

Maximising Domestic Timber Value

Can we resurrect a biocomposites
economy?

21 October 2025



Mount Gambier- in the heart of the Green Triangle

Current building....

UniSA infrastructure & systems



A future building....

Opening 2026

Part of Mount Gambier
Education and Training
Precinct – Technical High
School & Vocational



FCoE - Vision & Mission for South Australia

- Enhance commercial competitiveness and profitability
- Identify new products and markets
- Deliver practices that maintain sustainability
- Enable national and international collaboration
- Enable technology/expertise transfer
- Provide safe work environment
- Promote the forest industries
- Educate next generation of foresters



Media Release



Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Forest Industries

Tuesday 21 March 2023

Forestry Centre of Excellence Strategic Plan launches vision for SA

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The Australian Resource

- 134 million ha total forest
- 1.71 million ha plantation
- 1.01 million ha Softwoods (Radiata, Southern, Maritime, Hoop pine)
- 673,820 ha Hardwoods (Shining gum/Tasmanian blue gum)
- Hardwoods: -3800 ha/Softwoods: +2339 ha



Softwoods

- **Sawn timber (framing)**
- **GLT/CLT**
- **Veneer/plywood**
- **Chips/Particleboard**
- **Fuel (Aspirational?)**



Hardwoods

- **Shining gum/blue gum planted for chip market**
- **Minimal silvicultural activities on short rotation (8-15 yrs)**
- **Chip market is down 25 to 50 %**
- **Many stands reaching >20 years**
- **What do we do with them?**



Plantation Hardwood Markets

- Real vs Aspirational
- Chips
- Sawn timber
- Veneers (LVL)
- Biofuels
- Bio-products



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South Australia



IS THERE MORE TO AUSTRALIAN TIMBER THAN CHIPS AND FRAMING?

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HOW DO WE MAXIMISE A LIMITED
RESOURCE AND ADD VALUE?

EWPP'S TO THE RESCUE?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman_%28franchise%29

Engineered Wood Products

Glue-laminated beams/Cross laminated timber

Laminated veneer lumber (LVL)

Plywood

Particleboard/Medium density fibreboard

I-joists

SOVEREIGN CAPACITY



EXISTING EWP FACILITIES

Product	# Facilities	Locations
Medium density Fibreboard	6	QLD, NSW, VIC, SA
Particleboard	6	QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA
Laminated veneer lumber	1	WA
Plywood	5	NSW, VIC, TAS
Glue laminated timber	7 (?)	QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS
Cross laminated timber	3	VIC, SA, TAS

EWP IMPORTS (FWPA)

Product	Volume (m ³)
Oriented Strandboard	26,127
Particleboard	15,000
LVL	105,000
Plywood	408,000
Medium density fibreboard	125,752

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Imported EWPs=1 billion dollars/year
China Supplies Half

WHY NOT MORE LOCAL PRODUCTION?



Wood Quality Matters



You can't make a silk purse
out of a sow's ear.

<https://www.google.com/Fwap.fraushoppy.com>



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EWP Constraints

- **Timber Supply**
- **Wood Properties**
- **Labour Costs**
- **Resin Costs**



WOOD QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

- GLT/CLT- will still use high grade timber
- Plywood/LVL will still need strong veneers
- Particleboard, MDF and OSB can live with lower quality



CLT & GLT



CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER



AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS COOPERATION (ATMAC)

- DPI Queensland developed LVL and GLT blue gum prototypes
- Warrnambool Timber Industries (WTI) develop full scale Blue gum GLT
- Demonstration products currently being installed across the region



LAMINATED VENEER LUMBER



P&B products



www.wesbeam.com.au

Mix Softwoods and Hardwoods



BY-PRODUCTS



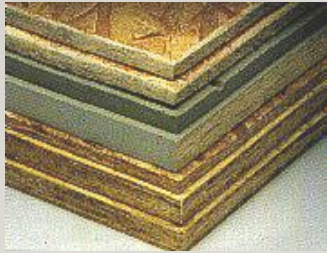
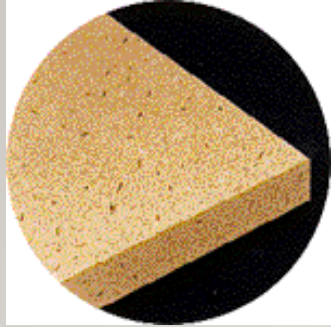
PARTICLEBOARD/MDF



ORIENTED STRANDBOARD?



OTHER PRODUCT TYPES



THE PATH FORWARD

- Plant more trees
- Educate architects/engineers
- Encourage reasonable wood first policy
- Support local processing (i.e. NexTimber)

