

Green light for a better future

By YVONNE GARDINER
yvonne.gardiner@qt.com.au

AN Ipswich company that was considered on shaky financial ground in 2008 is now investing in its "green" credentials to secure a future for its 150 workers.

For the 50 years that Australian Hardboards at Bundamba has been established, harm minimisation of the environment has been at the forefront of its operations, says executive chairman Louis Niederer.

The manufacturer has developed a new marketing strategy to create more awareness about its green credentials.

"Our output from the water treatment plant now goes into composting. We've found industries for all of our waste streams," Mr Niederer said.

The company's recent investment in the plant was a sign that it considered the business viable, he added.

In 2008, fears were held for workers when Bremer Park Ltd, owners of Australian Hardboards, recorded a loss for the second year running.

"Over the past few years the demand for green building materials has escalated exponentially, and we intend to take full advantage of this evolving trend," Mr Niederer said.

"Our flagship product masonite, which is an iconic building product, is made from waste wood product. A number of other building products contain harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde, whereas ours does not.

"It's this heritage that we intend to build upon to really take advantage of the increasingly green-hungry consumer and government-mandated building products market."

Mr Niederer said the company's environmentally sustainable practices extended to its manufacturing processes as well as its products.

"For the past seven years Australian Hardboards has



Training co-ordinator at Australian Hardboards, Bryan Davies, has been working at the company for 25 years.

Photo: Sarah Harvey DE1709HL

contributed to the reduction of over 37 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from greenhouse gas emissions through waste water programs and other initiatives," he said.

"We've got a zero waste policy. Our waste is now a resource for other businesses.

"We save enough water for 2000 houses."

Australian Hardboards is also a joint venture partner in the \$1

billion Citiswiv Business Park with Walker Corporation.

The company provided the land for the 335-hectare master planned estate.

Last Wednesday the Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) warehouse at Citiswiv officially finished construction.

About 200 workers are set to start work at the new warehouse next April.

Firies welcome water windfall

A DONATION of bottled water will quench the thirst of hardworking firefighters in coming months.

Brothers Leagues Club and Schweppes have joined forces to provide two pallets of drinking water to the Ripley Valley Rural Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Senior firefighter Brian Evans said the donation meant a \$3000

saving for the brigade. "As a volunteer organisation providing a vital service to the community, we need all the assistance we can get and we are always grateful for any assistance," he said.

The Ripley brigade will share their water windfall with brigades at Willowbank, Pine Mountain and Marburg.

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