



MEDIA RELEASE

15 June, 2009

WOOLLAMS WINS CONTRACT TO EXPAND MASONIC HOME

UP to 500 new jobs are expected to be created as Woollam Constructions begins work on the development of a new wing at Sandgate's Masonic Care Lodge on Brisbane's northside.

The \$30 million project was given the green light earlier this month following contractual agreement between Woollam Constructions and Thinc Projects, representing Masonic Care Queensland.

Stage 1 of the project includes construction of a new three-storey, 153-bed wing within the grounds of the existing Wakefield Street facility.

The building, which includes 12,000m² undercover, will offer onsite medical staff to residents upon opening, providing various levels of care ranging from low to high care.

Woollam Constructions Executive Officer Scott Wedgwood said the project was a significant win for the company, particularly in the current global economic downturn.

"Given the current slowdown in the construction industry across Australia, this contract is a really significant win for us," Mr Wedgwood said.

"It is the largest project on our books this year and will help to strengthen our position in the aged care sector which is one of our target markets."

The new contract comes after Woollam recently completed construction of a 152-bed PresCare aged care facility at Carina on Brisbane's eastside.

Mr Wedgwood said he expected up to 500 jobs to be created throughout the life of the Masonic project, which is due for completion by August 2010.

"We have already employed more staff to work on the project and expect to hire many more as the job progresses," he said.

"We have appointed several apprentices and junior cadets. This will provide a great learning curve for our young workers, with training an area we place great emphasis on at Woollam."

The contract win comes as Woollam Constructions – Queensland's oldest privately owned construction firm - celebrates 125 years of operation this year.

The company boasts a link to several prestigious buildings, including the original building of Brisbane's iconic Breakfast Creek Hotel and the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach.

Woollam Constructions, which has offices in Brisbane, Mackay, Rockhampton and Ballina, has a growing portfolio of projects within the health, education, aged care and community sectors.

This year will see Woollam Constructions involved in building projects worth more than \$100 million. Currently on the books is the Yeppoon Hospital and police stations, City Beach's warehouse at Murarrie, Mackay's \$22 million Convention Centre and the refurbishment of the Casino TAFE.

Woollams is also a part of the construction process for a number of projects receiving Q150 funding from the Queensland Government, highlighting the importance of both the company's 125th and the State's sesquicentenary celebrations.

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