

# TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

## More to be done on Western Hardwoods

Queensland's timber industry has warned there was "much more to be done" to reach an agreement on the Western Hardwoods process despite yesterday's announcement that the State Government would acquire Hyne Timber's hardwood operation.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said the industry acknowledged Deputy Premier Anna Bligh's announcement was a breakthrough in moving towards an outcome in the protracted Western Hardwoods negotiations.

"This is a welcome step forward in what has become a dreadfully long-winded drawn out process which started in 2001," Mr McInnes said.

He said, however there was much more to be done before an agreement can be reached on the Western Hardwoods process.

"Issues such as wood supply details for the remaining mills and the precise area that will be reserved are yet to be resolved," he said.

Mr McInnes said the industry had entered this process in a spirit of cooperation in order to determine long-term security for Queensland's hardwood industry.

"We see this commitment to work with Government and other stakeholders to get industry onto an even more sustainably productive footing," he said.

"This is an opportunity to ensure Queensland's timber demand can be met from a locally grown resource to the maximum practicable extent, and avoid increasing reliance on overseas timber from forests that may not be as well managed as ours."

"While we understand the Government's need to consider conservation values and we support this, we remain perplexed at the need to continue to reserve millions of hectares of forests which have been certified to the Australian Forestry Standard, which is internationally recognised as world's best practice" Mr McInnes concluded.

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