

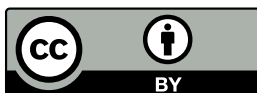


Queensland Government response to the Queensland Forest and Timber Industry Plan

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Minister's foreword

The Queensland Government is committed to growing an efficient, innovative, resilient and profitable agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector. The Queensland forest and timber industry plays a vital role in Queensland's economic, social and environmental wellbeing, especially in rural and regional communities. It also supports both the agriculture and construction pillars of the Queensland Government's commitment to a four pillar economy.

The forest growing and harvesting sector of the Queensland forest and timber industry has estimated annual sales valued at \$171 million. This sector provides the input for the first round processing (sawmilling) sector which has annual sales estimated at \$785 million. The overall Queensland forest and timber industry value chain is estimated to contribute around \$3.8 billion to Queensland's economy and employs more than 19 000 Queenslanders.

However, the Queensland forest and timber industry is currently facing a number of challenges. The more significant of these are: low profitability and return on investments in the forestry plantation and primary processing sectors; a high Australian dollar that reduces international and domestic competitiveness; persistently low levels of activity in the residential construction sector; and rising energy costs.


While these are significant challenges, the industry has considerable potential to prosper and grow. Projected population growth and associated housing and construction demand is expected to underpin sustained demand growth for timber and wood products over the next 30 years. This, together with a projected increase in the demand for timber products in the state over the medium term, indicates a potential for substantial expansion in the sector.

The Queensland Government, along with industry, recognises a need to collaborate to develop practical strategies to enable the sector to reach its full potential. Accordingly the Queensland Government has worked with the industry to develop the Queensland Forest and Timber Industry Plan (the plan). The plan sits beside Queensland's agriculture strategy – A 2040 vision to double agricultural production and it sets out a vision for sustained business growth and innovation in the Queensland-based forest and timber industry. It identifies actions to support the future of the industry in Queensland and to maximise its contribution to the state's economic, social and environmental well-being.

I thank the working group chaired by Mr Rod McInnes for developing the plan and I note that a broad range of industry stakeholders provided valuable input and comment through consultation processes undertaken during its development. I am impressed by the scope and quality of the plan as a basis for the long-term development of the industry.

I am pleased to report that the Queensland Government, subject to the details outlined in this document, will support all 27 immediate actions in the plan. The government also supports all of the longer-term actions in principle, subject to further formal consideration after the initial three year implementation process for the immediate plan actions is completed.

A plan implementation committee comprising industry and government representatives will oversee and advise on the joint implementation of the plan. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) will have lead responsibility within the Queensland Government for the coordination of the plan response. DAFF will implement those plan actions that fall within my portfolio responsibilities, and will also work directly with other state agencies where relevant.



The Queensland Government recognises that forest resource certainty is vital for industry future planning, investment and development. For the native forest sector, the Queensland Government is committed to increasing the security of access to state-owned native forest resources. This will be achieved by removing constraints on the use of state forests and timber reserves for the production of log timber and other forest products and retaining the on-going production of log timber from both native forests and plantation areas. However, the Queensland Government will not vary any existing national park tenure to allow for commercial timber harvesting.

The successful implementation of the plan will help to support regional economic development, employment growth and improved forest and land management in Queensland. I am committed to working with industry to implement the actions in the plan to sustain business growth and innovation in the Queensland forest and timber industry.

The Honourable Dr John McVeigh

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Background

The plan was developed by a working group chaired by Timber Queensland as the peak forest and timber industry representative organisation in Queensland. Membership of the working group included representatives from the Housing Industry Association, HQPlantations and Queensland's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The plan development process involved five stages:

1. Preparation of a Queensland forest and timber industry situation analysis (July-August 2012)
2. Initial stakeholder consultation and input (August-September 2012)
3. Preparation of a draft plan (October 2012)
4. Industry and state agency consultation on the draft plan (October-November 2012)
5. Finalisation of the plan (December 2012)

The working group also considered comments from a number of state agencies on the initial draft of the plan and therefore attempted to ensure that the plan actions were consistent with the stated policy direction and focus of the Queensland Government.

The chair of the working group, Mr Rod McInnes, presented the plan to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP on 6 December 2012 for Queensland Government consideration. The Queensland Government's Six Month Action Plan (January-June 2013) committed the Queensland Government to releasing the plan, and it is now available on DAFF's website at www.daff.qld.gov.au.

The overarching vision for the plan is to sustain business growth and innovation in the Queensland forest and timber industry.

The plan is built around three strategic priority areas:

1. Timber markets and community support
2. The business environment and manufacturing
3. Forest resources

It identifies eight objectives within the three priority areas, as well as 50 specific actions to achieve these objectives.

The working group determined that 27 actions in the plan require immediate attention and should be implemented over the next three years, with the remaining 23 actions considered to be longer-term and implemented later. The working group also recommended that seven of the immediate actions be solely Queensland Government led, one immediate action be solely industry led, and the remaining 19 immediate actions be jointly led or supported by the Queensland Government and industry.

The 26 immediate actions of the plan requiring some level of Queensland Government input (action 1.1 is fully allocated to industry) will be implemented using a range of approaches specific to each particular action. The approach used will depend on whether the Queensland Government or industry is primarily responsible for the implementation of an action.

Successful implementation of the plan will deliver:

- Enhanced leveraging of Queensland's competitive strengths in the forest and timber industry to support business and market growth.
- Increased commercial returns across the Queensland forest and timber industry that will attract new investment to the industry.
- Enhanced industry productivity through the removal of unnecessary regulatory and other impediments.
- Stable, transparent and supportive Queensland Government policies, particularly in relation to the state's forest resources.
- Improved security of access to native forest resources on state forest, timber reserve and certain leasehold state lands, as well as freehold land for a broad range of community and industry uses, including commercial timber production.
- Increased community awareness of the forest and timber industry's economic, social and environmental credentials.
- Enhanced collaboration amongst all forest and timber industry participants and government.
- Alignment of the Queensland Government forest and timber industry research, development and extension program with industry priorities.

Queensland Government response to the Queensland Forest and Timber Industry Plan

The Queensland Government, subject to the details outlined in this document, has endorsed all 27 immediate actions in the plan. Government is committed to working in partnership with industry and will harness resources within government to support the implementation of the plan. It will actively advocate for the forest and timber industry across government, initiate actions to ensure that businesses within the industry are prepared and resilient to challenges and opportunities, and implement policies to provide business conditions that are conducive to growth.

The Queensland Government will also support all of the longer-term actions in principle (refer to Attachment 1) subject to further formal consideration after the initial three year implementation process when the immediate plan actions are completed.

There are a wide range of factors that influence the forest and timber industry's ability to grow. However it is acknowledged that some of these such as exchange rate movements; changing global economic conditions; and competition from imported timber products are beyond the influence of both the Queensland Government and the forest and timber industry.

A plan implementation committee (implementation committee) with appropriate membership from industry and Queensland Government agencies will be formed to oversee and advise on the implementation of the plan, in particular to coordinate industry and government resourcing of plan actions.

DAFF will have lead responsibility within the Queensland Government for the coordination of the plan response and will work with other state agencies in relation to the implementation of those actions requiring other agency support. Supported plan actions will be implemented using work plans, agreements and other project management approaches or tools to be developed specifically for each action, with consideration of advice and direction from the implementation committee.

The delivery of some plan actions may be best undertaken by private service providers. These will be sought using contestable competitive processes in accordance with Queensland Government procurement policies.

Strategic priority 1: Timber markets and community support

Objective 1: Timber is recognised as the premier construction and finishing product in Queensland

Plan action 1.1 Timber promotion strategy

Develop and implement a strategic timber promotion strategy to key decision makers (including building designers, architects and builders) about construction materials. The strategy will highlight the practical, economic and environmental benefits of timber over other building materials and address misconceptions about timber performance.

Responsibility – Industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported, noting that industry will be responsible for the implementation of this action.

Plan action 1.2 Chain of custody certification

Establish a support scheme to encourage the uptake of chain of custody (CoC) certification by primary and secondary processors, and implement a market awareness campaign to highlight the sustainability credentials of timber that are imparted by CoC certification.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government is committed to the sustainable production of timber as demonstrated by internationally recognised certification of log timber production from state-owned native forests.
- CoC provides a cost effective mechanism to demonstrate that timber products have been sourced from sustainably managed forests.
- The Queensland Government has recently initiated a support scheme in collaboration with Timber Queensland to help businesses working within the timber product supply chain achieve certification.
- The Queensland Government recognises a public benefit from supporting CoC uptake by businesses as it strengthens the sustainable management of the state's forests.
- Support for the uptake of CoC certification by Queensland's timber processors and wholesalers will also maintain and support market demand for Queensland grown log timber.

Plan action 1.3 Showcase Queensland timber

Identify opportunities to use and showcase Queensland grown and processed timber in iconic developments (e.g. Commonwealth Games venues).

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to identify potential opportunities for showcasing Queensland grown and processed timber through incorporation into the design and building of Queensland Government supported infrastructure projects.
- Infrastructure and building project decision makers within the Queensland Government will identify potential opportunities to showcase Queensland timber and communicate these to industry.
- Any Queensland Government support will not result in an increase in overall project or end user costs.

Plan action 1.4 – Supportive procurement policies

Investigate the feasibility of establishing procurement policies which encourage the use of locally produced sustainable materials with low embodied energy and a small carbon footprint, such as CoC certified timber.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will investigate and report on the feasibility of establishing procurement policies specifying materials with low embodied energy and a small carbon footprint.
- Any possible support will not result in an increase in overall project or end user costs.
- Consideration will also be given to the appropriate balance between responsible environmental sustainability policies and the economic priorities of the government and its agencies.

Objective 2: Enhanced access to existing and new timber markets for Queensland grown and processed timber

Plan action 2.1 – Market advantages of Queensland timber

Identify and promote products that highlight and build on the market advantages specifically attributable to Queensland’s plantations and native forests.

Responsibility – Industry with Queensland Government support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will consult with industry to determine the best ways that government can help industry to identify and promote the competitive advantages of Queensland’s timber products.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to implement agreed projects.

Plan action 2.2 – Use of timber residues

Identify and remove any Queensland Government policy or legislative impediments for the use of timber residues from forest operations and timber processing (e.g. bio-energy, small section and reconstituted wood products) and identify opportunities to increase the commercial utilisation of residues and facilitate new market opportunities.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will clarify its policy position on the use of sawmill and in-forest residues for bio-energy and other ‘new’ uses and articulate this position.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to identify any policy and legislative impediments affecting the commercial use of these residues and explore ways of reducing any constraints while maintaining or enhancing environmental and social values.
- The Queensland Government will investigate, identify and implement opportunities to attract investment in timber residue use in Queensland.

Objective 3: The community actively supports the Queensland forest and timber Industry

Plan action 3.1 – Community support

Develop and implement an engagement and communication program to enhance community support in metropolitan and regional communities by identifying and engaging with key stakeholders, and by profiling the economic, environmental and social value of the Queensland forest and timber industry.

Responsibility – Industry with Queensland Government support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to identify and support appropriate industry-led initiatives to enhance community recognition of the economic, environmental and social value of the Queensland forest and timber industry.
- The Queensland Government support may include the provision of limited resources for agreed projects and communicating the benefits of the forest and timber industry.

Strategic priority 2: Business environment and manufacturing

Objective 4: Business conditions in Queensland support an internationally competitive timber processing and manufacturing base

Plan action 4.1 – Timber manufacturing costs

Identify and reduce regulatory restrictions and compliance costs impeding timber processing and manufacturing as part of the Queensland Government's existing initiatives to enhance Queensland's competitive advantage.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government is committed to the identification and removal of unnecessary regulatory compliance constraints that impede industry growth.
- The Queensland Government will request the forest and timber industry to identify unnecessary Queensland regulatory restrictions and compliance costs that are impeding industry performance and growth across the sector's whole value chain.
- The Queensland Government will investigate opportunities to reduce the nominated regulation and compliance costs for the forest and timber industry and where appropriate develop and establish programs through relevant departments to remove or streamline 'red tape'.

Plan action 4.2 – Research and development advisory committee

Establish an industry-led advisory panel to focus the research and development (R&D) investment by the Queensland Government towards industry priorities, and support maintenance of Queensland's nationally significant R&D capability. The initial task would be to develop a Queensland Forest and Timber Industry R&D Investment Strategy that captures the views of key parties and guides Queensland Government and industry investment decisions about future projects and funding priorities.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will continue to support a targeted forest and timber industry R&D and extension program to drive innovation, productivity, resilience and profitability in the forest and timber industry.
- The Queensland Government will form an industry-based Forest and Timber Industry R&D Advisory Committee to guide Queensland Government forest and timber industry R&D and extension program investment.
- The Queensland Government will support the committee to undertake a review of the current forest and timber R&D and extension program and also establish a strategic investment plan to guide forest and timber industry R&D and extension investment to ensure that it is aligned with industry priorities.
- The Queensland Government forest and timber R&D and extension program will focus on matters of direct relevance to Queensland that are not already being addressed by national and international programs.
- The Queensland Government will provide support to both develop and implement (including annual reviews) the forest and timber industry R&D strategic investment plan.

Plan action 4.3 – Finance sector support

Initiate joint industry and Queensland Government engagement with the finance sector to encourage their support of the Queensland forest and timber industry by providing a comprehensive account of the industry.

Responsibility – Industry and Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with Timber Queensland in the initial twelve months of the plan implementation process to organise a forum involving the government, the forest and timber industry and the finance sector to initiate the engagement process.

Plan action 4.4 – Best practice

Promote the adoption of best practice technologies and management practices throughout the whole forest and timber industry value chain, including the growing, harvesting, processing, manufacturing and marketing sectors.

Responsibility – Industry with Queensland Government support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- In consultation with industry, the Queensland Government will identify areas where it can support innovation and the promotion of best practice technologies and management practices for the Queensland forest and timber industry.
- The Queensland Government will support the industry to conduct an industry needs analysis and to develop and implement agreed programs.

Plan action 4.5 – Illegal logging laws

Work with the Australian Government to develop effective and practical illegal logging laws minimising the compliance burden on the Queensland forest and timber industry.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work to ensure that the Queensland forest and timber industry maintains access to timber product markets.
- The Queensland Government will work with the Australian Government on the implementation of their *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and subordinate legislation to ensure that it does not adversely impact the Queensland forest and timber industry.

Objective 5: Queensland's forest and timber industry has a highly skilled workforce operating in a safe work environment

Plan action 5.1 – Training and skills audit

Undertake a training and skills audit of the forest and timber industry to ascertain training needs required and work with the Queensland Government and other parties to meet the demand.

Responsibility – Industry with Queensland Government support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that the forest and timber industry has access to appropriate training and skills development opportunities.
- A new skills, training and education advisory committee has been established in DAFF as an action of the Queensland Government's Six Month Action Plan (January to June 2013). The forest and timber industry is represented on this committee.
- The Queensland Government will support industry to develop a forest and timber industry training and skills audit and will work with industry to address identified training gaps identified by the audit.

Plan action 5.2 – Workplace health and safety

Support implementation of the Forest and Timber Industry Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) Action Plan to help the industry recognise and meet their WH&S obligations, including strategies for enhancing WH&S systems and outcomes, and improving industry's management of WorkCover issues.

Responsibility – Industry with Queensland Government support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to identify ways that the government can provide in-kind support to assist industry to implement the Forest and Timber Industry Workplace Health and Safety Action Plan that was developed by Timber Queensland.

Strategic priority 3: Forest resource

Objective 6: State forests are managed responsibly for timber production and other commercial activities, recreation and conservation outcomes

Plan action 6.1 – Certification on state-owned forests

Maintain certification of native forest timber production activities on state-owned forests to an internationally recognised standard for sustainable forest management.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- Timber production from state-owned native forests is currently certified to the Australian Forestry Standard.
- The Queensland Government will continue to maintain certification for timber production on state-owned native forests and thereby support continued market access for timber products produced from these forests.

Plan action 6.2 – Environmental and safety standards

Maintain high standards of environmental management and workplace safety as expressed in approved codes of practice for forest management.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will continue to support high standards of environmental management and workplace safety through appropriate codes of practice.
- The Queensland Government will work with industry to conduct an industry needs analysis with respect to environmental management and workplace safety and to develop and implement agreed programs to address priority needs.

Plan action 6.3 – Cypress resource

Deliver long term resource certainty for cypress sawmillers reliant on state-owned native forests through commercial sales contracts that will encourage ongoing investment in the sector and drive efficiencies and innovation in the use of cypress timber.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government recognises that resource certainty is vital for industry future planning and investment.
- The provision of long-term sawlog supply arrangements for state-owned cypress forests was an action in the Queensland Government’s Six Month Action Plan (January to June 2013).
- The Queensland Government has offered long-term sales permits for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2037 to fourteen eligible sawmillers currently utilising log timber from state-owned native cypress forests. All offered permits have been accepted.

Plan action 6.4 – Review of hardwood plantation program

Review the hardwood plantation program currently underway, commencing with an evaluation of the scale of requirements to underpin a viable integrated domestic hardwood plantation processing industry.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will initiate and support a review, in consultation with industry, to evaluate the viability of the state’s native hardwood plantations, particularly the establishment program that was transferred to HQPlantations Pty Ltd by the former government as part of the 2010 sale of state-owned forestry plantation assets. The review will focus on the capacity of these plantations to support a domestic hardwood plantation processing sector.

Plan action 6.5 – Native forest resource availability

Review future native forest hardwood resource availability from state-owned native forests, and consider the extension of existing long-term hardwood sales contracts consistent with the forests' productive capacity.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will undertake a review of the state-owned native forest hardwood resources on state forests, timber reserves and certain leasehold state lands to determine its long-term availability.
- The Queensland Government will engage with industry on opportunities to extend supply beyond current arrangements subject to the outcomes of the above review.
- Queensland Government commitments will be contingent on sufficient volumes being assessed as available.
- In exchange for revised terms and conditions, including the adoption of less intensive harvesting regimes, additional hardwood sawlogs are being made available to existing permittees in the western hardwoods region. In addition, hardwood poles and girder log timber are being provided from this region to industry through competitive sales.

Plan action 6.6 – Access to state-owned forests

Queensland Government to develop and communicate its policy to provide a balanced and responsible access to state-owned native forests across Queensland (including any reinstated state forests) for commercial timber production and other uses.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government's vision for state-owned native forests is to recognise that these areas of state forest, timber reserve and certain other leasehold lands should not be locked up for conservation purposes only; but rather used for a broad variety of purposes, whether they are commercial, recreational and/or conservation.
- The Queensland Government will develop and announce a policy and reform agenda that provides for balanced and responsible access to Queensland's state forests and timber reserves.
- The Queensland Government will not vary any existing national park tenure to allow for commercial timber harvesting.

Objective 7: Queensland has Australia's best investment environment for timber resource development

Plan action 7.1 – State-owned land for new plantations

Investigate the feasibility of making additional state-owned land available for private investment in greenfield plantation development to help redress scale and future supply constraints.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government acknowledges that significant new private investment in greenfield forest plantations for timber production in Queensland is unlikely for the foreseeable future without targeted policy support.
- The Queensland Government will conduct an investigation into the feasibility of making additional state-owned land available for private investment in greenfield plantation development and produce a publicly available report.
- The Queensland Government will also identify any other feasible options to support greenfield plantation development in Queensland to help redress scale and future timber supply constraints.

Plan action 7.2 – Plantation planning and operations codes

Finalise and implement the Timber Plantation Planning and Operations Codes to support environmental standards and provide increased planning certainty and consistency for new plantation development in Queensland.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry:

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government is committed to establishing a land planning framework and regulatory environment that will support new timber plantation development in Queensland.
- The Queensland Government will finalise the Forestry for Wood Production Code (Timber Plantation Planning Code).
- The Queensland Government will investigate the regulatory environment with a view to enhancing planning and investment certainty for greenfield plantation investment in Queensland (also refer to Action 4.1).
- The Queensland Government will support the implementation of the Forestry for Wood Production Code, plus the Plantation Operations Code being developed by Timber Queensland on behalf of industry.

Plan action 7.3 – Private native forest harvest security

Maintain the current self-regulatory arrangements for native forest operations on private land, and establish a mechanism to enhance long term certainty to manage and harvest private native forests in Queensland through the equivalent of a Category X under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government recognises and acknowledges the important role that Queensland’s native forests on privately-owned land play in supplying log timber resources for the timber processing sector and improving environmental outcomes.
- The Queensland Government will commit to a policy agenda to maintain the current self-regulatory arrangements for native forest harvesting operations on privately-owned land, introduce suitable legislative mechanisms to enhance long term certainty to manage and harvest, and where appropriate remove unnecessary Queensland regulatory restrictions to improve investment certainty for privately-owned native forests used for timber production in Queensland (also refer to Action 4.1).
- This policy agenda will also include investigating, in consultation with industry, mechanisms under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* to enhance investment and harvest security in native forests on privately-owned land. These mechanisms will not include a Category X equivalent.

Plan action 7.4 – Spatial information tool

Following the identification of key timber resource areas by the agricultural land audit, a spatial forest and timber information tool that identifies key forest and timber resource areas will be finalised. This will help investment decisions of forest growers and timber processors, as well as inform state and local governments with strategic planning processes.

Responsibility – Queensland Government

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will build on the work undertaken by DAFF as part of the agricultural land audit to develop a public interface spatial information tool to help investment decisions of forest growers and timber processors, as well as inform state and local governments with planning processes.

Plan action 7.5 – Forestry, grazing and mine spoil

Investigate the feasibility of allowing integrated forestry crops and grazing as options in mine spoil rehabilitation plans, thereby facilitating forestry, grazing and environmental diversity outcomes that represent the best value return for regional communities from mining rehabilitation activities.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will, in conjunction with the resource sector and the forest and timber industry, investigate the feasibility of promoting and implementing integrated forestry and grazing production systems. This includes investigating integrated forestry crops and grazing as options for mine site rehabilitation.
- This option has the potential to provide additional economic value over other methods of site rehabilitation and achieve satisfactory environmental outcomes.

Plan action 7.6 – Salvage timber

Investigate opportunities to collaborate with resource and infrastructure projects to improve the recovery of salvage timber from associated clearing operations.

Responsibility – Queensland Government with industry support

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with resource and infrastructure project companies and the forest and timber industry to implement processes to improve the recovery of salvage timber from clearing operations associated with resource projects.

Objective 8: Queensland forest management delivers optimal economic, social and environmental outcomes

Plan action 8.1 – Forestry and grazing

Support a program involving the timber industry and private landholders to facilitate adoption of best practice native forest management that will enhance forest productivity, production of high value timber resources and improve environmental outcomes, while maintaining or improving grazing opportunities.

Responsibility – Queensland Government and industry

Queensland Government response:

- Supported.
- The Queensland Government will work with the forest and timber industry and the grazing industry to identify the most effective methods of encouraging the adoption of integrated forestry and grazing production systems, including carbon opportunities and productivity enhancement.
- The Queensland Government will work with relevant stakeholders to implement agreed outcomes arising from the above review.

Attachment 1: Longer-term actions

Longer-term actions	Responsibility
1.5. Identify and develop recommendations to address any unwarranted restrictions or impediments to the use of existing and emerging timber products in building codes, standards and other regulations.	Industry
1.6. Research opportunities to recognise and reward good building design and a more holistic approach to carbon reduction in the building and construction sector by the use of materials with low embodied energy and a light carbon footprint such as timber.	Industry
1.7. Encourage development of an appropriate quality assurance scheme/s that ensure domestic and imported timber meets Australian standards in relation to legality, structural requirements and durability treatment.	Industry
2.3. Develop and publish an annual Queensland forest and timber industry capability statement and supporting material/s to highlight the Queensland industry's capability and the features of its timber products (e.g. strength and durability) to domestic and international customers.	Industry with Queensland Government support
2.4. Develop and publish a directory of Queensland timber industry participants and their products.	Industry
2.5. Investigate and identify recommendations to address market barriers to the adoption of timber products in multi-residential, medium rise and commercial buildings.	Industry
2.6. Promote and encourage the development and adoption of affordable timber-based building systems that will significantly reduce building times, minimise workplace health and safety risks and improve building performance.	Industry
2.7. Maintain the focus of any Queensland Government housing incentives (e.g. first home buyers grant and National Rental Assistance Scheme) on generating activity in new housing and renovations rather than supporting churn of existing housing stock.	Queensland Government
4.6. Identify appropriate Queensland Government policy initiatives that can assist in attracting major investment in Queensland's forest, timber processing and manufacturing sectors. This will encourage innovation, adoption of new technology and development of new products; and thereby maintain international competitiveness of the sector.	Queensland Government, with industry support
4.7. Establish a comprehensive database of Queensland forest and timber industry businesses and undertake / support periodic industry surveys to assist in identifying and analysing changes in the industry over time.	Industry with Queensland Government support

Longer-term actions	Responsibility
4.8. Support the further development of the bioenergy market by undertaking an inventory of forest and timber industry residues and other low value wood that could be used as bioenergy feedstocks in either stand-alone or integrated facilities.	Industry and Queensland Government
4.9. Review the infrastructure needs of the forest and timber industry in line with the Queensland Government’s new infrastructure planning and procurement approaches, and work with relevant authorities (e.g. port, road, power, water etc.) to identify how these needs can best be delivered.	Queensland Government and industry
4.10. Identify recommendations to streamline the development assessment process to reduce the time and cost associated with new business developments.	Industry
5.3. Develop and implement a Forest and Timber Industry Workforce Plan to identify and address priority skill needs, including consideration of a silvicultural accreditation program for cutters operating in private native forests.	Industry with Queensland Government support
5.4. Maintain long term support for a Queensland forest and timber industry skills advisory mechanism to ensure that skills investment in Queensland meets industry’s needs.	Queensland Government
5.5. Develop and implement a campaign to promote the forest and timber industry to job-seekers and the broader community as a long term career.	Industry
6.7. Investigate options to enhance the productivity of state-owned native forests and increase wood supply.	Queensland Government
7.7. Investigate opportunities to collaborate with agriculture industries, and with resources and infrastructure developments to enhance the opportunities for long term development of wood resources; particularly as a secondary product associated with activities such as grazing, site rehabilitation and water quality management.	Industry
7.8. In conjunction with the finalisation of the Plantation Planning and Operations Codes, collaborate with the Australian Government to remove the export controls contained in their <i>Export Control Act 1982</i> for Queensland unprocessed plantation-sourced timber products.	Queensland Government with industry support
7.9. Support the participation of commercial Queensland forest growers (plantations and native forests) in the Australian Government’s Carbon Farming Initiative and any other future carbon trading initiatives, thereby encouraging the development of carbon benefits in association with a productive forest land use.	Industry and Queensland Government

Longer-term actions	Responsibility
8.2. Identify mechanisms to encourage private native forest and plantation growers to adopt and maintain credible third party forest certification to demonstrate sustainability and enhance ongoing market access for Queensland timber products.	Industry with Queensland Government support
8.3. Support the development and maintenance of an effective Queensland biosecurity framework in line with national biosecurity arrangements.	Queensland Government and industry
8.4. Investigate and document profitable native and plantation farm forestry production systems that integrate timber, grazing and other products into the Queensland agricultural landscape and promote the findings to landholders.	Industry with Queensland Government support

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