

*Timber recycles carbon*

## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**



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### **Queensland can't meet its timber demands**

Peak industry body Timber Queensland has called for a range of support measures to stimulate private timber plantation investment.

Timber Queensland is supporting the call with the release of a Plantations Policy Statement which states that at least 100 000 hectares of new sawlog plantations must be planted in Queensland to meet the State's growing demand for sustainably produced domestic timber products.

Increasing recognition that timber is the world's most environmentally friendly building product and provides long term carbon storage is contributing to the growing imbalance of demand and supply in Queensland.

Rod McInnes CEO of Timber Queensland believes that any significant expansion of the plantation estate will come from the private sector, but will require facilitation by Government.

"Timber Queensland's Plantations Policy Statement points out that government needs to maintain support for research and development to improve productivity, address remaining impediments to plantation expansion, and could have a role in direct investment in the carbon component of new plantations," said Rod McInnes.

"The financial case for new plantation establishment has always been a challenge and the failure of Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) that focused on short term financial gains rather than the long term viability of the plantation investment makes attracting investment harder," he said.

Timber Queensland will launch the new Plantations Policy Statement at the Central Queensland Plantation Investment Forum in Gladstone on Thursday 13 October. The Forum is being held to investigate opportunities for plantation expansion in the region, from around Bundaberg to Rockhampton.

"Researchers, government and industry will meet with plantation investment specialists to gain a clear picture of what needs to be done to secure investment in a sustainable plantation industry in the region, as a step towards making the 100 000 ha a reality" said Rod McInnes.

The Central Queensland Plantation Investment Forum has been jointly organised by Timber Queensland and Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation, with sponsorship from Forest and Wood Products Australia.

The Queensland Plantations Policy Statement can be accessed at <http://www.timberqueensland.com.au/About/Policy.aspx> (from Thursday 13 October).

#### **ENDS**

For further information contact: Rod McInnes CEO Timber Queensland: 0419 704 028