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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **PAPERLINX'S MARYVALE MILL SIGNS ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

PaperlinX's environmental program has taken another significant step forward, with the signing of the Year 2000 Environmental Improvement Plan for the Maryvale Mill in Gippsland, Victoria. Signatories included the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), community representatives, employee representatives, and PaperlinX Management.

PaperlinX Managing Director, Ian Wightwick, said, "PaperlinX greatly appreciates the input of its voluntary community representatives with whom we have been working formally for many years. Environmental improvement is part of our "Continuous Improvement" philosophy and therefore is an ongoing process. This Plan is a sign of the company's commitment to continue to work with the community and EPA for the mutual advantage of all parties."

Mr Wightwick went on to add, "This Plan is the third developed by the Community Consultative Committee since 1996, and is endorsed by the PaperlinX Board and Victorian EPA. It will run for three years, and contains commitments on a range of environmental improvement projects, which will include the planned reduction in odour emissions by around 20%.

The Maryvale Mill site is also well advanced in the development of an Environmental Management System, and the objective is to achieve certification the ISO 14001 Standards by June 2001. The company's forestry arm, Australian Paper Plantations, achieved ISO 14001 certification earlier this year.

PaperlinX's Maryvale Mill is located 160km east of Melbourne, in Victoria's Latrobe Valley. It is the largest integrated paper making site in Australia, with an annual capacity of 550,000 tonnes of paper. Reflex, Australia's leading brand of office paper, is produced at the mill.

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