
@ausfpa #BuyAussieTimberFirst



Forest pathways learning



In February, Timberlink welcomed two students from Grant High School (Nathan and Ashton) for their first onsite experience as a part of the Forest Learning Pathways Program.

The program was set up for students in the Mount Gambier region who are wanting to pursue a career in the Forestry/Timber Processing Industry. Nathan and Ashton spent the week with different parts of our Tarpeena team, learning all about the sawmilling process, along with safety and a general introduction into Timberlink as a business, putting into practice what they had learnt in theory over the past 12 months.

Nathan and Ashton are in year 12 and Ashton is lucky enough to have a fair idea of what he wants to do once finishing high school. "I'm doing my Cert II in Engineering so that I can become a Fitter and Turner" said Ashton.

Nathan on the other hand is still deciding what to do post school and enjoyed seeing the wide variety of roles on offer in a large manufacturing site like the Tarpeena mill. "It was cool seeing all the high-tech gear, optimisation software and the packing and wrapping machines, but I really enjoyed doing the hands-on stuff."

The boys spent the Thursday with the maintenance crew and that is where they both excelled. "I liked getting into it with the maintenance guys" said Ashton.

Both students went into the week not knowing too much about Timberlink or how the timber cycle worked and learnt a lot along the way. "We didn't know that it was all renewable and replanted trees, and it was cool seeing the saw doctors and also how in depth the safety aspect of it all was" said Ashton.

This experience is the first of a number of onsite learnings scheduled for both first and second year students of the program in 2021, which is set up over three years to help educate students in the program about various career opportunities in the industry, culminating in a Cert II in either Sawmilling & Processing or Forest Growing & Management. The next cohort of students selected to enter the program will begin in February, with Jamie Irving and Ben Stow to present on behalf of Timberlink at the two day industry orientations.

We hope Nathan and Ashton had a wonderful week onsite and look forward to welcoming more students from the program across 2021.

Timberlink also have numerous careers days planned for Bell Bay in 2021, continuing our commitment to creating career pathways for students in both the Limestone Coast and Tamar Valley regions.



Forestry in the classroom

In Feburary as part of the Forest Pathways Program our very own Jamie Irving was presenting to the next cohort of students. This is a group of local year 12 students who are beginning the program this year.

Jamie presented slides on trees, the replanting cycle and then went into detail on how we turn those logs into finished products in ours mills. Jamie, who is a former Chef then went into detail talking about what a career in sawmilling looks like. Always an engaging speaker the students learn a lot from Jamie, and we hope to see some of them at the mill in the future.

The forest pathways program aims to help students transition from High School to a career in timber.



Introducing Isobel Nas - Tasmanian Account Manager



We'd like to introduce our newest Tasmanian Account Manager,

Isobel Nas. Isobel will be replacing the recently retired David Rollins, who after 30 years of service is taking a well-deserved permanent break to spend more time with his family.

Isobel recently graduated with a Marketing Degree (in the advanced 2-year program!) and is entering her first full-time job after making ends meet through Uni working in retail.

Her boss describes her as organised, friendly and sharp as a tack. All the things you want in an Account Manager.

For her part Isobel is delighted to be getting started in her career and hopes that as she gets to know customers she can help them as best she can. Her first task has been to build her timber knowledge and get to know all the terms and acronyms. "I'd really only heard of 90 x 45 before so I'm getting to know my H3's and LVL's and all the other terms I need to get started" said Isobel.

Isobel said she is delighted to be working in such an environmentally friendly industry "I did my research before accepting the job and was pleasantly surprised to find how sustainable it is and how good for the environment timber is. I had no idea every tree was replanted".

We look forward to seeing Isobel progress, please make sure you give her a warm welcome when you meet her.

Timberlink Blue

Protection from Termites with a 25-year guarantee



According to a report from Archicentre by the **Australian** Institute of Architects, the annual **damage** bill to homes from **termite damage** is around \$1.5 billion per year. For protection and peace of mind, use Timberlink Blue.

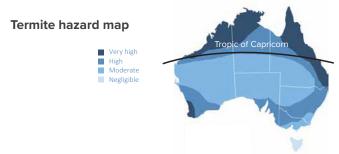
Timberlink Blue is the number one termite proof framing option for Australians below the Tropic of Capricorn. It is backed with a 25-year guarantee from Termites, including the West Indian Drywood Termite and European House Borers (EHB).

The product is made using the envelope treatment method, meaning the treatment is applied to the outside layer of the timber. The treatment is made with either imidacloprid or Permethrin as the active pesticide, and this is safe for families and pets. It has been approved by the APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority).

The best part is Timberlink timber is a renewable, sustainable product. Timberlink Blue is Manufactured in Australia from renewable Australian plantation pine. Every cubic metre of timber removes 631 tons of CO2 from the atmosphere and locks it into the timber for life. Timberlink Blue is suitable for use anywhere below the Tropic of Capricorn in Australia. Local councils will advise if you are building in a termite or EHB zone, in which case you will need to comply with National Construction Code (NCC) termite management requirements.

However, some areas that were not previously considered as termite zones are now seeing unprecedented levels of termite activity due to our ever-changing climate, particularly in areas around the urban fringe of Melbourne. This is leaving homeowners vulnerable, so please ensure you research your area thoroughly. This is particularly pertinent on Melbourne's outer edge, where termites are becoming an increasing threat in areas that were previously considered safe. Timberlink Blue's 25-year guarantee includes related labour and material costs, because we're serious about protecting homes and your families.

Timberlink Blue is treated to H2F level, which is suitable for use in internal, above ground framing applications, and is available in both F7 and MGP10. Where a design compliant with AS1720.1:2010 specifies the use of F7 material, Timberlink MGP10 can be substituted.



Termites in Melbourne







Question of the week

Q: Why doesn't Australia have enough softwood plantations to supply itself?

There is no single answer to this complicated question. "Australia produces around 80% of its own softwood timber supply in normal economic times" according to AFPA CEO Ross Hampton. "That's been the case forever and a day". The majority of Australia's current plantations were planted in the post war economic boom of the 50's and 60's and investment in new plantation assets since then has not been sufficient to meet Australia's growing demand.

"Australia has got a \$2 billion trade deficit in timber products. And yet we have a nation with plenty of land, plenty of people, we could be self sustainable if we put our minds to it. We should be producing more Australian jobs" said Ross Hampton.

A complicating factor is that much of what could be Australia's best forestry land is also prime agricultural land. Australia is a vast country and even if there were private agricultural holdings that were able and willing to convert to new plantations, proximity to processing facilities and major population centres also needs to be considered. A shift may be coming, with Ross Hampton hopeful that Carbon credits for plantations may commence within a year.

Australia's climate. brushfire risk and floods also contributes to decisions made around plantation assets.

Timberlink is fortunate to have two mills in Bell Bay Tasmania and Tarpeena in SA which are near two of Australia's largest areas of pine plantations. We also have an integrated ownership model with New Forests who manage plantation assets across Australia and the globe, providing access to pine plantations to support our mill upgrade and capacity investments.

Our socials





#construction #environment







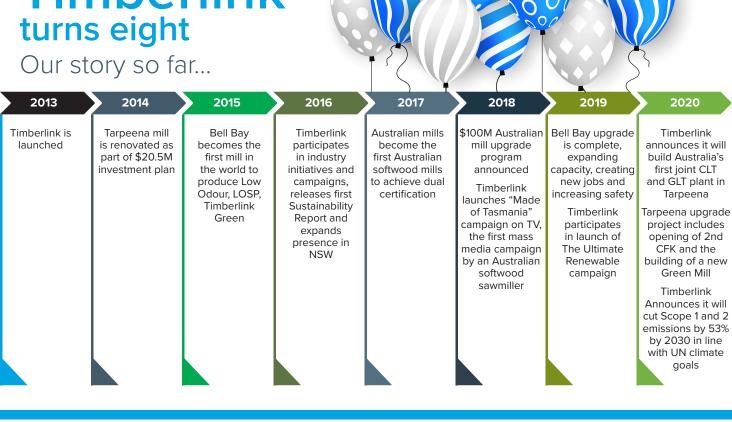
Careers

A career in timber is so much more than just a career in timber.

We are still actively recruiting as normal and we welcome any interest or resumes to **careers@timberlinkaustralia. com.au**. We are happy to review resumes from different industries at this time as well. If you or someone you know has been looking for a chance to work at Timberlink then you can keep up to date with our current availabilities at www.timberlinkaustralia.com.au/careers

CURRENT VACANCIES:	
Green Mill Production Controller	Bell Bay
Packer Stacker	Bell Bay
Despatch Forklift Driver	Bell Bay
Holtec Operator	Bell Bay
Electrical Process Improvement Engineer	Bell Bay
Mechanical Fitter	Bell Bay
Safety Advisor	Knoxfield
Management Accountant	Tarpeena
Green Mill Production Operator	Tarpeena
Green Mill Forklift Operator	Tarpeena
Electrical Maintenance Supervisor	Tarpeena
Electrical Process Improvement Technician	Tarpeena
Shift Electrician	Tarpeena

Timberlink







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