

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

HANDS OFF CYPRESS

Queensland's cypress pine industry calls on the Beattie Government to abandon its plans to "backdoor" the cypress industry in its proposed outcome for the Western Hardwoods Forest planning process.

Industry peak body, Timber Queensland, says the Governments plan to include a proportion of the cypress pine forest currently supplying at least two mills in the Chinchilla region in its Western Hardwoods reserve system is sneaky and underhanded.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes says "The Government has consistently given industry assurances that cypress pine would not be dealt with in the Western Hardwoods process and to now include some cypress forest in the process without a thorough review of the impact to industry, jobs and dependant communities, is simply not on".

"A formal cypress pine forest planning process has been planned to follow on from the Western Hardwoods process and that is the appropriate way to deal with long term planning for our cypress industry", Mr McInnes continued.

"To include some of these cypress pine forests at this stage especially as the forests have recently been certified as Worlds Best Practice under the internationally recognised Australian Forestry Standard will pre-empt an outcome for long term planning for our cypress industry and should be abandoned" Mr McInnes concluded.

Ends.

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

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