



### **Minister Launches Timber Innovation for WA**

Denis Cullity, Chairman of WESBEAM Holdings, announced today, following WESBEAM'S recent agreement with the State Government to build an eighty six million dollar Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) factory at Wanneroo, that the Minister for State Development, The Hon. Clive Brown MLA, will officiate at the project launch on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

Located in the new industrial area of Neerabup, 45 kilometres north of Perth, close to the Gnangara Maritime Pine plantation, the factory will produce 100,000 cubic metres per year of LVL, plywood and veneer from an annual intake of 160,000 cubic metres of pine logs, to be sourced predominately from Gnangara.

WESBEAM'S State Agreement secures the softwood intake for the plant under a 25 year contract with the Forest Products Commission.

WESBEAM was established to carry on the investigative work first commenced by WESFI prior to its merger with Laminex in February 2001. WESBEAM purchased the intellectual property gained by WESFI prior to the merger and has spent in excess of two million dollars since then in further research and plant design.

Mr Cullity explained, "The combination of the social, commercial and environmental benefits from an LVL industry in WA is unique. It will give the State an economic high value end use market for its Maritime Pine, provide employment in a technologically advanced world competitive forest products industry, pioneer a new industrial area in Perth's northern corridor, provide an impetus to the growing of commercial tree crops on salt threatened farming land, increase the potable water supply to the Perth area, provide a locally produced product for the State's building and construction industry and produce export income."

Construction and commissioning of the new plant will be completed by the middle of next year.

James Malone, WESBEAM CEO explains, “markets for the product are Western Australia, the Eastern States, Asia and North America, all of which have been thoroughly researched. The primary market thrust however, will be the local WA and east coast markets, where the opportunity exists to replace hardwoods with a modern engineered wood product sourced from plantation softwoods”.

The Hon. Clive Brown MLA will be on site at 2.30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, to officially drive in the first survey pegs for the new factory building.

The project is expected to provide valuable employment and training opportunities for 140 Western Australians and is an example of how innovative business development is adding value to State owned resource.

End.

---

Inquiries:

James Malone

CEO, WESBEAM

Tel: (08) 9445 7400 E-mail: [james.malone@wesbeam.com](mailto:james.malone@wesbeam.com)

Or

Carolyn Hamilton

Senior Consultant, Capital Public Relations

Tel: (08) 9381 1877 E-mail: [carolyn@capital.com.au](mailto:carolyn@capital.com.au)