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OFFICEWORKS UNVEILS LATEST LINK IN MAJOR SUPPLY CHAIN UPGRADE

Officeworks has unveiled the first purpose-built Import Distribution Centre (IDC) in its network today in Altona North, Victoria, consolidating three centres in a major upgrade to its operations across the eastern seaboard.

The 40,000 sqm IDC is the retailer's latest investment in modernising its supply chain and will improve stock availability and inventory management, enabling a more efficient flow of stock to stores and customers.

The development further demonstrates the retailer's commitment to people and the planet with improved amenities to support team member health, safety and wellbeing, and sustainability initiatives which include solar panels to reduce carbon emissions, rainwater storage systems, sophisticated recycling systems, electric car charging stations and recycled plastic bins and bollards.

By sourcing locally manufactured and produced warehouse racking, Officeworks has taken positive climate action, reducing 137 tonnes of CO2 emissions from entering the atmosphere which is the equivalent of planting 7,130 trees over 35 hectares of land.

Officeworks' 15,000 sqm Customer Fulfilment Centre (CFC) nearby in Derrimut, Victoria, is operating at full stride, powered by 116 solar-powered autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) and 32 sortation robots, after opening in mid-2021 in partnership with Körber Supply Chain. A new CFC harnessing the same technology is currently in development in Perth, Western Australia.

In addition, Officeworks has partnered with RELEX to implement a new end-to-end inventory planning tool as part of its demand and replenishment transformation project which will optimise inventory management and improve stock availability to better meet customer needs.

Officeworks Managing Director, Sarah Hunter, says: "Our new IDC and the strength of our supply chain is critical to delivering ongoing value to our customers and the fast, reliable and trustworthy service and choice they have come to expect from Officeworks.

"It was important to us and our strategic IDC partner Austpac, that our first, purpose-built IDC together had industry leading sustainability initiatives and features such as Australian made lower emission warehouse racking.

"We are pleased that through working with our building partners and a focussed design process, we have been able to deliver both a cost effective and climate positive building with systems like solar, water and locally manufactured materials, as well as car battery charging stations and native planting around the site.

Officeworks General Manager Supply Chain, Brett Kelly, says: "All parts combined, the benefits of our supply chain modernisation efforts are expected to boost business performance through increased capacity and efficiency, setting us up to support growth and increasing our resilience to adapt to potential supply chain industry disruptions.

“The redesign also supports investment in our team members, providing them with the opportunity to up-skill, develop into more technical roles and to utilise leading supply chain systems, all further strengthening the Officeworks supply chain depth and capability.”

To launch the IDC, an event will take place on Thursday 27 April with government representatives, supply chain and logistics industry bodies and Officeworks partners and suppliers.

Austpac Transport and Logistics has been appointed to manage the IDC operations for all Officeworks stores in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

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ABOUT OFFICEWORKS

Established in 1994 in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 166 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow and Australians to work, learn, create and connect.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U - delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.