



## Jobs for Ipswich with \$89m expansion of Hardie plant

Peter Foley | 24th May 2013 6:00 AM

BUILDING product giant James Hardie has announced an \$89 million expansion in a big boost to jobs and the economy in Ipswich.

The company announced yesterday it would make the significant investment to increase manufacturing output at its site in Carole Park and there would be a substantial number of construction jobs needed.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the move would strengthen the construction industry and reaffirmed Queensland was "the place to do business".

"Investments of this size in the current climate don't come lightly and our government worked with James Hardie executives for many months to secure this for Queensland," Mr Seeney said.

"James Hardie has been in Queensland for several decades and this investment is a sign that they will be here for many decades to come."

He said the expansion was set to increase manufacturing output by 40% and increase the range of products.

"It will also incorporate substantial technology into the facility and greatly improve product quality," Mr Seeney said.

James Hardie Industries general manager Shane Dias said Queensland was a strong market for Hardie's products and the company was optimistic about growth in demand for its building products in the state.

"This was an important factor in us deciding to build new manufacturing capacity in Queensland," Mr Dias said.

Mr Seeney said Ipswich City Council played a significant role in encouraging the expansion at Carole Park and thanked it for the role it played.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale welcomed James Hardie's announcement, saying: "This is tremendous news for the creation of more jobs in the future for residents in the Ipswich region.

"It's a great show of confidence by James Hardie in the Ipswich region.

"Ipswich will benefit from the company's decision to increase investment in fibre-cement manufacturing capacity to cater for Australian residential and commercial construction industries."