



Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006

### **WESBEAM SUPPORTS BUNBURY ECOHOME**

Wesbeam is pleased to have supported the Bunbury ecoHOME project, which was officially opened to the public on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

A collaboration between South West Regional College of TAFE and the local building industry, the Bunbury ecoHOME aims to 'change the culture of the construction industry so that sustainability becomes the number one priority'.

The Bunbury ecoHOME also aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills relating to the design and construction of a house that embodies the latest advances in environmental, social, economic and technological elements of sustainability.

Wesbeam is one of a number of suppliers to the building industry who were chosen to support the project on the basis of their commitment to sustainability and the environmentally-friendly nature of their products, according to Bunbury ecoHOME Project Manager Sandii Rogers.

"We were keen to work with Wesbeam as we saw them as a good fit for this project – they are a Western Australian company that uses pine from a renewable source to manufacture LVL," Sandii said.

"It's wonderful that local Western Australian companies are aware of just how important the issue of sustainable development is, and how willing they are to get behind our local initiative to address the issue."

The Bunbury ecoHOME was designed by Design and Drafting students from the South West Regional College of TAFE, and constructed by the College's pre-apprentice students.

Construction commenced in April 2005, with the home being completed in early 2006.

The house will now be tenanted for 12 months to enable its energy-efficiency to be monitored and contrasted against traditional homes of similar size.

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Wesbeam Sales and Marketing Manager Denis A Cullity said that his company had followed the development of the project with interest.

“Wesbeam is always striving for innovation, and so we were delighted to be able to assist such a visionary project,” Denis said.

“We hope that the project provided useful practical experience for the students involved, but we also hope that the project has communicated a bigger message to the building industry and consumers - that it is possible to build a sustainable home that is affordable and desirable.”

The Bunbury ecoHOME was funded by the West Australian Department of Education and Training.

For more information about the Bunbury ecoHOME, visit <http://www.bunburyecohome.com>