

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES & COMMUNITIES



Local business Prolam purchased the 80-year-old, former sawmill on Little Sydney Road Motueka in 2017. The former derelict site has been refurbished and upgraded since this time with the facility expected to commence operation in November 2023.

Benefits:

- Economic and industry investment
- Local jobs
- Supply chain certainty
- Reduced lead-times
- Minimisation of waste (Optimising timber as a renewable resource)
- Greater consistency, in terms of product and pricing, for customers.



About Prolam

A progressive New Zealand business with experience spanning more than 20 years, we design, manufacture and supply glue laminated timber beams, posts and portals for the residential and commercial building industry. Innovative and solutions-focused, we have carved a reputation as an industry leader who consistently delivers quality products and reliable service.

At Prolam, we not only support engineers, architects and construction professionals but the communities in which we operate and service.

Importantly, creating solutions and services for today and tomorrow is at our heart. We keep innovating and improving, evolving our products and practices to support our own, our customers and our communities' sustainability goals. Our glue laminated timber solutions have solid eco-credentials being made from renewable New Zealand plantation timber and using 14 times less energy than their steel equivalents.

Key Facts

What	Vertically integrated glue laminated production facility including debarking, sawmilling, drying, optimising, finger jointing, and treating and laminating of timber. Wooden bee hive components are also made as a by-product.
Who	Prowood Limited
Where	108 Little Sydney Road, Motueka
Operating Hours	7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and some Saturdays.
Site Zoning	The site is zoned Rural Industrial, and the proposed activities fit with the definition "processing of primary products, including any sawmill or timber treatment plant".
Equipment	Debarker, Chipper canter, forklifts, bandsaw, kilns, boilers, loaders, treatment plant, suction systems, and laminating machinery.

Community impacts and mitigation measures

The facility will be operated in accordance with all required regulations, as per approvals granted and conditions set from Tasman District Council. Any environmental and amenity impacts from the operation of the production facility were considered minor with appropriate and required mitigation measures in place.

Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of noise mitigation plan including machinery mufflers and noise-cancelling mechanisms, wall and roof insulation, noise barriers / sound panels, and new generation electric equipment where feasible and practical. Annual noise monitoring. All staff will be fully briefed about their community responsibilities in relation to minimising noise and disruption after hours.
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawdust to be wet down. Gravel surrounds to be oiled 2 – 3 times a year. Long-term planning aims to increase concrete coverage.
Traffic & Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access via Little Sydney Road (with infrastructure developed by Prolam to regulatory standards). Traffic will include staff and supplier vehicles. No wide loads or road trains are expected. Staff parking will be within site perimeters.
Water and Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval to source surface water from Little Sydney Stream tributary (R654) at an average daily rate of 86 cubic metres per day (600 cubic metres per week) has been in place since 2014. A remotely monitored water meter has been installed. Future planning includes the installation of storage and rainwater tanks. Contaminated stormwater and steam condensate from kiln will be discharged via a treatment pond prior to being discharged back into the tributary. Sediment control will also be undertaken to mitigate any adverse effects from any site stormwater runoff.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production waste will be minimised. Offcuts will be reused and recycled into by products wherever possible. From time to time, untreated waste timber may be burned as per Council conditions and approval. A new sewerage system has been installed.
Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded transformer to increase capacity.
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures are being investigated to minimise future vehicle lights.
Hazardous materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any materials deemed hazardous will be used, stored and disposed of in accordance with the Best Practice Guideline for Safe User of Timber Preservation and Antisapstain Chemicals (2005), except where it is inconsistent with the Council consent. Mitigation methods in place include a drip-pad, spill containment system, emergency spill and management plan, and oil-water separator.
Emissions and odours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions and odours will be limited and all required regulations followed in relation to discharge into the air from the wood processing, wood-fired boiler and wood drying kilns. It is proposed that a new boiler is purchased and fuel quality, and boiler operation and maintenance is considered to reduce emissions. Drying temperatures and moisture content measures are to be adopted to control odour. Odour is expected to be at a low rate of emission and is unlikely to carry offsite to the extent that it would have an adverse effect on amenity. Untreated waste timber may be burned as per Council conditions and approval.

Part of our community

Prolam is grateful to be able to support local community initiatives such as the Crime Stoppers Calendar, NBS Rescue Helicopter, and the Rapid Relief Team.

