

# TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

## Cypress industry vital to regional economy

Queensland's cypress timber industry supports more than 600 jobs and is worth \$45 million each year to the state's economy, a new report has revealed.

The size and importance of the state's cypress industry has been identified for the first time in a special survey prepared by respected firm KPMG and publicly released today by the industry's peak body, Timber Queensland.

According to the report, the Queensland cypress industry centres around 1.5million hectares of land in state's south west that is managed by the Department of Primary Industries Forestry.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes says the socio economic survey of 21 timber mills showed that not only was the cypress industry supporting the state's huge growth, it was crucial to the survival of many rural and regional communities.

"If you look at a Shire like Millmerran, south west of Toowoomba, you have four mills providing work for 59 people – which is a huge part of that region's economy," Mr McInnes said. "And in Toowoomba city alone, you have 92 people working in the cypress mill industry."

Mr McInnes said the importance of the industry to regional communities must be considered in any future State Government moves to control the level of cypress forest available to the industry.

He said all Government Cypress forests were managed to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and recognised internationally as sustainably managed by the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

"This resource is already managed in a sustainable way and we can see no benefit to the wider community of any future moves to lock up more cypress forests," he said.

**Note: Copies of the report are available on request.  
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