

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

2 April 2014

For immediate release

TIMBER QUEENSLAND ENCOURAGES HOME OWNERS TO CHECK THEIR DECK

Peak industry body Timber Queensland says the safest solution to combat the potential deck and balcony collapses forecast yesterday by Australian Institute of Architects is for homeowners to ensure structures are built by licensed building professionals and that regular inspections of the integrity of the deck or balcony take place.

Rod McInnes, CEO Timber Queensland said that the building industry are well aware of the potential problem and are educating themselves on correct building standards and practices.

“Decks are part of our Queensland lifestyle and the vast majority will be as structurally sound as the rest of the house.

“However, like all industries, our industry has its share of bad practitioners that might have cut corners or use timber unsuitable for deck applications,” said Rod McInnes.

“This report was released on the same day that Timber Queensland held an educational seminar for 250 builders and designers on best building practices for timber floors and decks,” he said.

Mr McInnes said TQ acknowledges the deck collapses that have occurred over the past few years and that work, including the education session held yesterday, is taking place to avoid future tragedies.

“Timber Queensland recently assisted Building Codes Queensland with a revision of their deck, balcony and window guide. Revisions to the Guide were undertaken as a result of the Coroner's findings from the Ascot and Rockhampton deck collapses that resulted in tragic loss of life,” he said.

The guide is available at

<http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/construction/BuildingPlumbing/DecksBalconies/Pages/default.aspx>

ENDS

For further information contact:

Rod McInnes CEO Timber Queensland: 07 3358 7902 / 0419 704 028