

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Industry Welcomes Plantation Expansion

Queensland's \$2.7 billion per annum timber industry welcomes Forestry Plantations Queensland's announcement regarding land rental and joint venture schemes for land owners with land suitable for hardwoods.

Industry peak body Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said "The announcement by Minister Mulherin this week is welcome news towards expanding Queensland's plantation estate to provide the double benefit of assisting in greenhouse gas mitigation as well as providing the necessary additional timber resource for Queensland's burgeoning population expansion."

"Queensland grew at the fastest rate of all States and Territories with 79,000 people moving into the State in 2005/06" Mr McInnes said. Indeed a demographer from the Australian National University indicated at a recent housing conference that Queensland's population was expected to grow by 5 million additional people in the next 35 years, with 3 million of those in the South-East corner.

Timber Queensland estimates that an additional 120,000 hectares of plantation will be required to meet the timber demand created by this growth, and this plantation expansion in hardwoods is a welcome step forward in that process. Although we have a long way to go, this welcome step will assist Queensland in moving towards self-sufficiency in timber requirements and avoid the need for the State to import timber from forests that may be less well-managed than our own" Mr McInnes concluded.

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