



EC08™ Impact is ideal for areas in hospitals which are exposed to bumps and abrasions

Making an impact

The extension and refurbishment of Liverpool Hospital called for strong, sustainable materials. CSR Gyprock EC08™ met the challenge.

A multimillion-dollar redevelopment of Sydney's Liverpool Hospital has been completed using CSR Gyprock EC08™ Impact.

The wall-lining product has impact-, acoustic- and fire-performance properties that make it ideal for healthcare facilities. It is fast becoming the solution of choice for hospital projects and aged-care facilities with complex design challenges.

The \$296 million extension and refurbishment of Liverpool Hospital commenced in mid-2008 and will be completed during 2011. With 855 beds, 23 operating rooms and 60 intensive care beds, the hospital is one of the largest tertiary health facilities in NSW, servicing almost one million people in South West Sydney. Large patient and visitors numbers mean a heavy—and increasing—flow of pedestrian traffic, so the corridor walls had to be built to weather maximum impact.

At the time of specification, other wall-

lining products were selected for use in the hospital's Clinical Services building because EC08™ Impact was not yet on the market, explains CSR Gyprock Commercial Sales Manager, Antoine Veling. Once it had been developed, CSR Gyprock presented EC08™ Impact to the project engineers as the ideal solution for the linings of corridors and wherever there is a high volume of traffic.

"EC08™ Impact is ideal for areas in hospitals or aged-care facilities which are exposed to bumps and abrasion," says Antoine. "For example, corridors and passages can be regularly damaged by patients' beds or wheelchairs, as well as sharp forces from electric trolleys and heavy medical equipment.

"The product is specifically designed for both hard- and soft-body impact applications, and offers substantial benefits, being both fire- and acoustic-rated, as well as offering good impact resistance," he says.

Improving performance

Nick Gaudry, Bovis Lend Lease's Construction Manager for the project, says that the company is always investigating new materials, techniques and technologies that improve performance, quality and sustainability. "Originally we had both 9mm fibre cement and impact-rated plasterboard specified for high-traffic areas of the clinic. But when we became aware of EC08™ Impact, we decided to put a change in specification to the users group.

"EC08™ Impact appealed to us because it offered the benefits of *Continued on page 8*

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Answers to your questions

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(click on 'newsletters' under 'resources').

Going down

Australia is staring down the barrel of a housing downturn, writes HIA Chief Economist, Harley Dale.

The outlook for the global economy has not changed significantly since last issue, with sentiment continuing to be rattled sporadically—most noticeably this time

on the back of some poor indicators out of the United States and a downgrade in Ireland's credit rating. Notwithstanding a slowing of growth in China, East Asia (excluding Japan) is still expected to perform well, which will help underpin Australia's exports and business investment.

The most recent GDP result shows that the Australian economy grew by 1.2 per cent over the June 2010 quarter, for 3.3 per cent growth over the year to June 2010. Despite the strong June quarter outcome, the composition of growth leaves us wanting a little more evidence to be convinced of a full transition from public sector stimulus to private sector activity as the economy's growth engine.

Rates remain on hold

After six 0.25 percentage point hikes to interest rates since October 2009, the RBA paused in light of relatively benign underlying inflation and the uncertainty surrounding the global economy. However, the monetary policy atmospherics have definitely changed recently and speculation regarding the timing of future rate hikes is rife once more.

There has been little in the way of Government announcements on housing policy in the past few months. This includes an election period which saw a dearth of new measures relating to housing supply or affordability. This is despite Australia well and truly losing the

battle when it comes to housing our growing population. We have a large and growing undersupply of dwellings and new housing affordability is at very low levels.

Prime Minister Gillard's newly determined ministry creates both risks and opportunities for Australia's housing industry. It's not clear that the new structure will improve the potential of the Government to tackle the shortage of housing in Australia. Disappointingly, for example, in light of the great inadequacy of current funding models for infrastructure in Australia, housing policy has been placed in portfolios with other key areas of focus.

Varying approvals

Total seasonally adjusted building approvals fell by 11.2 per cent in the three-month period to July 2010. In the single month of July 2010 approvals increased by 2.3 per cent. The annual level of approvals in July 2010 was 164,784, compared to 169,728 in April and 170,628 in February 2010.

There continued to be a high degree of variance across different classes of building approvals in the three months to July 2010, within which there were continued (tentative) signs of a strengthening in the high-density unit sector.

Housing starts grow

From a pretty awful-looking base of 131,330 dwellings in 2008/09, the number of housing starts grew by 26 per cent in 2009/10 to reach a level of 165,083. Partly due to ABS revisions,

this is a superior outcome to our forecast three months ago for a level of 159,690 starts (forecast growth of 22 per cent).

Housing starts also looked rather ordinary in calendar year (CY) 2009 at 138,490, but are forecast to increase by 24 per cent in 2010 to a level of 171,263. This is a healthier forecast than offered three months ago when we were looking for growth of 20 per cent to take starts to a level of 165,940.

Home sales fall

Total seasonally adjusted new home sales fell by 2.6 per cent in August 2010 meaning that sales volumes reached their lowest level since December 2008. Over the three months to August 2010 sales fell by 12 per cent (as did building approvals) to be 11 per cent lower when compared to the same period in 2009 (the same result as for building approvals).

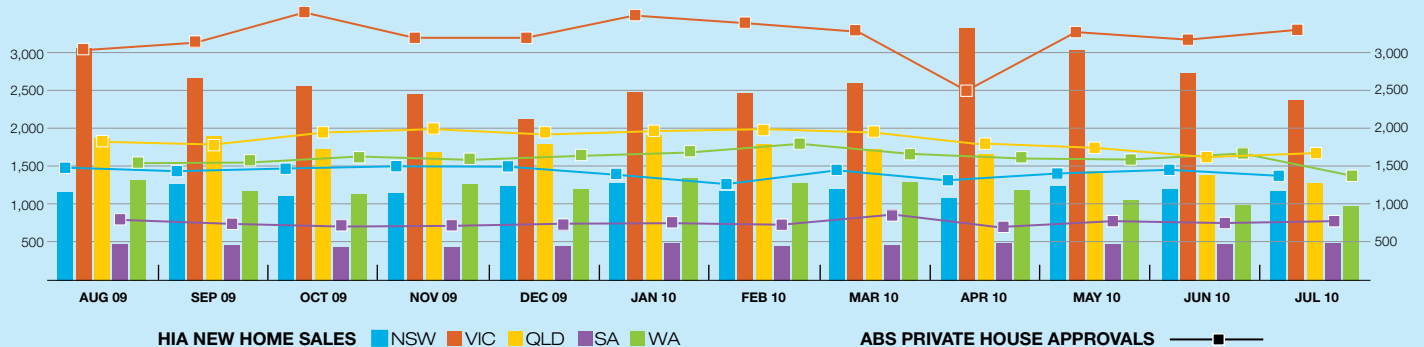
Leading indicators make it clear that the stimulus-fuelled increase in housing starts in 2010, which will mark the first CY rise since 2002, will be replaced by a drop in starts in 2011.

Renovation peaks

After declining by 3.9 per cent in 2008/09, the total investment in renovations increased by 5.3 per cent in 2009/10 to a record \$32.8 billion.

Higher interest rates and stalling home values are expected to exert a constraining influence on growth in renovations investment. We are forecasting renovations investment to be up by a modest 0.8 per cent in 2010/11, before increasing by a further 1.6 per cent to \$33.6 billion in 2011/12. ■

Private house sales



Making it easier to be green

A new website will help tradies build homes that are more sustainable.

Plastering contractors will be able to access a wide range of 'green' building ideas as a result of a new partnership between the learn2buildgreen.com.au website and top CSR brands Gyprock™, Cemintel™ and Bradford™.

The site aims to help both professionals and consumers with anything and everything that relates to building in an environmentally friendly way. It goes all the way from basic principles, right down to choosing green products and services.

The site was set up by Green Homes Australia in response to requests from builders, contractors and consumers about how to build sustainably.

The company has developed a reputation for its knowledge of environmentally sound construction, winning many awards (including HIA Energy Efficient Home of the Year in 2009) for building sustainable homes in NSW.

"Building sustainably is increasingly an expectation—or a requirement—rather than an option," says Mick Fabar. "We saw that there was a need for the building industry to change, particularly in terms of the sustainability of the building products it uses."

Mick responded to these needs by writing an eBook about green building and creating the [learn2buildgreen](http://learn2buildgreen.com.au) website so that builders and customers could have access to the latest information on sustainability.

In the zone

He says that the most exciting aspect of the site is the Green Tradie Zone. Contractors can join up and, for just \$9.95 per month, get regular updates on new developments in areas like legislation, information on the

latest green building products, and 24/7 access to online forums on issues around sustainability. Free legal advice and marketing information comes directly to participant's phone or computer. In addition, they get a membership card and ute signage to show they are a green tradie.

A key feature of the site is its accessibility, says Mick.

"We are tradies ourselves—we are still out there building houses—so we understand that they need the information to be easy to access and quickly digestible. We do the research so they don't have to spend hours searching for information or doing any special training. They can get on with the work of building houses.

"Weekly Smart Mail, which comes via either SMS or email, depending on what works for the contractor, contains all latest information and ideas to help the contractor stay up to speed with the industry and in front of his or her competitors."

Mick adds that it was easy for the website to align itself with CSR brands.

"There are a lot of companies out there who want to put a 'green wash' on what they are doing. But when we promote a product, it's because it has genuine environmental credibility. Our own track record as a sustainable builder allows us to advise others about how to build green, what products to use, and that it doesn't have to involve great extra cost.

"CSR Gyprock, Cemintel and Bradford are actively bringing more sustainable products on to the market at a good price," he says. ■



For more information, visit learn2buildgreen.com.au.

WHAT YOU GET

Sign up for [learn2buildgreen's Tradie Program](http://learn2buildgreen.com.au) and receive:

- Access to the site;
- All publications free;
- Weekly product newsletters;
- Access to tradie forums and support network;
- Logo signature rights for your website;
- Access to discounted online training by the Flannery Centre;
- Discounted plans and advisory service; and
- A membership certificate.

Platinum members have the ability to advertise in the Green Directory at no cost.



The ute signage available to [learn2buildgreen](http://learn2buildgreen.com.au) members

Height of quality

INSIDE YOUR INDUSTRY

Executive Ceilings has built its reputation by being willing to tackle any job whether it's a small repair or large commercial project.

With over three decades of experience, Executive Ceilings has built its success on providing reliable and high-quality workmanship to Perth's finest builders.

The company prides itself on cultivating close relationships with staff, building contractors and clients. Many of its tradespeople having worked with Executive Ceilings for more than ten years.

Managing Director Bill Bradley began

his career in the industry straight after leaving school in 1975. His first job was with HB Brady & Co in Northam, 100km East of Perth.

Within a couple of years Bill was transferred to its much larger Perth operation where he was exposed to a far greater variety of Plaster and Plasterglass applications, covering both the residential and commercial markets.

After a few years Bill decided to learn more about the still relatively new Gyprock™ products that were starting to gain acceptance in the market. He joined the Ceiling Manufacturers of Australia (CMOA) who are still very strong resellers of Gyprock™ products today.

In July 2006 Bill decided that the time was right to form his own company and Executive Ceilings was born. Based in Como, it grew quickly and is today a highly regarded company that will tackle any job from a small repair to a large commercial or residential project.

Executive Ceilings' CSR Account Manager is George Monaldi, who has known Bill since 1983. "Bill is real Aussie," says George, "who likes football, meat pies, kangaroos—the flying type seen on the tails of Qantas aeroplanes—and Holden cars, as can be seen in the pictures of his fleet. He takes pride in offering first-class customer service, and his attention to detail and insistence on using Gyprock™ products for all his jobs ensures a quality outcome every time." ■



i For more information about Executive Ceilings, visit the company's impressive new website at www.executiveceilings.com.au. If you would like to tell your company's story in Club Gyprock, speak to your CSR Account Manager or email Kim Foxall at kfoxall@csr.com.au.

At good clip

Rondo's new Long INFINITI Furring Channel Clip is latest addition to Rondo's range of clips that offer quick and simple installation of Rondo's KEY-LOCK® Furring Channel.

Providing the same benefits as the existing range, the Long INFINITI Furring Channel Clip allows infinite adjustment to the plumb or level of framing through convenient adjustable locking screws. It also features three fixing holes per clip to ensure adequate and flexible fastening.

The Long INFINITI Furring Channel Clip is 80mm deep, and is used with Rondo's 129 Furring Channel to create a suspension depth of any size between 70mm to 90mm, to the back of the lining board.

Rondo recommends using the Long INFINITI Furring Channel Clip in ceilings and not for wall lining.



The long INFINITI Furring Channel Clip

i For all further information, visit www.rondo.com.au or phone your State Rondo Sales Office on 1300 36 7663.

WHOLE LOT BETTER

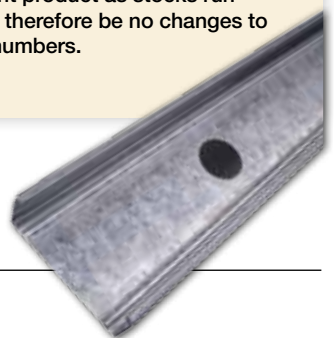
Plumbers and electricians often need to install grommets into the service holes of Rondo 1.15bmt Studs, in order to protect the services that pass through them.

To make Rondo's 1.15bmt Studs suitable for a greater range of grommets, Rondo has increased the diameter of the service hole from 32mm to 34mm in size.

Although Rondo does not sell grommets, they are readily available from both plumbing and electrical trade suppliers.

Rondo's 1.15bmt Studs with 34mm service holes will be available in 64, 76, 92 and 150mm widths, and will take the place of current product as stocks run out. There will therefore be no changes to product part numbers.

The Rondo 1.15bmt Heavy Duty Stud





Cool and quiet

Sound improvement ... Ecophon Focus™ F panels reduced reverberation in this restaurant

Ecophon® panels have made it possible to enjoy dining that is both contemporary and intimate.

Many restaurants struggle to find the right balance between an ultra-modern design—with elements like exposed concrete floors and minimal soft furnishings—and providing a welcoming environment that allows patrons to converse easily while dining. In too many cases, it's the atmosphere that loses out, as patrons struggle to hear themselves think, let alone talk, above ever-increasing noise reverberation.

Baldovino, a family run café and restaurant in Melbourne, has recently overcome this challenge.

Owned by Jim Bakos and Mark Averte, the restaurant has operated for over 40 years, specialising in serving local produce in an intimate setting. Baldovino has a minimalist, yet inviting design, enhanced by polished concrete flooring and a combination of glass and plasterboard walls.

"We soon began to realise that when operating at full capacity, the restaurant's acoustics detracted from the full dining experience that we had envisaged," says Jim Bakos.

"We decided to get in touch with CSR who were able to come up with the perfect solution. CSR specified Ecophon Focus™ F panels because they can be directly fixed to battens, plasterboard or concrete soffits, creating a smooth appearance. They also meant we would not have to completely re-sheet the 40sqm ceiling," he adds,

Although plasterer Paul Lockyear, from Box Plastering, has installed Ecophon® before,

he was still impressed with the immediate acoustic results achieved in the dining room.

"Ecophon® is really simple to install. Like most products, setting it up takes a bit of time, but the installation is easy," says Paul.

"The results are amazing. The sound was incredible immediately; there was not one echo in the place after we installed the ceiling tiles," he says.

The owners are equally impressed with the results. "We are over the moon with the instant improvement," says Jim. "The Ecophon® panels have done exactly what we wanted. The restaurant was noisy at the best of times and when it was busy it was just too loud. The panels improved the noise instantly."

In focus

Ecophon Focus™ F panels have a tongue and groove edge that allows good alignment on installation, while the bevelled edges create a narrow groove between each tile. The panels are designed to be installed directly with screws and adhesive. In addition, they do not require a suspended ceiling framing system. This ensures there is no loss of ceiling height.

The tiles are manufactured from high-density glasswool. The visible surface has an Akutex FT coating and the back of the tile is covered with glass tissue. The edges are reinforced and painted, and the tiles have a weight of approximately 2.5kg/m². ■

Panel of possibilities

Ecophon® tiles can improve the acoustics in rooms of many different designs and sizes.

The traditional way to achieve sound absorption in a room is to install a suspended acoustic ceiling. However there are many situations where this is not possible or where only parts of the ceiling can be treated with sound-absorbing material.

Ecophon® wall panels improve the acoustic conditions of a room in a variety of applications. As they can be positioned in many different ways, they can be installed in direct proximity to the area that requires sound absorption.

Ecophon Texona™ wall absorbers are available in different colours with matching or contrasting corner details offering a vast range of possibilities for the interior design of a room.

"There was not one echo in the place after we installed the ceiling tiles."

i For more information on Ecophon® ceiling tiles, please visit www.gyprock.com.au or contact 1300 306 556. Baldovino café / bar / restaurant is located in Thornbury, Melbourne. www.baldovino.com.au

Waterproofing tips

**Having problems installing wallboard in wet areas?
Here are some tips for a better result.**

Installing wallboard in wet areas is not much more complicated than in most other areas of a building. But some aspects of the job can easily be overlooked. For example, you can forget that using the correct accessories is just as important as using the right product and installation techniques. Or you might neglect to stay up-to-date with the latest installation literature.

But the cost of waterproofing failure is significant. A report by Vero Insurance from May 2007 found that fixing poor waterproofing in residential buildings costs between \$8000 and \$20,000. It's widely known in the industry that while waterproofing represents between two and four per cent of construction costs, it accounts for some 83 per cent of building defect complaints!

Cemintel, which recently launched CeminSeal™ Wallboard featuring waterblocking technology, has produced the following handy hints for installation in wet areas.



Following a few simple guidelines will give you a great result when putting up wallboard in wet areas



CeminSeal™ Wallboard is easy to install and offers a smooth finish

Framing

- Studs should be spaced at a maximum of 600mm centres. Noggings are to be placed between all studs at 1350mm maximum vertical centres. Be sure to provide additional noggings to support sheet edges around bath hobs and shower bases.

Fixing

- Install PVC angle flashing into internal corners of baths and showers with pre-formed bases. Ensure the angle is carried down over the bath or shower base lip.
- Apply CeminSeal™ Wallboard horizontally to reduce joint visibility outside of tiled areas, unless a single sheet covers the whole wall.
- Avoid sheet joints over doorways and windows.
- When using CeminSeal™ Wallboard as a substrate for tiling, it should be mechanically fixed to the framing with nails or screws at 200mm centres. Don't substitute nails or screws with stud adhesive.
- Leave a 6mm gap between the sheet edge and the floor, as well as over bath hob and shower bases.
- A bond breaker should be formed at the wall and the floor junction so membrane flashings can flex.
- Caulk all gaps with a flexible brick-and-concrete-type sealant.
- Flush finish joints in tiled areas using

Wet Area Basecoat and paper tape. No finish coat need be applied.

Membrane application

- Use a membrane recommended for use with fibre cement, such as ABA Superflex 1.
- Ensure the membrane extends at least 25mm above the finished floor area in general wet areas. For showers, the membrane should be applied to a minimum height of 1800mm in the corners, and to a width of at least 75mm. It should also be applied at the junction of wall and floor linings.

General tips for tiling

- Allowance must be made for expansion and contraction when tiling. This can be achieved by leaving gaps filled with flexible wet area sealant at vertical corners. Larger areas require further control joints.
- Use a tile adhesive compatible with the membrane.

Painting

- To achieve a smoother finish with easier application, set joints with Gyprock™ plasterboard compounds and paper tape. Prime the Wallboard with a high-quality latex sealer before painting. ■

i For more information on CeminSeal™ Wallboard or installation strategies call Cemintel™ on CEMINTEL™ (1300236468) or visit www.cemintel.com.au.

You asked for it

The following questions—and answers—were originally posted on the informative Tech Forum on the CSR Gyprock website.

Question:

Do you have ideas about how to improve the fire-rating to one hour of the top three units of a 6x3 block of flats. The existing dividing single-skin brick walls extend into the roof space and continue to the underside of the timber roof battens. I understand that there can be no timber traversing the single-skin brick wall, and I am prepared to change that if necessary. However I am interested in any other options, including using Fyrchek™ to re-line the existing ceiling.

Answer:

In some cases the Building Code allows battens up to 75x50mm to pass over the wall, so you might be OK. Check with your building surveyor/certifier to see if it applies to you. Another option is to provide a fire-rated ceiling to the entire level. For a 60-minute rating our CSR 870 system can be used. It has 13mm and 16mm Fyrchek™ sheets to the joists.

Question:

Is Aquachek™ suitable for a patio ceiling within 100m of ocean (behind 10m high dune)?

Answer:

Gyprock Aquachek™ is suitable for protected external ceilings. So, if you are confident that it will not get wet from spray or rain, it can be used. You should also select suitable fixings for the atmosphere. Installation details can be found in our Residential Installation Manual.

Question:

Could you tell me what the sound ratings are for 13mm Soundchek™ compared to 13mm Fyrchek™?

Answer:

Sound ratings are given for a system such as a wall, rather than for a sheet. For example, an insulated timber stud wall lined each side with one layer of 13 Fyrchek™ has Rw 40, and with 13 Soundchek™, Rw 42.

Question:

For a duplex residential project with timber frame construction, I would like to use the Gyprock Party Wall system to achieve the FRL and acoustic separation required by the BCA. I would like to use 9mm fibre cement for the linings either side of the party wall to give additional protection against any damage to this wall by the tenants which would compromise the fire and acoustic properties. However, in the CSR literature, there doesn't appear to be a timber stud system using 9mm Cemintel Wallboard linings, although there is a system for steel stud systems. Is it acceptable to substitute 9mm fibre cement for the linings both sides for system CSR 503, and still achieve the same FRL and acoustic properties?

Answer:

Yes, you may use 9mm CeminSeal Wallboard in lieu of 6mm in system CSR 503 and achieve at least the same fire and acoustic ratings.

Question:

I am detailing a fire-rated enclosure for a switchboard, with a required FRL of 120/120/120, and have a few questions. The proposed building is to be timber-framed.

Firstly, walls: If using CSR 380 system to achieve fire rating, with 2x16mm Fyrchek™ both sides of stud, can wall cladding (CSR Cemintel Scarborough Weatherboard) be nailed through the outer 2x16mm Fyrchek layers to fix to the studs?

And secondly, regarding the ceiling: If using CSR 992 system to achieve fire rating, with 2x16mm Fyrchek™ above and below, can timber joists 150mm deep be used instead of the steel joists illustrated?

The Red Book notes the following with regard to fire performance of ceiling support members (page E3): "Alternative support framing members may be used where timber joists are shown without reducing the system FRL and RISF." The wording of this suggests that timber can be replaced with others, but can steel be replaced with timber?

Answer:

In regard to your first question, weatherboards can be fixed by nailing through to the studs. If it is for exterior cladding, we recommend that FyrchekMR™ be used on the exterior side, and that sarking is used. Consider using battens to create a drained cavity for additional weather performance. In relation to your second query, the wording in the Red Book is intentional. CSR 992 was assessed with steel framing and timber substitution is not currently an option.

Got a question?

If you have a question about anything related to installing CSR Gyprock products, help is at hand! Simply post your question on the Tech Forum at www.gyprock.com.au or email it to kfoxall@csr.com.au. Someone from the Gyprock™ Technical Team will provide you with a helpful solution—and others will also benefit from reading the response.



Everything else is just plasterboard

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Continued from page 1 hard-body impact resistance together with a high recycled content. We built a test wall at the hospital using EC08™ Impact and then completed new costings. The subsequent testing resulted in agreement that EC08™ Impact was going to be the best material for parts of the hospital. The specifications were then altered to accommodate this new material," Nick adds.

Project fit-out contractors, Brighton Australia, say installing the 3900sqm of EC08™ Impact was generally no different from installing standard plasterboard or fibre cement.

"The installation of EC08™ Impact is practical and simple," explains Eddie Alves from Brighton Australia. "EC08™ Impact is easier to cut than mesh reinforced impact-grade plasterboard.

"The feedback from our staff on the site was that it is light, simple to handle, and easy to cut and finish. Even the painters commented that the product resulted in a better final result. Overall, we were very happy with the outcome," Eddie says.

"It is fast becoming the solution of choice for hospital projects and aged-care facilities."

Green choice

EC08™ Impact is one of the three boards in the Gyprock EC08™ range that carry Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) certification and can contribute to a project's Green Star points using the Green Building of Council Australia's calculators. The original Gyprock EC08™, launched in 2008, was the first Australian-made plasterboard to have been certified by GECA.

The Gyprock EC08™ range is available in 13mm thickness and in three grades—partition, fire-rated and impact-rated. ■



For more information on the EC08™ Range, contact Gyprock™ on 1800 621 117 or visit gyprock.com.au.

The \$296 million refurbishment of Liverpool Hospital will be completed in 2011



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