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TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Cypress agreements allow sawmillers to plan for the future

The finalisation of 25 year sales agreements between Government and Industry has restored security and confidence in a future for Queensland's Cypress sawmillers.

Peak industry body Timber Queensland CEO, Rod McInnes said the agreements deliver longer contracts for companies which already have an allocated license to log Cypress.

"By nature the timber industry is a long-term operation and so businesses need to think and plan in the same manner," said Rod McInnes.

"These 25 year contracts underpin the security that these locally-owned businesses need to invest in processing equipment and take on extra staff," he said.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh signed off on the sales permits earlier this year which apply to 14 Cypress sawmillers, mostly located in the Darling Downs region

Cecil Plains sawmiller Vic Gersekowski said the agreement is a big deal for his business, Vic's Timber & Dressing.

"When you're a small business having a level of certainty is a game changer," said Vic Gersekowski.

"This 25 year agreement is excellent for my business planning and in turn it benefits the local area as well," he said.

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