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News

» **Banana-technology the key to export success**

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Recycling is at its best at the Papyrus Australia factory in far North Queensland.

The environmentally based company has developed a technology that utilises fibre from the waste trunk of the banana plant to produce paper and timber products and applied it to produce commercial quantities of fibreboard and veneer products for export.

"Papyrus Australia has reached a major milestone in its development. We are now in continuous production of fibre and veneer and have identified Europe as our first market for our products. We have signed an export agreement with European veneer company 3W Tout Bois," Chairman Ted Byrt said.



"Our aim is to become a technology licensing company, but this requires us to first prove our technology and validate the commercial values of our banana veneer and fibre products in a production environment. This is now being achieved at our Walkamin factory.

"The next stage will be to increase production levels, commission a fibre cutting machine and explore new markets," he said.

Following 15 years of research, the world-first technology takes an otherwise unused waste material to produce water-resistant and fire retardant paper, cardboard, veneer and fibreboard products.

The process is also said to lower production costs when compared to traditional tree pulping technologies.

Papyrus Australia was founded in 1994 in response to an increasingly stringent environmental and regulatory situation facing the paper industry.

In 2007, the Papyrus patent was granted in Australia and the technology is now patent-protected in 160 countries.