

MEDIA RELEASE

Premier of South Australia officially opens NeXTimber Cross Laminated Timber and Glue Laminated Timber facility and Timberlink Tarpeena green mill upgrade

Timberlink is pleased to announce the official opening of its NeXTimber[®] by Timberlink[®] manufacturing facility and upgraded green mill located in Tarpeena, South Australia.

The February 29 launch event was attended by over 300 people, including South Australian Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forest Industries the Hon. Clare Scriven, MLC, District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston, District Council of Grant CEO Darryl Whicker, Member for Mackillop, Nick McBride and CEO of the South Australian Forest Products Association, Nathan Paine.

Premier Peter Malinauskas said “this unique facility in South Australia’s Limestone Coast presents tremendous opportunities for value adding, product diversification and market expansion for the state’s \$1.4 billion forest industries as well as the ability to contribute to the construction of taller and more complex timber buildings.

“I congratulate the Timberlink team, and everyone involved in delivering this project which will have significant flow on benefits for the Limestone Coast economy and that of the whole state.

“The State Government is committed to a smart, sustainable and inclusive economic path for increase resilience and competitiveness for our forest industries and is why we were pleased to contribute \$2 million of funding towards this new state of the art facility.”

The newly commissioned NeXTimber facility is Australia’s only combined CLT and GLT (Cross Laminated and Glue Laminated Timber) radiata pine mass timber facility, and the first in Australia to be integrated with a structural timber manufacturing plant. The NeXTimber facility can produce CLT panels up to 16M long and 3.5M wide, and GLT beams up to 12M long. Mass timber products offer an exciting alternative to traditional construction materials and can help to reduce the embodied carbon of a project. These timber structures can be built up to 12 stories and even taller when combined with other materials in a hybrid timber construction.

Timberlink’s \$70M capital investment to build a mass timber production facility was announced in 2020, supported by a \$2M grant awarded by the SA government under the Strategic Business Round 2020 of the Government of South Australia’s Regional Growth Fund. The NeXTimber brand was announced in 2021 with the tagline “It’s what better tomorrows are built on.” Ground was broken with the first sod turn in Tarpeena in 2022 and construction of the site continued until late 2023. The facility has been taking orders since November 2023, a testament to the hard work of many. The NeXTimber facility has created new jobs not only during the construction phase, but on an ongoing basis with over 30 new full-time positions.

Minister Clare Scriven said “South Australia’s forest industries have a long and proud history of sustainably growing and utilising our local resources to address the growing demands for timber, both domestically and internationally.

“This new facility at Tarpeena continues that tradition of innovation, both by showcasing some of the world’s best new innovations and supporting greener, secure and modern employment opportunities, all critical ingredients towards ensuring Limestone Coast communities continue to thrive.

“This initiative, which the State Government is proud to support, links in with other government commitments to the industry including a \$15 million investment towards the establishment of the Forestry Centre of Excellence in Mount Gambier, the \$2.346 million upgrade of the South East fire tower network including the installation of ground breaking artificial intelligence based bushfire detection and monitoring system and the \$2 million contribution to assist the rollout of projects identified in the South Australian Wood Fibre and Timber Industry Master Plan.

“It certainly is an exciting time for the Limestone Coast and South Australian Forest industries as a whole.”

Timberlink’s NeXTimber facility development followed their 2019 announcement of a major timber manufacturing upgrade, with over \$90M invested over the following 3 years, installing a new saw line, stacker and edger, contraflow kiln and batch kiln and drying building. This project created over 200 jobs in the construction phase.

Timberlink Chief Sales, Marketing & Corporate Affairs Officer David Oliver said “This upgrade to the Tarpeena green mill is a testament to Timberlink’s commitment to innovation through timber manufacturing. By increasing the amount of timber that we can process here in the Limestone Coast region, we are directly supporting the local economy and jobs in the region.”

Timberlink CEO Paul O’Keefe said “We are well positioned to play our part in supporting the Australian government’s COP28 commitment to increase the use of timber in the built environment by 2030.”



Caption: (Left to right): South Australian Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forest Industries the Hon. Clare Scriven MLC, Timberlink CEO Paul O’Keefe, SAFPA Chair Tammy Auld, Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell MP, Timberlink Chief Sales, Marketing & Corporate Affairs Officer David Oliver, SAFPA CEO Nathan Paine inside the NeXTimber facility.



Caption: South Australian Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP & Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forest Industries the Hon. Clare Scriven, MLC stand in front of the NeXTimber building.



Caption: SA Premier Peter Malinauskas & Troy Bell MP observe Cross Laminated Timber in the NeXTimber facility.



Caption: SA Premier Peter Malinauskas officially opens the Tarpeena green mill upgrade and NeXTimber facility, unveils commemorative plaque.



Caption: Official Timberlink Tarpeena green mill upgrade and NeXTimber manufacturing facility commemorative plaque.

Timberlink media contact:

Alexa Hodgson | Communications Specialist

M | 0455 071 973

E | ahodgson@timberlinkaustralia.com.au

About Timberlink Australia & New Zealand

Timberlink (timberlinkaustralia.com.au, timberlinknz.co.nz) is an Australasian timber products manufacturing business. The business has two sawmills at Bell Bay (Tasmania) and Tarpeena (South Australia) that manufacture plantation structural pine products. Timberlink has sales and distribution teams based in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne and sales teams based at their Bell Bay manufacturing facility and Blenheim (NZ) sales office. Timberlink is a part of an integrated softwood forestry business that is managed by New Forests, a global investment manager of nature-based real assets and natural capital strategies, with A\$11 billion in assets under management across more than 1.3 million hectares of investments. Headquartered in Sydney, New Forests is a Certified B Corp and operates in Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, Africa and the United States. Visit www.newforests.com.au to learn more.