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Papyrus Australia develops new fibre export



December 3, 2009

After 15 years of research and development, [Papyrus Australia](#) has commenced production of banana-based veneer and fibre for export from its Walkamin factory in far North Queensland.

Previously using fibre from the waste trunk of the banana plant (pictured) to produce paper and timber products, Papyrus Australia is now equipped to manufacture commercial quantities of fibreboard and veneer.

Chairman Ted Byrt announced the news at the company's fifth Annual General Meeting held at Thebarton, South Australia, this week.

The meeting was attended by more than 70 shareholders as well as Papyrus' European agents for Milan, Monaco and Belgium.

"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," Byrt says.

"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," he says.

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

The world-first technology takes an otherwise unused waste material to produce high-value paper, cardboard, veneer and fibreboard products.

Branded 'Beleaf', the fibre is both water-resistant and fire retardant.

The Papyrus process uses a renewable fibre source that is fully sustainable, does not contribute to the destruction of natural or purpose-planted forests and does not consume any chemicals or water during manufacture.

Papyrus Australia, which began trading on the ASX in 2004, was founded in 1994 in response to an increasingly stringent environmental and regulatory situation facing the paper industry.

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