



## **Knauf Australia announces the construction of a new Plasterboard Plant in Bundaberg, Queensland**

**29 January 2015**

Knauf Plasterboard Limited, a subsidiary of the Knauf Group, a world leading manufacturer of plasterboard, modern insulation materials, plasters and accessories, today announced that it had approved the construction of a new plasterboard manufacturing facility at the Port of Bundaberg, Burnett Heads, Queensland, subject to satisfactory finalisation of approvals and agreements including the gas transmission agreement.

The Project comprises the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art plasterboard manufacturing facility at the Port of Bundaberg, including gypsum handling and processing facilities to support plasterboard production and for on-sale of gypsum into the agriculture sector.

The project has been made possible by the Queensland Government's commitment to fund the construction of a new 26 km gas pipeline from Australian Gas Network's Wide Bay gas transmission line at Bundaberg to Burnett Heads. This critical piece of gas infrastructure provides additional gas supply capacity for Knauf's plasterboard manufacturing plant facility and other existing and new industrial users in the region.

Knauf's CEO of Asia Pacific, Murray Read, said that the Bundaberg plant was a great investment for Knauf as it expanded Knauf's plasterboard manufacturing network into Queensland to better serve its customers, create additional trade through an under-utilised port facility, support regional development, and, in partnership with the State Government, helped to develop critical infrastructure for Knauf and other industrial users in regional Queensland.

Mr Read said "Knauf is very pleased to be playing its part in working collaboratively with the State Government to help build new industries and boost regional and state economies."

The plant is expected to create up to 200 jobs during the construction of the plant and around 55 new positions when operational.

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman said Knauf's announcement was testament to the LNP Government's strong plan to attract investment to regional Queensland and create jobs.

"We have a strong team in the Bundaberg region with Jack Dempsey and Stephen Bennett; both of whom have been working incredibly hard to see this project come to fruition," Mr Newman said.

"This exciting announcement is a real vote of confidence in Bundaberg's future, providing jobs and opportunities for local residents and businesses."



Bundaberg Regional Council Mayor Mal Forman said the economic benefits that will flow into the region as a result of the project will be felt throughout central Queensland.

“Securing a project of this magnitude is a massive coup for the Bundaberg region and I thank Knauf’s Murray Read for his leadership and dedication in working so successfully with the Council and the State Government on this initiative,” Cr Forman said.

“A development of this size will not only bring jobs to the region but bring forward upgraded roads, water and waste water infrastructure which will help our local communities to grow and attract more business to regional Queensland.”

Knauf’s Group Managing Partners, Mr Manfred Grundke and Mr Alexander Knauf commented that: “The confidence to proceed with the project was underpinned by the support from Queensland State Development, Bundaberg Regional Council and the Gladstone Ports Corporation.”

**About the Knauf Group:**

The Knauf Group is a private family company established in 1932 in Saarland, Germany by the brothers, Dr Alfons and Karl Knauf. Since then, the Knauf Group has grown into a global operation with more than 220 facilities, operating in 60 countries with more than 23,000 employees. The company is now one of the leading plasterboard, plaster, insulation and accessories manufacturers in the world producing more than 1 billion square metres of plasterboard per year with annual sales in excess of € 6 Billion.

Knauf Plasterboard Australia operates two manufacturing facilities in Matraville (Sydney) and Altona (Melbourne) and is a major supplier of plasterboard and associated products to the light weight construction industry in Australia.

**For more information:**

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