

**EWPA MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 April 2021**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S HOMEBUILDER CONTRACT COMMENCEMENT  
EXTENSION WELCOMED**

Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement yesterday to extend the existing construction commencement deadline from six months to 18 months.

EWPA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gavin Matthew said, "HomeBuilder and associated State government stimulus measures have successfully underpinned increased consumer confidence and significant new home and renovations demand in key markets around Australia."

"Over the last few months, the building sector identified a strong need to smooth and prolong new housing and renovation demand into 2022. The Federal Government has responded by extending the existing six month timeline between signing a contract and construction starting to 18 months in the Homebuilder program. This welcome refinement will positively impact jobs, businesses, and communities right across Australia, and support the broader construction supply chain into 2022," Mr Matthew concluded.

The timber manufacturing sector produces many innovative, reliable, and renewable products that should be recognised as preferred building materials in a low emissions future.

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\* **About EWPA.** Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) is a member association for manufacturers of a broad range of engineered and solid wood products located throughout Australasia, including Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea. <https://ewp.asn.au/>