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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australian Softwood Timber Industry-wide Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Registered

The Australian timber industry has today registered the first industry-wide Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) as part of the new Australasian EPD Programme.

The Australian timber industry has supported development of the EPD through Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA). The EPD was produced by the Timber Development Association and sustainability expert thinkstep. The EPD will be available for building and design professionals via the *WoodSolutions* website. It is already available on the Australasian EPD Programme website.

The EPD confirms sawn Australian softwood as a "better than carbon neutral" building material considering cradle-to-gate and a typical landfill scenario.

"This project demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the Australian timber industry to sustainability", commented Chris Lafferty, Acting CEO of FWPA, "and I am pleased to see benefits flow to our members and levy payers from these credible environmental profiles."

"We are excited to be involved with these EPDs as they disclose technical environmental information based on robust international standards rather than greenwash," explains Barbara Nebel, Managing Director of thinkstep in Australia.

The EPDs will also benefit timber product buyers as it will be easier to get credits for using Australian softwood timber in Building and Fitout projects seeking a rating under the Green Star building rating scheme.

This EPD is the first of five industry-wide EPDs for Australian wood products authored by the Timber Development Association and thinkstep and independently verified by Catalyst. EPDs for Australian hardwood, particleboard, medium density fibreboard and plywood have also been finalised and will be registered in the coming weeks.

ENDS

Word Count: 261

BACKGROUND

About EPDs

An EPD is a standardised and verified way of quantifying the environmental impacts of a product based on a consistent set of rules that have been developed through a stakeholder consultation process. These impacts are based on the product's consumption of raw materials and energy, waste generation, and emissions to air, soil and water over its full life cycle. An EPD includes a carbon footprint alongside other environmental indicators.

About Forest and Wood Product Australia Limited

www.fwpa.com.au

Forest and Wood Product Australia Limited (FWPA), a not-for-profit company, is the forestry and wood industry's service provider, investing in research and development, and providing research results to the forest and wood products industry in Australia. FWPA aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian forest and wood products industry through innovation, and investment in effective and relevant R&D.

About WoodSolutions

www.woodsolutions.com.au

WoodSolutions is an industry initiative designed to provide independent, non-proprietary information about timber and wood products to professionals and companies involved in building design and construction.

About the Timber Development Association

www.tdansw.asn.au

The Timber Development Association (TDA) is a non-profit industry association representing all segments of the timber industry in Australia, from import, manufacture to supply. TDA was incorporated in 1938 and for over 70 years has effectively promoted the use of Australian and imported timber and timber products. Its aim is the technical advancement of the timber industry.

About thinkstep

www.thinkstep.com

thinkstep – formerly known as PE INTERNATIONAL – is the global leader in sustainability performance management. We help 2,500 businesses – including 40% of the Fortune Global 500 – academic institutions, governments and associations around the globe to succeed sustainably. Our professional services are based on over 20 years of experience. Robust and easy-to-use product and corporate sustainability software solutions are available on-demand or as part of a configurable solution. thinkstep's clients in Australasia include Fletcher Building, Villa Maria, New Zealand Wine, Meridian, David Trubridge, BlueScope Steel, OneSteel, Lend Lease, Bega Cheese and Dairy Australia.

About the Australasian EPD® Programme

www.epd-australasia.com

The Australasian EPD® Programme provides a platform across Australia and New Zealand for communicating credible environmental information. The Programme is aligned with the International EPD® System, to enable a harmonized and efficient platform for global EPD development and communication.

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