

MEDIA RELEASE

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Timberlink launches NZ\$10 million capital upgrade programme and welcomes the District Council

Timberlink New Zealand have commenced a NZ\$10 million capital upgrade programme at their Blenheim mill, and welcomed representatives of the Marlborough District Council (MDC) who attended the launch event. The pine products manufacturer shared how these investments will grow performance, and introduce environmental improvements for the site.

“The investments are a combination of new major capital equipment, upgrades for safety and environmental management improvement, and also other general process improvement upgrades. We will improve the recovery from milling our softwood logs and use the efficiency improvements to generate increased volume throughput. We will also decrease specific energy consumption for the Blenheim site,” explained Mr Romon Spiers, General Manager, Timberlink’s Blenheim sawmill.

Planning is well underway for this upgrade programme, and over NZ\$4 million in capital upgrades will be spent in just the balance of this financial year (FY16). As part of this, two Contra Flow Kilns (CFKs) will deliver a step-change improvement in the site’s manufacturing capacity and efficiency, and remove current drying bottlenecks. The conversion to CFKs will decrease both electricity and heat consumption per unit of production.

Not only will this programme modernise the mill, it will also have a positive effect on the local community, with more employment created. Blenheim mill staff will benefit from significant upskilling. Local contractors and suppliers will also benefit from additional work and services required at the site. All this local investment is good news for the Marlborough economy.

“We are focussed on being a sustainable business operating in the Marlborough region, with the support and endorsement of the local community,” commented Mr Ian Tyson, Timberlink’s CEO who attended the event alongside members of Timberlink’s Lead Team; Mr Mark Wheeler, MDCs CEO; and other representatives from the MDC.

The unique combination of efficiency, safety and process improvements will position Timberlink New Zealand to become a safer, more productive, competitive business, all supporting a sustainable business future. Cementing their role as a leading pine products manufacturer in Australasia.

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Initial Timberlink media contact

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About Timberlink Australia | New Zealand

Timberlink (timberlinkaustralia.com.au | timberlinknz.co.nz) is a leading Australasian timber products manufacturing business. The business has three sawmills at Bell Bay (Tasmania), Blenheim (New Zealand) and Tarpeena (South Australia) that manufactures plantation pine, has sales and distribution teams based in Perth, Adelaide, and Melbourne as well as a sales team based at the Bell Bay and Blenheim sawmills. Timberlink produces fit-for-purpose indoor and outdoor structural timber for building new homes and renovation projects. Aligning the Timberlink business with the forest resources enables the company to have a long-term committed approach to its business and customers.