

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional poll shows overwhelming response for Government action to grow the forest and timber industry

Recent polling in regional seats in both southern and northern Queensland have identified an overwhelming response by voters for more Government action to grow the local forest and timber industry.

The uComms poll conducted in five regional electorates in the last week of September 2020 found that 9 out of 10 voters agree or strongly agree that the Government should be doing more to support and grow local timber industry jobs.

Over 3000 voters were surveyed across the electorates of Warrego, Morayfield, Gympie, Maryborough and Cook. These electorates have forestry and timber production businesses that supply into forest product and building and construction markets, with strong potential for growth.

The polling of over 600 voters in each electorate also found:

- across the electorates, an average 88% of voters surveyed believe the timber industry is important to regional Queensland, ranging from more than 83% and up to 93% by electorate; and
- voters more likely to support a party or candidate with policies in support of the timber industry outnumber those less likely by an average 3 to 1, with 24% unchanged.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said “We are not surprised by these results. We know that many local towns and communities understand and value the benefits and jobs created by forestry and the timber industry in their regions.”

“This is a strong message to all parties and candidates in the upcoming state election that these communities want Government to proactively grow and support the industry.”

The timber and forest products industry generates \$3.8 billion each year and supports around 25,000 jobs, mostly in regional areas.”

Timber Queensland has identified a five-point plan for Government to create greater resource security and a policy environment to generate new investment in the regions.

‘We believe the industry could generate an extra \$300 million in annual output and generate an additional 2000 jobs with the right policies in place,’ Mr Stephens said.

The Timber Queensland election policy statement and five point plan can be found [here](#).

For further information contact:

Clarissa Brandt, Strategic Relations & Communications Manager, 0416 350 328,
clarissa@timberqueensland.com.au

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Attachment: Regional polling results (%)

Electorate	Morayfield	Warrego	Gympie	Maryborough	Cook	Average
Residents surveyed	649	609	607	608	647	
<i>Would you be more or less likely to vote for a political party or candidate with policies in support of Queensland's local forest products and timber industry?</i>						
More likely	48.0	61.6	62.2	63.5	56.2	58.3
Less likely	19.8	17.6	16.7	12.4	21.6	17.6
Vote unchanged	32.2	20.8	21.1	24.1	22.2	24.1
<i>In your opinion, how important do you think forest industries such as wood production and timber processing are to regional Queensland?</i>						
Very important	51.1	63.3	66.6	71.5	58.6	
Somewhat important	32.9	25.2	23.9	21.6	24.1	
Somewhat unimportant	6.7	4.4	6.1	2.6	12.2	
Very unimportant	3.6	2.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	
Unsure	5.8	4.6	1.9	2.8	3.8	
Somewhat important and very important	84.0	88.5	90.5	93.1	82.7	87.8
<i>Do you agree or disagree that the Queensland Government should be doing more to support and grow local timber industry jobs and decrease our reliance on imports?</i>						
Strongly agree	72.3	80.4	76.1	77.8	74.8	
Agree	16.5	11.5	14.7	14.7	14.2	
Disagree	4.9	3.2	4.9	4.0	5.2	
Strongly disagree	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.6	3.5	
Unsure	4.2	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.3	
Agree and strongly agree	88.8	91.9	90.8	92.5	89.0	90.6