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TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Queensland's demand for timber outstripping supply: forestry MIS is part of the solution

Queensland will import twenty five percent of the timber used for building and construction within five years says peak industry body Timber Queensland.

Rod McInnes, CEO Timber Queensland said the growing gap between demand and local wood supply is forcing industry and government to work together to maximise the opportunities for establishing commercial plantations.

"Historically most plantation investment was made directly by government, however over the last decade more than seventy percent of new investment in Australian plantations has come from the private sector," said Rod McInnes.

The majority of these funds have come from Forestry Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) which allow small investors to pool resources and share returns in proportion to their investment.

"There have been wildly inaccurate media claims about forestry MIS, the fact is the Federal Government supports forestry MIS tax arrangements, and these represent a positive investment," he said.

"In Queensland we recognise that forestry MIS is an essential vehicle for securing necessary funds to expand Queensland's plantation estate to close the gap between timber demand and supply.

'We applaud the State Government who recognise the benefits of plantation investment in regional areas

"They are funding two Industry Development Officers to work with industry, state and local governments on plans to expand Queensland's plantation estate and meet the future timber demands of our growing population."

For more information on Forestry MIS read Timber Queensland's Policy Statement "*Forestry MIS – essential to meet Queensland's demand for wood products*" at www.timberqueensland.com.au

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