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Title:

Statement: Expansions to Softwood Holdings

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

August 31, 1976.
Date.....
Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
227 2688

EXPANSIONS TO SOFTWOOD HOLDINGS

Extensions worth \$750,000 to the Softwood Holdings Particle Board Plant were announced today by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, and the Managing Director of Softwood Holdings, Mr. R.W. Page.

The extensions, which will make the Mount Gambier plant one of the most modern and sophisticated of its type in the world, will commence immediately and should be finished by Christmas.

Mr. Dunstan said the new plant would enable Softwoods to increase capacity and to produce an even higher quality particle board.

"Softwood Holdings is a vigorous, imaginative company and this latest expansion will give it even more of the Australian domestic market for particle board.

"The company's Mount Gambier Particle Board Plant is already worth more than \$10 million and is working to capacity.

"This latest expansion is necessary because Softwood's are taking more and more of the market and this success is a great boost not only to Mount Gambier, but to the whole State.

"The forestry industry in the South East is a good example of the way in which Governments and private companies can work together to benefit the whole community.

"The State Government was very pleased to assist Softwood in 1973 by guaranteeing long term timber supplies from State forests.

"This new expansion by Softwoods is a significant step for the company as it will add to the range of boards produced and their uses".

Mr. Page said the expansion plans incorporated a "rotados" glue blending and metering system which is the first in Australia and which will lead to increased glue efficiency.



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"Two new "double stream" mills are already operating and have given smoother surfaces. Changes will now be made to wood handling and storage procedures to make certain that maximum use is made of residual wood", he said.

Mr. Page said a major factor in Softwood's decision to expand its plant in 1973 had been the State Government's agreement to a 20 year contract for the supply of timber from the Woods and Forests Department to Softwood Holdings.

"The continued goodwill and assistance given by the Minister of Forests, Mr. Chatterton, his Department, and in particular, our Premier, Mr. Dunstan, are factors which have been taken into account by the company when deciding to further expand", Mr. Page said.

"Particle board is a growth product all over the world as well as in Australia, and there has been considerable technological changes in production, the products themselves and the materials which can be used.

"Softwood Holdings has concentrated on using residual wood from the forests and mills to provide raw material for its board. This not only allows us to get the most effective use of all our resources, but is environmentally important as well."

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