

## EWPAAs laboratories unmatched in scope of wood testing services

### Office relocation one of efficiency and consolidation

*THE wood testing services now provided by the EWPAAs were unmatched anywhere in the southern hemisphere, the general manager Simon Dorries said at the opening of the association's new offices and laboratories in Brisbane.*

The facilities at Eagle Farm were dedicated on March 28 by Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture.

About 40 EWPAAs members, industry leaders, government officials and timber and forest sector representatives from five states, the ACT and New Zealand inspected the premises.

General manager Simon Dorries said the shift was one of efficiency and consolidation.

"All refurbishments were carried out by staff members and building materials for the renovations were donated by EWPAAs members," he said.

Simon Dorries and laboratory manager Suzie Steiger took guests on a tour of well-positioned stations that test samples for structural and bonding strengths, windloads and formaldehyde emissions including inspection of a giant reaction testing frame that assesses the racking capacity of thin panel bracing walls and systems such as plywood and MDF.

### EWPAAs 'Steiger-counter' keeps eye on quality



**Ever-vigilant .. EWPAAs laboratory manager Suzie Steiger tests product samples for formaldehyde emissions. All certified products are tested at the temperature-controlled Brisbane laboratories on a monthly basis under the Joint Accreditation Australia-NZ System (JAS-ANZ).**

Mr Dorries said EWPAAs certified products were guaranteed and tested under strict National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation rules, something not all products could claim.

### Certified products all tested under strict NATA rules

The association also had been granted JAS-ANZ accreditation as a certification body under the Australian Forest Certification Scheme Chain of Custody Standard.

He said samples from member plywood and LVL mills were tested

daily with other properties tested on a monthly basis. The schemes were accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australian and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)

Mr Dorries said the association had a proud history that was continuous back to May 1934 when nine Queensland manufacturers founded the Queensland Veneer and Plywood Board.

"Throughout our long history, the association has been fiercely independent of government funding supported on a voluntary basis by veneer, plywood, LVL and wood panel manufacturers," he said.

### Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of the EWPAAs Bulletin, a regular information news and information service for architects, timber engineers, specifiers and builders.

Through this newsletter, the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia provides technical information, advice on Australian and New Zealand building codes and standards, updates on forest and forest product certification and building materials performance.

Inquiries or requests for further information on any of the reports in the EWPAAs Bulletin – or any advice required on EWPAAs/PAA certified plywood, LVL and wood panel products – can be directed to +61 7 3250 3700.

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Web: [www.ewp.asn.au](http://www.ewp.asn.au)

A list of EWPAAs members and their contacts appears on Page 8.



# Richard Colbeck officially opens new EWPAAs offices and lab at Eagle Farm

SENATOR Richard Colbeck, federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, officially opened the new administration offices and testing laboratories of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia in Brisbane on March 28.



**Official opening .. gathering at the new EWPAAs office and laboratories at Eagle Farm in Brisbane are Ross Hampton, CEO, Australian Forest Products Association, Rob de Fegley, national president, Institute of Foresters of Australia, Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, who dedicated the building, Peter Volker, forestry adviser to the senator, and Simon Dorries, general manager, EWPAAs.**

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About 40 industry leaders and EWPAAs members were shown through the new facility by EWPAAs general manager Simon Dorries and his technical staff.

"The transfer of EWPAAs headquarters from Newstead to Eagle Farm is a sensible move," Simon Dorries said.

"It consolidates all of the administration and laboratory testing facilities at the one site."

"EWPAAs can now be justly described as providing the most up-to-date timber testing services in Australia, and possibly Australasia."



**Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture (fourth from left) and Simon Dorries, general manager, Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, with the special plaque commemorating the official opening by Senator Colbeck of the new EWPAAs office and laboratories at Eagle Farm in Brisbane. Joining in the ceremony are EPWAA staff members, from left, Sonia Moore, Ahasan Quereshi, EWPAAs director, administration manager, Suzie Steiger, laboratory manager, Dennis Morrell, company secretary, and Andrew McLaughlin and Karrin Ryan, laboratory assistants.**

## TECHNICAL NOTE: SCAFFOLD DECKING COMPONENTS Revision of LVL scaffold planks to AS/NZS 1577:2013

*EWPAAs has produced a technical note in response to the revision of AS 1577: 1993 Scaffold Planks and the release of the new and updated replacement Standard AS/NZS 1577: 2013 Scaffold Decking Components.*

This technical note lists the changes in the 2013 version of AS/NZS 1577 that affect LVL scaffold planks. This includes those changes that affect utility or use. The note details:

**1. Specifications for Structural LVL Scaffold planks are now specifically listed in AS/NZS 1577: 2013.**

**2. Structural LVL scaffold planks will be 'duty rated' under**

**AS/NZS 1577: 2013.**

**3. The definition of the working load limit (WLL) for LVL scaffold planks has been modified.**

The test method and verification for plank strength has been modified in the 2013 version of AS/NZS 1577 to more clearly reflect how planks are used in service.

The technical note can be viewed at [www.ewp.asn.au](http://www.ewp.asn.au)



# Celebrating opening of new EWPAA office in Brisbane



Helping to celebrate the official opening of the new EWPAA offices and laboratories at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, are Tony Honey, managing director, PNG Forest Products, Bulolo, PNG, and Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts representatives Michael Murphy, marketing manager, LVL, Box Hill, Vic, and Cameron Rodger, technical director, Auckland, NZ.



Looking over the new premises of the EWPAA in Eagle Farm are Henk Van Zetten, Queensland manager, Wesbeam, Ahsan Qureshi, Wesbeam, and Noel Coxhead, Zelam, New Zealand.



Meeting up at the official opening of the EWPAA office and laboratories at Eagle Farm in Brisbane are Jim Burgess, Blackbean Services, Brisbane, Rob de Fegley, national president, Institute of Foresters of Australia, and Paul Michael, CEO, Weathertex, Sydney, and chairman NSW Timber Development Association.

## Sending strong messages online about worth of EWPAA products

**Breathe easy**

**EWPAA products are the solution to any concerns over emissions**

Products manufactured by members of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia meet all standards for emission levels and are TESTED to be below formaldehyde levels demanded by health authorities. EWPAA products are certified Super E0, E0 and E1 under a strict JAS-ANZ accredited system. Laboratory tests by EWPAA have shown some imported wood panels with emissions greater than 3 mg/L – well above safe levels recommended by the federal government's National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

**Don't risk it.** Specify EWPAA products stamped with the approved certification.

NICNAS, which is responsible for the assessment and safe use of industrial chemicals, has advised construction workers and wood panel users against the use of products that contain formaldehyde exceeding the low emission limits of E0 and E1.

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**ewpaa**

**Don't buy a lemon!**

Trust only tested and certified products that are guaranteed. Untested and non-certified structural plywood, wood panels, LVL and formply can cause serious accidents – even deaths – on building sites, resulting in litigation and can be traced to the source of supply.

The risk is too great: • Damage to your business • Possible loss of life • Legal action

EWPAA members' products are independently tested to the highest standard; guaranteed to comply with Australian and New Zealand building codes and standards; certified under JAS-ANZ accredited product certification scheme; guaranteed to be safe and to carry the designated design load; meet the safety and quality requirements of trade unions; meet all workplace health and safety standards.

**The choice is obvious.** Specify EWPAA products stamped with the approved certification.

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**ewpaa**

An online campaign based on the safety, compliant and sustainable attributes of certified EWPAA products is aimed at universities, schools, training organisations, building authorities in Australia and New Zealand and the electronic media

**Make the right move**

**Don't risk it.** Specify EWPAA products stamped with the approved certification.

Don't be a pawn for the cheap and risky. Trust EWPAA tested and certified structural plywood, wood panels, LVL and formply – and stay in the game.

**Know the risks.**

- Damage to your business
- Possible loss of life
- Legal action
- Media exposure

EWPAA products are independently tested to the highest standards; guaranteed to comply with Australian and New Zealand building codes and standards; certified under JAS-ANZ accredited product certification scheme; guaranteed to be safe and to carry the designated design load; satisfy the safety and quality requirements of trade unions; meet all workplace health and safety standards.

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**ewpaa**

**If you think using Risky Interior Products is the way to go because they're cheaper... then you'd be DEAD WRONG!**

Trust only tested and certified products. Untested and non-certified structural plywood, wood panels, LVL and formply can result in litigation and can be traced to the source of supply.

The risk is too great: • Damage to your business • Possible loss of life • Legal action • Media exposure

EWPAA branded products are independently tested to the highest standard and guaranteed to comply with Australian and New Zealand building codes and standards. The designated design loads that meet the safety and quality requirements of trade unions and comply with all workplace health and safety standards.

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**ewpaa**

**It's a matter of trust.**

New Zealand engineered wood products – laminated veneer lumber and plywood – manufactured by member mills of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia

**They tick all the boxes**

- ✓ Made in New Zealand – keeping jobs at home
- ✓ Reliable supply
- ✓ NZ Building Code compliant – 50 year durability for structural plywood with an A-band
- ✓ All products specify Super E0 emissions certified under JAS-ANZ
- ✓ All products must pass rigorous testing
- ✓ Free technical advice from qualified engineers

**You pay for what you get.** Credentials of NZ wood are unbeatable. Imported wood doesn't make the cut! **You get what you pay for.** Don't risk it. Trust the home product.

Consent: CHW Woodproducts New Zealand  
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**ewpaa**

**Be Wood Wise**

- ✓ Consistent quality
- ✓ Structurally sound and safe
- ✓ Lowest emissions
- ✓ Wood from 100% legal forests
- ✓ Guaranteed to meet government standards
- ✓ Jobs security

**Why would you risk it?**

- Legal action
- Damage to your business
- Possible loss of life
- Media exposure

It's simple arithmetic. Add it up and the safest choice is engineered wood manufactured by EWPAA members.

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**ewpaa**



# Furniture industry 'sticks' to message on safety for Aussie engineered wood

## TESTED

...for emissions

This sustainable wood product has been tested against all standards for emission levels.

It's **TESTED** to conform to formaldehyde levels demanded by our health authorities.

All products manufactured by members of the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia are certified Super E0, E0 and E1 under a strict JAS-ANZ accredited system.

**EWPA products are the solution to any concerns over emissions.**

Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia  
Visit: [www.ewp.asn.au](http://www.ewp.asn.au)  
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### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia enforces standards for the monitoring, certification and labelling of formaldehyde emissions from its members' products.

EWPA continues to strive to produce products with ever reduced formaldehyde emissions, giving assurance that veneer-based wood products meet only the most stringent international standards.

#### What can you do to guarantee safe formaldehyde emissions?

- ☒ Choose PAA certified products that have been subject to rigorous independent third party testing
- ☒ Avoid using non-certified or unmarked product of unknown origin
- ☒ Choose products with a type A phenolic, or low emission amino plastic glue line. These will be labelled with emission classes Super E0, E0 and E1.
- ☒ Look for the formaldehyde emission label and choose products with the lowest emission class suitable to the application
- ☒ Allow products to air for a few days before installation
- ☒ Paint or varnish the plywood or LVL product to further reduce emissions

Formaldehyde is a common naturally occurring substance. Testing has shown the natural background concentration of formaldehyde in the environment can be higher than the emission levels from E0 labelled PAA products.

By choosing only genuine EWPA/PAA-stamped plywood and LVL products there is the assurance that nobody is submitted to high levels of formaldehyde.



*THE support of joinery companies and furniture manufacturers for a consumer awareness campaign inspired by the engineered wood sector is spreading across Australia.*

The Furnishing Industry Association of Australia has joined with the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia to distribute thousands of adhesive fliers to FIAA members that give assurances that Australian and NZ engineered wood products are tested to conform to safe emission levels demanded by health authorities.

"The campaign has been an immeasurable success with individual companies taking up to 10,000 of the 'green tick' stickers each and asking for more," FIAA general manager Dean Bracknell said.

The stickers carry a message that products manufactured by EWPA members are certified Super E0, E0 and E1 under a strict JAS-ANZ accredited system.

The campaign follows concerns by FIAA members about imported material, mostly from Asia, that has failed Australian standards for formaldehyde emissions.

One of Australia's best known bathroom furniture manufacturers based in the NSW Hunter Valley insists that all products leaving the factory carry the EWPA message.

General manager Marquis Bathroom Products Greg Miles said he had gone through his first batch of 2000 point-of-sale stickers .. "they're slapped on every cupboard vanity unit we ship out of the warehouse."

Apollo Kitchens in Sydney has ordered a further 15,000 stickers



**When you're on a good thing, stick to it .. FIAA general manager Dean Bracknell (left) and EWPA general manager Simon Dorries discuss the EWPA 'green tick' sticker consumer awareness campaign.**

after running out of them last month.

Greg Miles said he had talked to a lot of builders and renovators who had used imported products from Asia.

"Well, they tell me they've done that and won't do it again," Mr Miles said.

"These questionable imports are sinking to the lower end of the market – to people who at the end of the day don't care – and the rental home market where furniture could be ruined within 12 months."

## Builders have converted to local products away from Chinese imports

"I'll admit we used to serve this market but it got too cheap and nasty. Now we concentrate on the high-end of the market and use

consumer safety and protecting Australian jobs as a marketing tool."

Mr Miles said builders in the Hunter Valley who had been converted to Australian products away from Chinese imports, were prepared to pay \$200 or \$300 more for the local product.

"They're advertising the fact that they use safe products that meet Australian standards," Mr Miles said.

"They are saying 'beware of imports that are unbranded' and they are using this as a peace-of-mind marketing approach."

Mr Miles said as a company Marquis was simply asking the building sector to check that it's using Australian-made furniture products and that they carry the kangaroo stamp.

"We ask the question. We want clients to be cautious, careful – and inquisitive."

# EWPAAs ever-vigilant on performance testing of engineered wood products

*TECHNICIANS at the new EWPAAs testing laboratories in Brisbane are continuing to energise their already wide surveillance of the performance of engineered wood products in Australia and New Zealand.*

"The amount of independent laboratory testing performed through the EWPAAs certification system was, in most cases, significantly greater than that undertaken by many other schemes, EWPAAs laboratory manager Suzy Steiger said.

"A lot of product entering the market can be questionable, and in fact is often not what it seems," she said.

"Industry needs to be aware that some products are not tested or at most tested only once a year, whereas EWPAAs provides extensive independent testing to achieve JAS-ANZ accreditation under ISO Guide 65.

"Additionally, the EWPAAs system requires on-going testing; samples from members' mills which are collected daily are



**EWPAAs laboratory assistant Christian Hamlyn operates a machine to test the bending strength and stiffness of a plywood panel to determine the stress grade.**

forwarded to our laboratories at Eagle Farm fortnightly."

General manager Simon Dorries said EWPAAs certified products were guaranteed and tested under strict National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation rules, something not all products could claim.

[NATA is the government

appointed authority responsible for the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies, calibration services, producers of certified reference materials and proficiency testing schemes].

Mr Dorries said EWPAAs members' production was tested every day, in Australia – not in overseas laboratories, some with

questionable competence.

Also, EWPAAs supplied free technical support and site inspection and testing in the event of disputes.

"It is also important to realise our program is carried out on a non-commercial basis by a not-for-profit association," Mr Dorries said

## Free technical support and site inspection and testing in the event of disputes

He said unlike the EWPAAs scheme, some 'outside' schemes did not require daily sampling and testing, requiring that only records from the previous year's testing be made available on a yearly basis.

"This raises the possibility that a full year may expire between independent tests," Mr Dorries said.

"This is certainly evidence to challenge the credibility of some products manufactured under less robust and intense QA systems and schemes."

## Beware: 'not fit for purpose'

*A COURT decision has ruled plywood sheets manufactured in China and recently used in the construction of a NSW building were "not fit for purpose" and failed Australian standards.*

The costly outcome again drives home the message that such imported uncertified material – in this instance showing delamination – tested by authorities in China and purchased by a tradesman at a cost well below the price of local products, does not necessarily guarantee it is 'fit for purpose'.



**Laboratory technician Karrin Ryan marks up plywood samples for formaldehyde testing at the EWPAAs laboratory in Brisbane.**

Plywood and veneer wardrobes and joinery items imported from China and installed on a multi-unit building project in northern NSW last year were condemned after the Department of Housing found emission levels had "soared through the roof" and the health and safety of occupants was put at risk.

The project cost the developers an additional \$1.3 million to replace the furniture and employ plumbers, electricians and tilers in a complete re-build after the non-compliance order.





By DEAN BRACKELL  
General Manager  
Furnishing Industry  
Association of Australia

# Government procurement policy no-brainer for industry

It should be 'value for money' over 'least cost'

*STATE and federal governments are looking at current policy and policy framework on procurement.*

In New South Wales for example, the current contract 1006, Lot 8a-8d Furniture is under review. In the federal government space, there is a Senate inquiry on the 'current ratio of Australian goods and services versus imported goods and services utilised by the commonwealth through procurement procedures.'

FIAA supports the Furniture Cabinets Joinery Alliance submission to the Senate inquiry made on behalf of the industry.

In the media of late, there has been much said about government handouts to industries such as the car industry, the removal of tariffs and the closure of manufacturing plants throughout Australia. While the potential loss of jobs will be devastating, one way of developing manufacturing in Australia of all persuasions is through 'government procurement'.

To quote directly from the NSW Manufacturing Industry Action Plan (September 2012), procurement officers need to consider, "'value for money' over 'least cost' and should consider a cost-benefit approach that considers such multiplier benefits and whole life costs, including in relation to maintenance, servicing, quality and ongoing supplier relationships."

Procurement, when used correctly, can stimulate jobs, raise tax revenue and address skill shortage.

This isn't about going back to the bad old days of tariffs and 'protectionism'. On the contrary, procurement processes should



*Conferring at the ForestWorks industry conference in Canberra .. Richard Brooks, CEO, Cabinet Makers and Designer Association, Peter Kreitels, policy adviser, Furniture, Cabinets and Joinery Alliance, and Ron Scott, joint-chairman, FCS Alliance.*

ensure local suppliers have full and fair access to supply opportunities under direct government contracts and with prime contractors for major projects involving government funding. This includes consistency in relation to conformity with standards and no preferential treatment, deliberate or otherwise, for offshore suppliers.

If imported goods and products are fit for purpose, have been independently tested and certified as meeting Australian standards and, in the case of timber or timber-related products, have been manufactured from wood and wood products that are independently certified as meeting global forest management standards, then let it compete on the Australian market place with Australian manufacturers.

FIAA recommends that commercial and government specifiers, buyers or suppliers of timber furniture, joinery products and wood panels, for whatever use, need to be certain these products meet the applicable Australian standards (for example meet safe levels of formaldehyde such as with E0 and E1 board products); are tested in an accredited laboratory and are independently certified; contain no illegally logged material; and hold independent third-party certification

New Zealand has gone a long way to ensuring their procurement policy framework is fair and equitable and doesn't impact on their international treaty obligation through free trade agreements.

For example, Rule 65, Timber and wood products states: "Agencies

must apply the New Zealand Timber and Wood Products Procurement Policy when procuring timber and wood products." The key features of that policy are: agencies are required to seek legally-sourced timber and wood that can be verified by recognised third-party certification; agencies are encouraged to buy timber and wood products from sustainably-managed sources that can be verified by recognised third-party certification; and agencies are required to document, for audit purposes, the verification of the legality of timber and wood purchased.

## It is obvious New Zealand has got this policy right

It is obvious that New Zealand has got this policy right. It doesn't discriminate against imported goods or services or favour local manufacturers; it just has the policy and rules in place to provide open and fair competition that supports innovation and helps create a competitive, productive supply base that supports economic growth and development.

Local New Zealand manufacturers compete on a level playing field.

The Australian government and its state and territory partners, through their combined buying power, can play a leading role in ensuring manufacturing have a major role to play now and into the future. Governments should adopt a procurement approach rather than a purchasing approach.



# Hoop pine plywood turns old into new as architects restore 80-year-old home

## Design virtues of history and progress are well-mated in this Perth home

*OLD became new as a team of architects stunningly restored and refined a 1936 Queen Anne residence in Perth using the natural beauty of hoop pine plywood, provided by a Brisbane manufacturer 4400 km away.*

The project, The Casa 31\_4 Room House, is collaboration between Caroline Di Costa Architect and Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects. It won the 2013 Residential Award of Merit (interior spaces) in the Western Australia Design Institute of Australia awards.

The design features Austral Premium AC (exterior) and Austral Appearance Flooring provided by Austral Plywoods in Brisbane which has been operating since 1925.

### Collaborative work inspires success in restorative design

Both inside and out, this project renews a structure that dates back 80 years with a modern, faceted fascia and a classic-meets-contemporary interior.

From the approach, Casa 31\_4 Room House has a low-hanging, traditional bungalow entrance with hints at the progressive shapes moving toward the rear. It is as if the architects planned to tell a story of the building's history, showing its original inspiration at the entrance then progressing toward contemporary design in



**Interior living room at The Casa 31\_4 Room House.**

the rear.

The rear patio of the home showcases its full modern appeal, with a wild translucent screen fascia opening over a private and peaceful back yard. Collectively, the design virtues of history and progress are well-mated in this home, a balance maintained by a capable effort in architectural design.

Inside, the classic-meets-contemporary fusion is shown throughout. Some rooms, like the kitchen and stairwell, continue the angular and contemporary fashion of the house's rear section. Other rooms, like the den and single

bedrooms, feature recycled wood, brick and ceiling patterns that are furnished with contemporary features and modern art. Other rooms reverse this approach, with wild, angular room shapes furnished with mid-century modern furniture.

In total, this collaborative work by Caroline Di Costa and Iredale Pedersen Hook is a success in restorative architecture. It not only returns an aging structure to a modern appeal, it pushes the envelope with contemporary design to something greater than the sum of its parts.

Austral Premium AC (exterior)

plywood is a high quality plywood manufactured with a high grade face and a lesser grade back. Exterior plywood is suitable for semi-exposed applications.

Hoop pine, a designated marine species, is dimensionally stable, easy to work and is suitable for applications involving long-term exposure to Australia's harsh environment without fear of delamination. Hoop pine provides an excellent substrate for high quality exterior paint.

Austral Plywoods' exterior products are certified to Super E0, the lowest emission rating obtainable.

The exterior hoop plywood also complies with the structural standard AS/NZS 2269, and has a stress grade of F17.

Exposed core veneer used as a feature is increasing in popularity. Austral Plywoods produces exterior plywood with minimal core gaps to beautify this effect.

The Austral plywood flooring is suitable for clear finishing; the face veneer is a selected 'A' grade 2.5 mm hoop pine veneer. The plywood is manufactured to the AS/NZS 2269-2004 standard and complies with the EWPA-AJAS-ANZ Quality Control Program.

**The Casa 31\_4 Room House ..  
winner of the Western Australia  
Design Institute's Residential  
Award of Merit.**







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## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### PNG Forest Products Ltd (mill and offi ce)

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### PNG Forest Products Ltd (sales offi ce)

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### Rimbunan Hijau (PNG) Group

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## FIJI

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### Valebasoga Tropikboards Limited

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