Queensland’s Wagner family develop world-leading construction technology

DARYL PASSMORE, The Sunday Mail (Qld)
October 22, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

WORLD-LEADING technology developed by Queensland’s most entrepreneurial family is set to revolutionise construction around the world.

Toowoomba-based Wagners, who funded and built the new Wellcamp Airport in 18 months, is expanding globally with two products with the potential to generate billions of dollars and create thousands of jobs.

One is a lightweight, no maintenance, super strong composite fibre that can add decades to the lifespan of structures such as bridges at a fraction of the life cycle cost of traditional building materials such as steel and concrete.

The other is an environmentally friendly concrete that produces 85 per cent less carbon emissions in production and is more durable, flexible and resistant to acidic soils and salt air.

“These are technologies developed right here in Queensland with international applications,” company chairman Denis Wagner said.

“The potential is huge for both these businesses.”
The composite fibre workforce will swell from 110 to more than 500 within 18 months to two years with the addition of a new 20,000sq m manufacturing plant at Wacol in Brisbane’s southwest.

The material – which does not rot, rust or corrode – is used for road and pedestrian bridges, viewing platforms, wharves, pontoons and jetties, as well as electricity pole cross-arms where it has a major advantage over timber which can heat and ignite if electricity tracks across it.

“Our technology is world-leading,” Mr Wagner said.

“We’ve developed the technology and manufacturing process in-house. We actually build the machinery that makes the product.

“Some of the intellectual property is in the performance of the product but a lot is in how it is actually manufactured and we are the only ones in the world doing it.”
Wagners is selling the composite fibre products in New Zealand, Asia, the UK and US.

The earth-friendly concrete – which was used in building Wellcamp Airport – has gained draft approval for the equivalent of Australian standards for use throughout Europe and Wagners is in discussions with companies in the supply chain for large-scale wind farms construction there.

The company will manufacture the ingredient for the EFC at plants in Australia, the Americas and Europe.