



## Out of the Woods

*Why the right timber products are a deeper shade of green*

In an age where climate change and environmental credentials are important community values, structural softwood producer Hyne is proud to reveal that its extensive range of timber products are actually greenhouse positive.

Research presented by the NSW Department of Primary Industries\* shows that timber products store more carbon dioxide – and continue to store it throughout their long service life – than that emitted in their manufacture.

The presentation supports the claim that responsibly sourced plantation timber is more environmentally friendly than other materials when it comes to building your home, says Hyne Managing Director John McNamara.

According to Mr McNamara, scrutiny over choice in construction materials is the next stage of green consciousness for Australian home builders.

“There’s a lot of focus on building materials that have a low impact on the construction site – but for materials to be truly “green” in the broader context, it’s all about the impact of their manufacture,” said Mr McNamara.

The concept is embodied energy, or the energy consumed by all the processes associated in a material’s development – from the mining and sourcing of natural resources to transport and delivery. And expect to keep hearing more about it as a lifecycle approach to energy assessment uncovers the whole picture.

“Choice of construction materials can significantly alter the amount of energy embodied in the structure of a building,” said Mr McNamara.

The Department’s presentation to the Australian Plantation Products & Paper Industry Council Forum in June, *“From the log dump to the rubbish dump: The greenhouse footprint of wood products in Australia”*, shows that wood products continue to store carbon long after the timber is felled, with most of the carbon remaining locked in the wood even after disposal in landfills..

Currently, this environmental benefit is not taken into account in carbon trading schemes, which assume that all carbon within a tree is emitted on harvest.

“Comparatively, the manufacture of steel burns non-renewable fossil fuels and releases about 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide for each tonne of steel produced,” said Mr McNamara.

“This puts to rest the myth that such a material can be more environmentally friendly because it doesn’t release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as it ages.

\* 2007 NSW Department of Primary Industries: “From the log dump to the rubbish dump: the greenhouse footprint of wood products in Australia.”

“The simple fact is, responsibly sourced plantation timber products, such as those from Hyne, are one of the few manufactured building materials that actually help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

A proponent of the environmental benefits of plantation pine, Hyne has recently reinvigorated its corporate branding as it strengthens its commitment to sustainably grown plantation timber production and supply in Australia.

Mr McNamara said that with origins dating back to Maryborough with Richard Matthews Hyne in 1882, Hyne is an integral part of Queensland’s building history.

“The environmental credentials of structural plantation timber over other building materials alone, secures our future.”

For more information on Hyne’s products and services, call Hyne on 1300 304 963 or go to [www.hyne.com.au](http://www.hyne.com.au).

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*Note to Editors:*

## **About Hyne**

Hyne is a leading Australian manufacturer and distributor of engineered, structural and decorative softwood products to the building industry.

Proudly privately owned, Hyne’s family heritage dates back to 1882 when Richard Matthews Hyne, the first of many dedicated Hyne’s, founded the business in Maryborough. In fact, current Managing Director John McNamara (appointed in 1994) is the first non-family member to lead the company in its long history.

Hyne has over 800 employees across the east coast of Australia in 20 locations. All timber is sourced from sustainably managed plantations. The company is also Australia’s largest exporter of Australian-grown plantation softwood, exporting between 250 - 300 containers of timber product per month from the Ports of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

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