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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Landcorp wool destined for premium Australian carpets**

Quality New Zealand wool will feature in upmarket homes and offices across the Tasman after Landcorp and The New Zealand Merino Company (NZM) signed a contract to supply wool to Australia's most exclusive carpet manufacturer.

The agreement with Prestige Carpets will see 120 tonne of wool dispatched to Australia through their New Zealand-based supply chain.

Prestige uses pure New Zealand wool, and a cutting-edge tufted construction method to create carpets targeted at Australia's leading designers and architects servicing discerning customers. Prestige Carpets has recently invested in unique technology, which will bring a new range of products to the Australian market.

Steven Carden, Chief Executive of Landcorp, said the agreement under Landcorp's Pāmu brand represented a significant boost to the company's wool-growing operations.

"This is a great example of our Pāmu strategy in action. Our Pāmu brand captures the quality of our farming and allows us to enter partnerships that connect what we produce with high value consumers around the world. Our scale also means we can guarantee the wool quality and integrity and this is a major attraction to customers. This deal, for example, represents the production of about 30,000 crossbred sheep."

Simon Longton, General Manager of Prestige Carpets, said the fibre integrity and leading environmental management at Landcorp farms were key factors in Prestige Carpets' decision to partner with Landcorp's premium brand across its top-end carpet range.

"We have exclusive arrangements with discerning retailers in Australia and New Zealand and their clients want a deeper connection with our products that we think Landcorp can deliver."

Hadleigh Smith, NZM's market development manager, said the company, through its strategic alignment with Landcorp identified the desire from both companies to target consumers from a product quality, integrity and sustainability stand point.

"NZM is supportive of the Pāmu farms approach. The synergies between both businesses made this a logical fit and Prestige's quality and innovative approach absolutely fits with the direction Landcorp is taking. We're excited about mapping out how this story will evolve in the market."

The wool will be spun by New Zealand spinner Woolyarns in Petone before it is exported to Australia.

Landcorp has 67 wool producing farms and last year signed an agreement with The New Zealand Merino Company to supply strong wool to be manufactured into indoor shoes by Danish company Glerups.

**ENDS**

For further information please contact Richard Ninness on 04 382 1832 or 027 801 0561.

**Notes for editors**

The Landcorp farms involved are: Waipori and Hindon (Otago); Rotomahana (near Rotorua); Cheltenham (inland Wanganui); Ahuriri and Edenham (Hawkes Bay); and Wairio (Wairarapa).

About Landcorp

Landcorp Farming Limited is a leader in New Zealand dairy, sheep, beef and deer farming. New Zealand's largest farming organisation, Landcorp strives for sustainable farming and best practice farm systems. Landcorp's Pāmu brand means "to farm" and reflects its commitment to careful and innovative farming, and unique natural products. The brand is being used to develop new opportunities and partnerships for Landcorp and NZ farming.