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**Wesbeam becomes a certified Australian Made, Australian Grown manufacturer**

Australian owned LVL manufacturer Wesbeam has become the first engineered wood products manufacturer to be licensed to use the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo.

"We are the only company that manufactures LVL in Australia from plantation timber grown in Australia," Wesbeam Chief Executive Officer James Malone said.

"Our company is privately owned by Australian shareholders who have invested more than \$100m in creating a state of the art manufacturing facility in WA that produces quality, innovative products for the residential and commercial construction industries."

The Australian Made, Australian Grown logo is one of the most well known and respected brands in Australia.

"The green triangle with the golden kangaroo symbol is the most trusted and recognised (by more than 90 per cent of Australians) country of origin symbol in Australia," Australian Made Chief Executive Officer Ian Harrison said.

"Two thirds of Australians have a strong preference for buying locally made products; and products have to meet very strict conditions to be approved to use the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo. This gives consumers, whether they be individuals or businesses, confidence that they are buying quality goods that meet the stringent standards laid down for manufacturers here in Australia."

Wesbeam Chairman Denis Cullity AO was presented with the Australian Made, Australian Grown certificate by Australian Made, Australian Grown Chairman David Gray, following a visit to the company's \$100m manufacturing plant at Neerabup in Western Australia.

"We are delighted to welcome Wesbeam as a licensed Australian Made, Australian Grown manufacturer," David said.

"Having a business of Wesbeam's calibre on board with the Australian Made program gives us another opportunity to celebrate the innovative manufacturing that is taking place here in Australia, using Australian raw materials and expertise.

"It is exciting to see such a world class manufacturing facility right here in Australia, and gives us confidence that manufacturing in Australia has a secure future in the hands of businesses such as Wesbeam.

"Their commitment to being Australian owned, Australian based, and using Australian raw materials creates jobs for local people and creates investment in the national economy."

Wesbeam has an Australian-wide distribution network providing a range of LVL products to the residential construction industry.

"Being based in Australia and manufacturing in Australia enables us to deliver a timely and reliable service to our customers, and ensure we can quickly react to market requests by changing production schedules. This flexibility is not available to our imported competition," James Malone said.

"We have an exciting broad product range which we are constantly updating, based on our understanding of the needs of the Australian construction industry and feedback from customers.

"We also have security of pine resource supply, with full control over the supply chain and Chain of Custody certification that gives our customers peace of mind that they can rely on the quality of products and the origin of the timber used in the manufacturing process."

The Wesbeam board and senior management team has more than half a century's experience in the manufacturing industry in Australia, according to Wesbeam's Chairman Denis Cullity.

"As Wesply we pioneered the manufacture of plywood in Western Australia in 1942. Under the Wesfi banner we commenced the manufacture of Wesboard particle board in 1960 and in 1976 built Australasia's still largest particle board facility," Denis said.

"In 1984 in a joint venture Wesfi introduced large scale softwood sawmilling to WA under the Wespine brand and in another joint venture adhesives manufacture in 1988. The Weswood medium density fibreboard plant, another WA first, started production in 1990.

"This history of innovation culminated in the formation of Wesbeam in 2001 with LVL production coming on stream in 2004 in one of the most efficient LVL factories in Australasia."

Wesbeam currently has a staff of 130, servicing an Australian-wide customer base and has grown the business over the past 7 years to revenue of \$60m.

"Wesbeam is the only specialist engineered wood products supplier in the market place, where all of its revenues are derived from the manufacture and sale of engineered wood products," James Malone said.

"This unique position provides its customers with a competitive advantage as Wesbeam's full interest is focussed on increasing their business in engineered wood."

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