

*Timber recycles carbon*



## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **\$44.6 MILLION PLANTATION INVESTMENT COULD PLACE SEQ FORESTRY AGREEMENT AT RISK**

The Queensland Government's announcement of \$44.6 million over seven years to establish an additional 8200 hectares of hardwood sawlog plantation is welcome and expected, despite peak industry body Timber Queensland having no confidence in the government grower allocated the funding.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said today, "This welcome investment fulfils the Government's promise under the South East Queensland Forestry Agreement (SEQFA) struck in 1999 to provide 20,000 ha of hardwood sawlog plantations to replace hardwood logs that had been previously harvested from crown native forests."

However, Rod McInnes went on to say "Industry is disturbed that the Government has given this job to its wholly owned plantation business – Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ) – in whom the industry has no confidence, and not put this significant investment out to tender to gain the best deal for the tax payers dollars."

Rod McInnes continued "FPQ has developed a record over recent months of price gouging on royalties, withdrawing previously contracted arrangements and trying to use their monopoly supply power to force industry into unreasonable commercial arrangements. Legal action is pending on a number of issues currently and industry can have no confidence a similar situation won't exist when these hardwood plantations are ready for sale."

"Despite writing to the Premier and relevant Ministers in July without reply, industry can only assume that the Government supports the commercial thuggery practised by FPQ. Continuing with this investment with FPQ will put industry's commitment to the landmark SEQFA at risk".

"Government should at the very least call tenders for this significant investment," Rod McInnes concluded.

**ENDS**

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