

# Planting the Seed for a Sustainable Future



**Perma**Timber

[www.permatimber.com.au](http://www.permatimber.com.au)

## Introduction

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With the demand for timber products increasing rapidly throughout the developing world, deforestation continues to be a major environmental issue. Sourcing sustainable products is at the forefront of consumer demands and is progressively becoming a vital part of design and construction projects.

Furthering this, the industry also faces the conundrum of the choice between materials that have relatively high initial costs and low ongoing maintenance requirements, and materials that are cheaper to purchase however require more onerous and costly maintenance requirements.

With these issues being brought to light across the construction and design industries, solutions have emerged that answer the call for sustainable materials that are both low in maintenance and high in quality, suitable for a variety of projects and installations.

Cladding produced from composite materials is fast becoming a popular choice when it comes to exterior projects. This paper discusses the importance of both material and economic sustainability and how the two, when married efficiently can result in an environmentally-friendly solution that is sure to pave the way for the industry's future.



## Composite Sustainability

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Sustainable timber is being increasingly utilised in the world of architecture, design and construction – harvested in such a way that each tree removed is replaced by another tree that is grown either naturally or planted. Sustainable management of forests and plantations is the only efficient way to meet society's demands for wood in perpetuity<sup>1</sup>.

In recent years composite timber has been a popular alternative to natural timber; its offerings of design freedom and ease of handling proving to be a superior, more efficient choice for all projects. With a broad spectrum of colours, profiles and textures, composite materials will not warp, twist or rot.

Composite timber lends itself perfectly to cladding, offering advantageous features that are otherwise unmet. Termites and other insects borne to natural timber products are no longer an issue where repellent and invasive treatments are usually used.

With external timber cladding products manufactured using environmentally friendly methods and materials, it can be designed and detailed to meet regulatory requirements in a variety of climates<sup>2</sup>.

## Economic Sustainability

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The use of natural timber is not a sustainable practice, raising serious concerns about the industry's future. As a material, timber requires ongoing maintenance as well as additional resources and fixings during install.

In addition to benefiting the natural environment, the use of sustainable composite materials provides economical savings throughout the entirety of a project. Standard timber products are awry with costs both in installation and ongoing maintenance expenses.

Customary to timber; fading, darkening and changing shades over time is inevitable and with natural timber being vulnerable to the elements, costs can be a factor with staining, oiling and sanding all vital to the successful upkeep of the product.

As opposed to their natural counterpart, composite materials also boast a low maintenance solution, with no coatings needed.



**“PermaTimber offers a suite of high performance and eco-friendly composite timber products that boast minimal maintenance and faster installation.”**



## PermaTimber Eco Cladding

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Where standard composites lack in performance, PermaTimber offers a suite of composite materials that save both time and money upon install and require next to no maintenance once laid. The range of composites provides the flexibility to be designed and constructed to suit all environments with a variety of benefits and advantageous features; specifically for applications where access for maintenance is an issue.

PermaTimber offers a suite of high performance and eco-friendly composite timber products that boast minimal maintenance and faster installation. With bespoke design and manufacture, PermaTimber Eco Cladding is produced from 87% recycled materials.

With sleeker aesthetics than that of a traditional weatherboard, PermaTimber Eco Cladding offers an eco-friendly product with a modern, yet natural looking finish. Manufactured using environmentally friendly methods and materials, Eco Cladding also boasts low maintenance with no staining, painting or oiling required.

PermaTimber Eco Cladding is specially designed to withstand the harsh Australian weather and is insect resistant, backed by the technology and durability of composite materials that PermaTimber have come to be known for.

PermaTimber Eco Cladding composite, eco-friendly and economical solution is especially ideal for tall structures as it does not require maintenance and can be easily installed onto both new and existing building. The range is lightweight and easy to install which minimises expenditure on resources and energy. The custom fixings system of PermaTimber products enhances their appeal as an economically viable selection for any consumer, designer or architect that are looking for high performing products that benefit projects whilst also ensuring the sustainable future of the industry.

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.forestlearning.edu.au/forests-sustainability/wood-renewable/timber-as-a-renewable-resource>
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.woodsolutions.com.au/Applications-Products/External-Cladding>



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