

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Timber Industry Welcomes New Plantations

Timber Queensland, the peak industry body representing Queensland's \$2.4 billion per annum timber industry and its 20,000+ employees, welcomes the recent announcement by Forest Enterprises Australia (FEA) to plant 8,000 hectares of hardwood plantations in Kilkivan and Kingaroy Shires.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said "This move by FEA to increase its plantation estate and to announce its intention to eventually construct a sawmill is great news for Queensland". "Our research on Queensland's timber needs for the future with the burgeoning growth this State is experiencing has identified a need for an additional 110,000 hectares of timber plantations to meet future needs" Mr McInnes continued.

"Unless this occurs, Queensland's timber needs will be increasingly met from imported timber from less well-managed forests, thus denying Queensland regional communities job opportunities and economic growth or worse still forcing Queenslanders to use non-renewable, less environmentally friendly building materials" Mr McInnes went on to say.

"So whilst the FEA announcement won't fix the problem entirely, it's a great step in the right direction and we encourage other plantation growers including Government agencies to follow suit" Mr McInnes concluded.

Ends.

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

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