

New drying system

A low cost/low energy timber drying system has been developed at the Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey.

Research staff Brett Glossop and Wayne Hanks have carried out extensive testing of the system, designed by engineer Trevor McDonald.

Timber stacks are stored in the first kiln at low temperature and high humidity immediately after sawing. The kiln has a patented blanket to control air flow.

After a "curing" period, the stacks are transferred to another kiln where they are dried much faster at a higher temperature. Drying to final moisture content (about 10 percent) is done in a third kiln.

WURC manager Phil Shedley is discussing licensing with different firms and this drying sys-

tem should soon be available commercially.

- Graeme Siemon

Workshop visit

Gary Brennan, a research scientist at the Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey, recently attended a timber drying meeting and two workshops in Rotorua, New Zealand.

One meeting and both workshops were arranged by the Joint Timber Seasoning Committee, which has members in each Australian state and New Zealand.

Gary presented a summary of the drying research carried out at Harvey.

He also attended a Forest Industries conference, which discussed production forestry in NZ in the next decade.

This exchange of information has proven extremely useful in planning and carrying out drying research trials and duplication of programs is avoided.

- GRAEME SIEMON