

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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2 November 2017

Next Queensland Government needs to back regional timber jobs

Timber Queensland has called on the next Queensland Government to recognise the jobs and economic contribution the timber industry generates in regional areas across the state.

Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said 'The timber industry generates \$3 billion each year and directly supports up to 25 000 direct and indirect jobs, many in regional areas.'

'More jobs are generated in downstream sectors such as timber fabrication, for example, which feeds into the state's construction sector that employs 200,000 Queenslanders and contributes \$44 billion to State economic activity.'

'In this election all parties need to recognise the value of timber industry jobs and the many opportunities for the industry to grow. This can provide much needed economic prosperity for the regions.'

'The industry is centred around a number of major forest areas and processing hubs, including, for example, around Maryborough and Gympie in Wide Bay Burnett, Mareeba and Cape York in the far north, Theodore and Wandoan in central Queensland, Caboolture in the south east and Dalby and Injune in the south west. Government should focus its efforts in the regions to unlock the industry's potential,' Mr Stephens said.

Timber Queensland has identified five broad policy themes: resource security; infrastructure investment; business environment; innovation and environmental recognition. Key priorities for Government include:

- commit \$6 million to a Farm Forestry Centre to expand research and extension for private forestry activities, particularly for integrated timber and livestock production;
- facilitate greater value adding and timber manufacturing competitiveness, by streamlining environmental regulation and reducing crippling input costs such as energy;
- maintain and increase state research capacity for forestry and wood science technology;
- target road funding for improved industry network access for B-doubles and mini-doubles; and
- implement a state procurement policy that recognises low carbon and renewable building materials such as timber for environmental benefit.

The Timber Queensland election policy statement can be found [here](#). Timber Queensland will be briefing candidates as it visits key regions over the next few weeks.

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