

Timber recycles carbon



TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

COUNCILLOR WRONG ON PINE PLANTATIONS

Sunshine Coast Councillor Anna Grosskreutz has got it wrong on the value of the regions' pine plantations says timber industry peak body Timber Queensland.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes has said the Councillor's glib statements published in the Sunshine Coast Daily on 29 March show she does not understand the value of plantation forestry.

"Plantation forestry provides environmentally friendly timber products, the trees absorb huge amounts of greenhouse gas and then when a tree gets made into something else, most of the carbon dioxide stays inside the timber," said Rod McInnes.

"What Cr. Grosskreutz may not realise is that at maturity each plantation pine tree stores around 1.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide," he said.

"Converting the Sunshine Coast's pine plantations into a sea of brick and tile houses or industrial estates will not only add to the greenhouse gas pollution in the region, it would mean Queensland's timber needs will have to come from elsewhere. This would burn up carbon miles in transport at best, and possibly destroy fragile forest ecosystems elsewhere at worst."

Queensland needs to maintain a balance between development and environmental outcomes. Plantation forests not only provide environmentally friendly building materials but act as "lungs" for the region by removing and storing carbon whilst they grow.

Councillor Grosskreutz has got it wrong – the region's pine plantations are an environmental and commercial asset that must be maintained.

ENDS

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ATTACHMENT – "Plantation sale boosts protection" Sunshine Coast Daily, 29 March 2010