

*Timber recycles carbon*



## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S POWER POLE PLAN DELIVERS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

Peak industry body Timber Queensland congratulates the State Government and Ergon Energy for responding to a shortage of timber power poles by launching a forward-thinking plan to grow their own supply.

Rod McInnes, CEO Timber Queensland said that Ergon Energy's plans to grow one million hardwood trees, which will be ready to harvest in 15 to 20 years time, is a green-house friendly initiative.

"One of the best ways to fight climate change is to grow and use more timber," said Rod McInnes.

"When these trees are harvested to use as power poles the carbon stays inside – each tree can contain over two tonnes of carbon," he said.

"Given that Ergon currently requires 12,000 new timber power poles a year and estimate they will need double that amount of poles by 2030, this initiative will make big inroads on the government's strategy to reduce Queensland's carbon footprint by one-third by 2020."

The project will also alleviate pressure on the demand and supply of locally grown hardwood used for building and construction.

"Queensland's demand for hardwood is growing, with Ergon growing it's own trees for power poles it will help alleviate the some of the need for imports," Rod McInnes said.

Rod McInnes said project will also provide jobs for the timber industry which has been hard hit by the global financial crisis.

**ENDS**

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