

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Help with Climate Change Plant More Trees – Use More Timber

Queensland's \$2.7 billion per annum timber industry is poised to assist in fixing the climate change issue and supports the development of an emissions trading scheme within Australia.

Timber Queensland's CEO Rod McInnes said today "Government policy makers and the public at large should be aware of the positive role the forest and timber industries can play in this concerning debate."

"Notwithstanding various scientific discussions at the margins some indisputable facts are very clear:

- Trees take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, store the carbon and emit oxygen thereby acting as a natural filter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases contributing to global warming and climate change.
- Actively growing trees remove more CO₂ from the atmosphere than mature trees.
- The carbon stored remains in the wood during its life, whether it be in structural timber, furniture or other products.
- Timber uses much less energy in its manufacture than alternative products such as steel, aluminium, plastic etc as well as being renewable and recyclable" Mr McInnes continued.

"New forests, even if harvested regularly for timber production, build a significant store of carbon. Whilst some forests and vegetated areas should be left as dedicated carbon 'sinks', other areas should be planted with trees, harvested for wood production and replanted, thus building the carbon store and continuing the cycle of sustainability."

"A well developed robust emissions trading scheme allows greenhouse gas emitters to offset those emissions by investing in carbon storage processes such as new forests with the additional public benefit of allowing the sustainable production of energy efficient and renewable wood products."

"The modern forest and timber industry, once considered a "yesterday" industry and the destroyer of the environment is in fact one of the industries that can help to save the planet with modern, sustainable, energy efficient, environmentally friendly and economically positive activity."

"Queensland's forest and timber industry stands ready, willing and able to play its role in redressing some of the negative impacts of the climate change issues. We call upon the State and Federal Governments to acknowledge and support our industry's increasing role in the climate change debate" Mr McInnes concluded.

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*Refer to Timber Queensland's website for further information
<http://www.timberqueensland.com.au>*

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