

\$10m Shimano facility



The proposed state-of-the-art centre.

Larry Schlesinger

Melbourne-based Vaughan Constructions is building a new state-of-the-art \$10 million national distribution centre and showroom for Japanese bicycle and fishing equipment manufacturer Shimano.

The 8600-square-metre facility, under construction on Cawarra Road, Caringbah, south-west of Sydney, will be the central distribution hub for the entire range of Shimano products.

It's the latest in a line of new purpose-built, fully or semi-automated logistics facilities being developed close to major transport routes that receive, store and distribute imported goods in the most efficient manner possible.

Vaughan Constructions director **Andrew Noble** said companies were no longer thinking about short-term solutions. "Companies are relocating away from traditional warehousing and into highly technical purpose-built facilities," Mr Noble said. "It's a game of millimetres."

Earlier this year, third party logistics

giant DB Schenker opened a new purpose-built 30,000-square-metre, seven-pallet-high distribution facility in Brisbane's outer southwest to distribute goods for Samsung, Dell, Fujitsu, Xerox and Officeworks.

The three-level Shimano facility will include a 6100-square-metre fully automated warehouse racking system including wire guided forklifts, where the vehicles are steered by a magnetic field.

It also includes 2400 square metres of offices, a 3200-square-metre basement carpark, and a showroom for Shimano's latest fishing and cycling products. Sustainable design measures include recycled water, a featured sunscreen along the façade and underground rainwater-harvesting tanks. Once completed, Shimano will move out of its existing Taren Point facilities – also built by Vaughan – and consolidate operations under one roof.

Shimano Oceania managing director **Lindsay Secombe** said the new plant and facilities were a "significant investment by Shimano and reflects confidence in the Australian market and the recreational sector".