

(/component/adagency/adagencyAds/click/15/3/15)

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[NEWS HOME \(/NEWS\)](#)

[LOCAL NEWS \(/NEWS/LOCAL-NEWS\)](#)

[HOT TOPICS \(/NEWS/HOT-TOPICS\)](#)

[LOCAL WEATHER \(/NEWS/LOCAL-WEATHER\)](#)

A major plasterboard manufacturing facility approved for Bundaberg Port (/news/local-news/47624-a-major-plasterboard-manufacturing-facility-approved-for-bundaberg)

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[News \(/component/tags/tag/4-news\)](#) [bundaberg \(/component/tags/tag/16-bundaberg\)](#) [Local \(/component/tags/tag/33-local\)](#)
[plasterboard manufacturing facility \(/component/tags/tag/1012-plasterboard-manufacturing-facility\)](#) [Knauf Australia plant \(/component/tags/tag/1013-knauf-australia\)](#)
[Port of Bundaberg \(/component/tags/tag/1014-port-of-bundaberg\)](#)

A new \$70 million plasterboard manufacturing facility has been approved for construction at the Port of Bundaberg.

World-leading manufacturer Knauf Australia announced the project today, expanding the company's manufacturing network into Queensland.

The plant is expected to create over 100 construction jobs and around 55 permanent positions when operational.

According to Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett the new facility will help bring important infrastructure and more businesses to the region.

"Things like road transport, recycling and other businesses that need to be supported will all come on the back of this large manufacturing firm," he said.

He said while it can't be guaranteed that the jobs created will go to local workers, he will be encouraging Knauf to employ locals in the process of constructing and operating the new facility.

"We can't make guarantees on a commercial operator's employment strategies, but we'll certainly be encouraging them to look at the many offers and many skills that Bundaberg people could bring to the table in this operation," he said.

Bundaberg Regional Council Mayor Mal Forman said the economic benefits that will flow into the region as a result of this project will be huge.

"Through this factory's direct output and the known flow-on effects generated from associated industries, the net annual economic impact is estimated at \$195 million," he said.

Knauff Australia has said the project was made possible in large part due to the Queensland Government's commitment to fund the construction of a new 26 kilometre gas pipeline from Bundaberg to the port.

Port of Bundaberg Manager Jason Pascoe said both the pipeline and the new facility could mean a significant transformation of the port, which noted is currently under-utilised.

"This is a historic day for the Port of Bundaberg," he said.

"Today we are ... announcing the development of a manufacturing plant which will put us on the world map.

"We have a gas pipeline that will facilitate this trade and hopefully other trades once it is established."

Mr Bennett said another value adding aspect of the project is the gypsum handling and processing facilities, which will support the on-sale of gypsum into the agriculture sector.

"Currently it's all bought in by truck," he said.

"Of course gypsum is important to the agriculture process and to have another option and in larger quantities will essentially mean that the gypsum will be cheaper for those farmers.

"So it's great news across many different agricultural sectors, but more importantly the manufacturing sector as well."

The plant is set to open towards the end of 2016.

