

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland's State Forests – legal and sustainable

Queensland's forests, underpinning our \$2.4 billion timber industry with its 20,000 employees, certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) which is internationally recognised by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), have been declared legal and sustainable by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

This means PEFC/AFS certified timber is now eligible for all contracts under the UK public tendering processes. The UK import £2 billion of timber products each year, much of it already PEFC certified.

Timber Queensland's CEO Rod McInnes said *"The Queensland Government initiative in achieving AFS/PEFC certification has provided access to international markets for Queensland produced timber which would be otherwise denied."*

"This welcome initiative should underpin our forest industry's future, as it clearly demonstrates Queensland forest management standards are Worlds Best Practice" Rod McInnes continued.

PEFC now has 122 million hectares of certified forests worldwide in Australia, Europe and North and South America.

"Queenslanders can rest assured our precious forests are being managed sustainably and legally thanks to the foresight of the Beattie Government in achieving this international certification."

"This should avoid any need for further draconian locking up of forests and provide our industry with certainty for the future" Rod McInnes concluded.

Ends.

For further information please contact Rod McInnes on 07 3254 1989 or 0419 704 028.

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