

# Hoop pine plywood plays a sustainability role in construction of new Gold Coast emergency centre

SHOVELS have hit the ground on the Gold Coast Disaster and Emergency Management Centre at Ashmore, a new dedicated facility for the city's emergency services during times of natural disaster or emergency.

The new hub will act as a command centre for first responders in times of emergency and has been made possible through \$9.81 million from the state government's \$100 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program.

Brisbane-based sustainable plywood product manufacturer Austral Plywoods has provided 400 sheets of 9 mm Austral Interior, made from Responsible Wood certified plantation Araucaria hoop pine.

"These sheets will be used as wall and ceiling linings," Austral Plywoods sales manager Victor Calligeros said.

"We are also perforating and clear-finishing the panels so that they are ready to install," he said.

"One of the key



1/ **Architectural rendering of the Gold Coast Disaster and Emergency Management Centre now under construction at Ashmore showing plywood wall and ceiling linings.**

2/ **Austral Plywood's perforated ply has achieved Group 3 fire rating for the Gold Coast project.**

requirements was that the ply had Group 3 fire rating, but this rating is not applicable for a solid panel if the panel is perforated as fire performances may differ. However, Austral Plywoods has conducted extra testing on our specific perforation patterns and has achieved the necessary Group 3 for the perforated ply."

On hand for the start of construction, Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon said the building reinforced the need for a fit-for-purpose disaster management centre.



"Having a dedicated, central location for our agencies to coordinate and respond to emergency situations in real-time is absolutely critical, especially during times of flood or fire, which we know can quickly escalate," Ms Scanlon said.

"State government agencies and council already work closely to help our community during emergencies, and it's great that we are bringing this project forward.

"The project also creates 53 jobs for the local construction industry as it recovers from Covid-19."

Gold Coast City Mayor Tom Tate said the existing facility had been the mainstay of disaster management response for more than 30 years.

He said a structural assessment of the building several years ago identified it would not withstand a Category 4 or 5 cyclonic event.

"Building for the future is critical as our city will reach a population of one million in the next decade," he added.

A further \$435,500 has also been invested in the project though the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, a joint initiative of the federal and Queensland governments.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of this year.



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