



Forest & Wood
Products Australia
Knowledge for a sustainable Australia



thinkstep



■ MEDIA RELEASE ■ MEDIA RELEASE ■ MEDIA RELEASE ■

27 October 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Plywood, Particleboard and MDF Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) make the full suite available to Australian designers seeking Green Star and environmental ratings

As sustainable design becomes increasingly important, so do the tools that enable the environmental impact of a structure to be calculated and assessed. Now five WoodSolutions Environmental Product Declarations, Softwood, Hardwood, Plywood, Particleboard and MDF are available for free download from www.woodsolutions.com.au.

Now architects, designers, building surveyors and other professionals seeking to maximise environmental assessment and sustainable design can access the the full suite of Australian timber industry Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), published through the new Australasian EPD Programme.

These new publications comply with the requirements for an industry-wide EPD under the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star rating system in that; they conform with ISO 14025 and EN 15804; they have been verified by an independent third party; they have at least a cradle-to-gate scope and the participants in the EPD are listed.

The publications can also help project teams to conduct a Green Star compliant, whole-of-building, whole-of-life Life Cycle Assessment to obtain additional points under the Materials category of the current Design & As Built and Interiors rating tools as well as under the Innovation Challenge category of the legacy Green Star rating tools.

"Publishing the five Australian EPDs shows that the Australian timber industry is committed to offering our customers usable and practical evidence of the sustainability of our products", said Eileen Newbury Marketing and Communication Manager of FWPA, "I look forward to seeing benefits flow to our industry as more design and building professionals recognise the value of wood and wood products as integral parts of sustainable design."

"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 five industry-wide EPDs for Australian wood products have been authored by the Timber Development Association and thinkstep and independently verified by Catalyst.

[See here for EPDs](#)

ENDS

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.

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Dunn

CEO

Timber Development Association

Ph: +61 2 8424 3700

andrew.dunn@tdansw.asn.au

Dr Barbara Nebel

Managing Director

thinkstep Pty Ltd

Ph: +61 3 9015 9455

barbara.nebel@thinkstep.com

www.thinkstep.com

Jake McLaren

Programme Manager

The Australasian EPD Programme

NZ +64 21863 806

www.epd-australasia.com

Eileen Newbury

Marketing and Communication Manager

Forest and Wood Products Australia

Ph: +61 3 8424 3700

eileen.newbury@fwpa.com.au