



# Rules hunt 'cowboys out of shed industry

By **Wendy Spooner**

TWO suppliers of two Tamworth companies are among six NSW manufacturers to have received Shedsafe accreditation since it was launched by The Australian Steel Institute in November.

The six manufacturers are Endurance Structures, Fair Dinkum Homes and Sheds, Allgal Residential & Rural Steel Frame Buildings, Capital Steel Buildings, Ranbuild and Ultra-Steel Sheds and Garages.

"We've got currently six manufacturers accredited and there's 23 manufacturers pending," Steel Sheds Group national manager Neil Creek said.

Steel Sheds Group is an arm of The Australian Steel Institute (ASI).

ShedSafe accreditation came about after the ASI learned that most sheds which had structural failures during Cyclone Larry in 2006 were not built to the standards set by the Building Code of Australia.

In Tamworth, Great Value Garages sells Fair Dinkum Homes and Sheds; Sheds Plus sells Ranbuild.

Great Value Garages spokeswoman Janene Duncan said her company had sold about 40 sheds since the accreditation came into force. She said the new rules were an excellent way to weed out the "cowboys" in the shed-manufacturing industry.

"It's a fabulous idea," Mrs Duncan said. "It hunts out the cowboys.

"You'd like to know you're accredited: you'd like to compare apples with apples.

"It's just making the industry more professional.

"In the past, shopping around for a shed has been a time-consuming and confusing process for consumers.

"Luckily, the ASI has done the legwork by implementing Shed-Safe, so consumers no longer need to navigate the complexities of building codes, as it has all been researched and tested for them."

Mr Creek said: "It's all about improving compliance and improving standards."

He said it was all about "standardising information" on quotes – which was good for consumers.

"We're hoping to have a presence at AgQuip (in Gunnedah) this year; we feel with the accreditation scheme we have some branding and now we've got a product we can promote," Mr Creek said.

He said the accreditation standards, which took about 18 months to formulate, would help immeasurably in an industry that had gone from sheds in backyards "20 years ago" to an incredibly complex industry and "diverse market" spanning many different levels such as industrial applications.

The consumer had also become far more sophisticated.

"Eighty per cent of people who buy a shed do some research," Mr Creek said.

Go to [www.shedsafe.com.au](http://www.shedsafe.com.au)