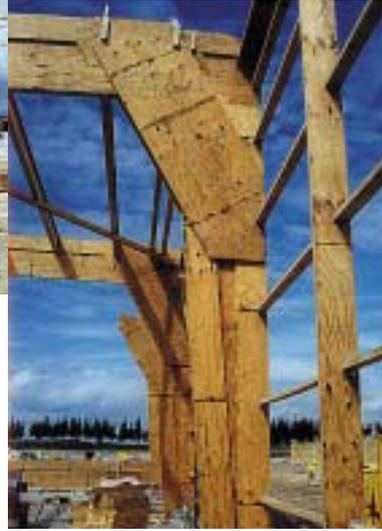


Carter Holt Harvey ship giant to New Zealand



Marsden Point: The first stage of the building covers six acres, with sections of the building over 10 metres high.



For the last 14 years, Hyspan LVL has been manufactured at Nangwarry near Mount Gambier in South Australia. More recently Carter Holt Harvey's South Australian plant has been busy manufacturing Hyspan for the construction of a sister plant for New Zealand at Marsden Point on the North Island. The new LVL manufacturing plant is itself, naturally, an all timber construction. Construction on a gigantic scale.

The first stage of the building at Marsden Point covers six acres, with sections of the building over 10 metres high. Termed a 'greenfields development', the Carter Holt Harvey commissioned project began with an empty paddock. Nothing pre-existing. Everything had to be installed including this massive building's timber structure. Designed and fully prefabricated by Timberbuilt in Melbourne Bruce Hutchings, managing director of Timberbuilt explains the decision to prefabricate the building:

"Prefabrication not only makes the whole process of designing, supplying and constructing a building more efficient but it also improves quality by minimising the potential for error."

As a company, Timberbuilt has, over more than 18 years developed the skills to prefabricate such large structures using timber. Hutchings states "We had to draw on that experience and add considerably more for this project."

Prefabrication began in early December and hit full production at the start of 2000. The last truckload left Victoria in early April. Hutchings points out that it has been a long process simply because of the scale. 600 cubic metres of Hyspan alone was used in the building and Hutchings laughs as he calculates the number of nails used as being somewhere in the millions.

It wasn't scale alone that made the Marsden Point plant a demanding project. Marsden Point is on the coast-line of the Northern part of the North island of New Zealand. The site itself is just a short walk over some dunes to the sea. This means the site is extremely exposed to some very strong winds. "The wind loads are similar to those you would expect for South Queensland," says Hutchings. As a result the building had to be a high wind design with a far stronger structure to match the greater environmental demands. The design of the Hyspan and Hybeam frame was prepared in accordance with New Zealand building

standards. There was no room for compromise.

Shipping of such a giant structure required considerable forethought. "We couldn't send a 96 metre long rafter," Hutchings points out. Instead the length of pieces sent was limited to around 16 metres including the splicing components.

Now the pieces have arrived they are being joined together on site. With almost half the structure now assembled for the new Carter Holt Harvey LVL manufacturing plant there is every expectation that New Zealand's newest timber processing giant will be ready for work later this year.

Hyspan | Hybeam

