

Timber recycles carbon

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Queensland's Timber Industry shouldn't have to pay for Wollemi losses

The disastrous Wollemi Pine project isn't the only commercial tree problem for the Bligh Government, says forest and timber industry peak body Timber Queensland.

Wholly Government owned corporation Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ) which presided over the winding up of the Wollemi disaster has been using its' monopoly supply situation to price gouge Queensland's Plantation timber processing industry to compensate for its' Wollemi losses.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said today "FPQ has, in the last 18 months –

- Increased Hoop Pine Royalties by up to 14% on South East Queensland and refused to let the price decision be arbitrated when industry challenged the decision. The matter is still before the Courts and currently 50 jobs have been lost at Yarraman Pine in the Brisbane Valley with another 50 in the balance depending on the outcome of the legal proceedings for that business alone. Another 250 jobs are at risk in other Hoop Pine processing businesses in South East Queensland.
- Reneged on a contract to supply additional resource to the State's largest plantation processors; causing industry to seek legal advice. This dispute reached the Premiers office and an independent consultants' advice is now being sought by the Premier.
- Had to be dragged kicking and screaming to provide a Wood Supply proposal for a new plantation Softwood Mill at Mareeba and then only after Ministerial intervention. FPQ would have happily left the owners of the Mareeba Mill with \$10 million invested, ironically with Government Grant funding, in the lurch when they have no other customer in North Queensland to take that Wood".

"This Government created entity has no interest in its customer's survival and seems hell bent on ramping prices with no regard for industry's capacity to pay, putting jobs at risk for short term financial gain."

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“No-one in their right mind would invest in plantation processing in Queensland under this regime” Rod McInnes went on to say.

“Unfortunately, the Bligh Government seems content to let this business continue unchecked and put Queensland’s \$2.5 bn pa timber industry and its 20000 jobs at risk” Rod McInnes concluded.

ENDS

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