

## MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New WoodSolutions Technical Design Guides take timber flooring further for new commercial applications**

*New timber cassette and timber concrete composite (TCC) flooring systems are set to deliver spans of up to 10m while increasing structural efficiency. Two new free Technical Design Guides from WoodSolutions [www.woodsolutions.com.au](http://www.woodsolutions.com.au) provide design descriptions and full engineering details.*

These two new publications bring the total number of WoodSolutions Technical Design Guides to more than 30. In total the Guides have been downloaded more than 100,000 times from the WoodSolutions website – [www.woodsolutions.com.au](http://www.woodsolutions.com.au).

Although little used in Australian commercial and retail construction, timber composites have been extensively specified in bridges. In Europe however, timber composite systems have been widely applied since the early 1920's, largely owing to steel shortages following the First World War. Now, two new WoodSolutions Technical Design Guides; #30 – Timber Concrete Composite Floors and #31 Timber Cassette Floors provide engineers, architects and building designers with the information they need to gain the benefits of these exciting timber flooring options.

Until now, traditional joist and beam timber floors have been limited to a span of around 6 metres, these new options increase the possible span to up to 10 metres. The 66% increase opens new opportunities for timber in buildings where larger open spaces and structural efficiency provide clear commercial advantages. These new applications include office and retail buildings and many other commercial and educational structures.

“Architects and building designers will find the Guides informative in terms of providing descriptions of new design options,” said Fred Moshiri, structural engineer with the Timber Development Association, “while engineers will discover worked examples of the calculations needed to support their application.”

The new Guides are based on the results of years of research by the Structural Timber Innovation Company (STIC), a unique collaboration between Australian and New Zealand commercial and academic partners to create innovative structural timber solutions. Part of the Expan prefabricated construction system, future Guides will cover long span LVL portal frames and trusses and innovative moment connections.

Hard copies of the guides are also available through SAI Global [www.saiglobal.com](http://www.saiglobal.com)

“This is another step in bringing timber into the commercial and industrial design age,” said Eileen Newbury, the marketing and communications manager of Forest and Wood Products Australia, “as prefabrication and timber technology gain more traction in the design and construction sector, it's important that the industry, through FWPA and WoodSolutions, support and accelerate it with relevant and reliable information and resources.”

**About WoodSolutions™ & Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited (FWPA)**

WoodSolutions™ is managed by FWPA and supported by companies and organisations in the Australian forest and wood products industry.

FWPA 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. FWPA undertakes industry-level activities where a collective approach can deliver more effective and valuable commercial outcomes than individual action.

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