

# MediaRelease

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November 19, 2014

## New directors for FWPA

Three new directors were unanimously elected to the board of Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited (FWPA) at its recent annual general meeting (AGM).

In line with FWPA's practice of aligning its AGM with relevant industry organisations, the meeting was held on Friday 14 November, during the 2014 Seminar, 'Engineered Wood Products – from here to the future', hosted by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA) and FWPA.

"As FWPA continues to deliver effective and valuable commercial outcomes for its members, we welcome the addition of three outstanding new board members," said Ron Adams, Chair of FWPA's board of directors. "Their global and local experience and expertise in strategic, business and marketing management will enhance the board's leadership."

Addressing the AGM, FWPA's chairman thanked his fellow directors for their commitment and contribution in their diligent oversight of the company as it refocused its activities over the previous financial year. He also acknowledged the valuable contribution of Vince Erasmus and Evan Rolley over their terms as directors of FWPA. "Both Vince and Evan have added immensely to the development and direction of the company."

At a subsequent board meeting, the directors re-elected Ron Adams as Chair and John Simon as Deputy Chair.

Candidates to the FWPA Board are selected by an arms-length director selection committee, which includes representatives from four national associations. The candidates that were nominated, and then elected by the company members, were Mr Jim Henneberry, Mr Brian Farmer and Ms Christine Briggs.

Jim Henneberry is the former CEO of Australian Paper and has held CEO and Director positions with Carter Holt Harvey, International Paper and other international companies. He has a strong global track record of leading large complex, private and public businesses and in balancing an operational focus with strong strategic leadership.

Brian Farmer is the current CEO of HQ Plantations and a member of FWPA. His responsibilities include strategic development and management of the company's resources through leadership and sound policy advice to the Board and investors.

### 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.

Christine Briggs is General Manager, Marketing and Business Development for Timberlink Australia, a member of FWPA. She will bring high-level sales and marketing skills to the Board, having held senior roles in these areas with major timber manufacturing businesses.

On behalf of the new directors, Christine Briggs said, “We look forward to working together with the existing board members and management team to continue to build upon FWPA’s successes and deliver effective and valuable outcomes for the forest and wood products industry”.

“As we move forward, it’s a huge benefit to be able to get advice from a board made up of such experienced business leaders,” said Ric Sinclair, managing director of FWPA. “I’m very grateful for the ongoing support of all the directors.”

The Engineered Wood Products seminar held on November 13 and 14, 2014, was attended by over 130 senior management and industry leaders in forestry, timber processing wood products supply and distribution and others interested to hear about future trends that have had an impact on the forest and wood product sector.

The program speakers, both international and local, represented a vast amount of global knowledge and provided valuable insight into the future of engineered wood with an update on innovation in new products, new market applications and supply dynamics that have impacted Australian forestry, production and market supply.

Key political leaders also attended the seminar and dinner. Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture addressed the audience on the Thursday and participated in a lively and informative panel discussion and The Hon. Warren Truss, Acting Prime Minister was the after dinner speaker at the well attended Industry Dinner.

The audience found the seminar and dinner to have been extremely successful. “Speaker presentations have shown that while conditions remain challenging, there is indication of improvement in market conditions for the industry”, said Ric Sinclair.

## **ENDS**

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[AGM presentation can be viewed online here](#)

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