

*Timber recycles carbon*



## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **FOREST INDUSTRY STRATEGY NEEDED**

#### **Government set to sell forestry assets: industry & workers need roadmap to future**

Peak industry body Timber Queensland has called on the State Government to commit to develop a long-term Forest and Timber Industry strategy before they sell their forestry assets and move from being the largest investor in the Industry to one of the smallest.

Rod McInnes CEO, Timber Queensland said that the government must not abandon the Forest and Timber Industry, which employs 20 000 workers and is worth more than \$2 billion each year to the Queensland economy, without assisting to set a clear roadmap for the future.

“Developing a 40-year Strategy is an opportunity for the Government to exit the Industry yet still ensure the future economic, social and environmental benefits it can deliver are maximised,” said Rod McInnes.

“Amongst other details the Strategy would examine how to increase job opportunities in our industry, and developing communities that could be supported by our industry in rural and regional Queensland,” he said.

Timber Queensland has asked Premier Anna Bligh to work together with the Forest and Timber Industry and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the Australian Workers Union, to develop this Strategy.

“All of these groups are keen and ready to start working to develop a long-term growth Strategy to provide our Industry with security,” said Rod McInnes.

“We encourage the Government to develop the Strategy during the asset sale process to provide certainty to all about the future of the Forest and Timber Industry by the time ownership of the major plantation resource in Queensland changes hands,” he said.

**ENDS**

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