

# Media Release

5 May, 2016

IMMEDIATE

## Building specifiers highly receptive to National Code Change

*Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited (FWPA) are helping industry prepare for the changes to the National Construction Code (NCC), effective from May 1st 2016. Throughout Australia and across professional and market sectors, FWPA have been engaging with people in the design and construction industries most likely to be affected by the changes to ensure they are aware of the advantages of the new options.*

“Since April this year, we have informed and educated over 700 specifiers in partnership with professional bodies such as the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) and Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS), plus we’ve produced a mini-magazine and we are working on online information resources,” said Eileen Newbury FWPA’s marketing and communications manager. “It’s vital that we get out there and inform people about how they can benefit from the changes, otherwise they’ll just keep using the materials they are familiar with.”

Brett Mace, CEO of AIBS said “The training just completed for our members conducted in partnership with WoodSolutions has been an outstanding success with great feedback from members about how informative and beneficial this training was. AIBS is committed to providing quality training and information to members to ensure a higher level of professional development. This training has been a key component of this and beneficial for all involved”.

The education and information program will continue through a wide range of organisations and events and will be supported by a new WoodSolutions Technical Design Guide and on-line resources, explaining the code changes, scheduled for release in June 2016.

New building materials options under the code change will include both traditional timber framing and innovative massive timber systems, such as cross laminated timber (CLT) and Glulam, and require the use of appropriate layers of fire resistant materials, specified design detailing and sprinkler systems.

The drivers for adopting the new building practices will be cost savings and consequent potential increases in margins for developers and builders. Preliminary economic modelling indicates possible savings in the order of 10-15% in multi-residential and commercial build costs, primarily due to shorter construction times. Benefits to the timber industry, while dependent on the rate of uptake, are expected to be substantial.

### **About Forest and Wood Products Australia**

FWPA aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian forest and wood products industry through innovation by investing in effective and relevant R&D and promotion of the industry’s products, services and values. FWPA undertakes industry-level activities where a collective approach delivers more effective and valuable commercial outcomes than individual action. We deliver services that support the industry’s capacity as a major exporter and mainstay of regional communities in many parts of Australia.

“It is an exciting time for the forest and wood products industry,” said Eileen Newbury, “this is effectively an opportunity to explore and develop a new market – selling to a new audience of architects, designers, engineers and property developers who have been accustomed to using alternative materials in these mid-rise projects – and they may well expand beyond them as they become more familiar with the use of timber building systems.”

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