



EMBARGOED UNTIL: 30 April 2026, 6:00am NZST

Kiwi Co-op Expands Across the Tasman After Strong Growth Supporting Local Builders

Christchurch, New Zealand – New Zealand-founded Combined Building Suppliers Co-operative (CBS Co-op) is expanding into Australia, following eight years of strong growth supporting independent builders and tradies across the country.

Since launching in 2018, CBS has grown to represent more than 2,100 members nationwide, helping level the playing field for small to medium-sized operators through collective buying power and supplier partnerships.

CEO Carl Taylor said the move reflects both the success of the model in New Zealand and increasing demand from members.

“What we’ve built here in New Zealand has been driven by our members,” Taylor said. “We’ve seen consistent growth, strong supplier support, and most importantly, real results for builders on the ground. Expanding into Australia is a natural next step.”

CBS works by enabling members to retain direct relationships with suppliers, while benefiting from group-negotiated pricing typically reserved for larger operators.

“Independent builders are the backbone of the industry, but for a long time they’ve been at a disadvantage when it comes to pricing and access,” Taylor said. “We’ve been able to change that here in New Zealand, and that’s something we’re proud of.”

The co-operative’s growth has been underpinned by strong supplier relationships and increasing recognition of the value of a ‘one-to-many’ model, allowing suppliers to engage efficiently with a large and active network of builders.

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CBS will officially launch in Australia on 30 April at the Bunnings Trade Expo Brisbane, with operations initially focused across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, and the wider South East Queensland region. Foundation supplier partners already signed in Australia include Bunnings, Tradelink, Wattyl and JB Hi-Fi.

Taylor said the same challenges faced by New Zealand builders are evident in Australia.

“Cost pressures, supply chain challenges, and tight margins aren’t unique to New Zealand. We’re seeing the same issues across the Tasman, and we believe our model can make a meaningful difference there as well.”

Despite the international expansion, CBS remains firmly committed to its New Zealand base.

“New Zealand is where this started, and it remains incredibly important to us,” Taylor said. “We’ll continue to grow here, support our members, and build on what we’ve achieved.”

About CBS Co-operative

Combined Building Suppliers Co-operative (CBS) is a member-driven organisation supporting builders and tradies through group purchasing, supplier partnerships, and industry advocacy. Established in New Zealand in 2018, CBS has grown to represent over 2,100 members and facilitates tens of millions in annual building material spend.

 www.combinedbuildingsupplies.com

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