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Mill announcement

Wednesday, 4 February 2004

Timbermans Group yesterday announced that they will be seeking environmental approval for the establishment of a new greenfields site saw mill in Bombala.

The mill will be designed with a minimum potential volume capacity of 400,000m3 p.a. of logs. Work has already started on the design of the saw mill by Eden based mechanical design and construction engineers, Acora Reneco Group.

The new sawmill is scheduled to commence operations in January, 2006. Over the next nine months approximately, the Timbermans Group will be complying with the New South Wales Regulatory Approvals Process, to ensure the project meets all Local and State Government planning regulations.

This development approval process will involve the preparation and acceptance by Government of a detailed Environmental Impact Study. As a part of this process, a series of Public Consultation Meetings will be held to enable the community to comment on the proposal and put forward their views regarding the project.

The mill construction time is estimated to be fifteen months from the date of receiving all development approvals.

"Today's announcement completes many months of negotiations undertaken by the Timbermans Group," Ian R. Egan, Chairman of Timbermans Group said. "We have negotiated a long term log supply agreement with State Forests of New South Wales. This will provide the saw mill with 300,000m3 of saw logs each year for the next 20 years."

The majority of these logs will come from the Bondi and Coolangubra State Forest pine plantations.

"Timbermans Group is also interested in talking to other growers about log purchases from private estates located around Bombala. We would ultimately like to be processing at least 400,000m3 p.a. in the new sawmill," Mr Egan said.

The saw mill will create new direct employment for approximately forty full time people.

Additional jobs will also be created in the operations associated with log harvesting, transport, contract maintenance, the provision

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of supplies to the mill, as well as support services required in the town of Bombala. Total job creation in the region as a direct result of this investment is expected to exceed one hundred new positions.

"In the saw mill, the new jobs include supervisors and operators of specialist machines such as a sawmill head rig, curve sawing multisaw, edgers, a trimming, sorting and stacking system, with the training for these positions provided by Timbermans Group," Mr Egan said. "In addition employment will also be offered in positions of saw doctors, electricians, loader operators, and general mill support staff. As well as these operating jobs, there will be significant employment opportunities offered during the construction phase of the project."

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