



*Timber recycles carbon*



## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **QUEENSLAND FOREST INDUSTRY PART OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION**

#### **Industry Leaders meet to consider options**

As Australia's largest greenhouse gas emitting state, Queensland must consider how to manage the costs of participating in the national emissions trading/carbon pollution reduction scheme.

Queensland's Forest Industry Leaders will meet in Brisbane on August 7 2008 to discuss how industry can play a role in the emissions trading process and assist Queensland in meeting its targets in greenhouse gas abatement.

Peak industry body Timber Queensland's CEO, Rod McInnes says one of the best ways to fight climate change and simultaneously deliver an economic return is to use more wood.

"Currently Queensland has 56 million hectares of forest which is storing 2.1 billion tonnes of carbon (excluding soil carbon) – about 12 times Queensland's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions," said Mr McInnes.

"In terms of climate change and emissions trading, Queensland's plantations and commercial forests are never-ending gold mines," he said.

"They absorb around 4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere each year plus each plantation tree that contains one cubic metre of sawlog is storing two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> at maturity."

Mr McInnes says that when a tree gets made into something else, the carbon stays inside the timber.

"Most of the carbon remains in timber produced from the harvested logs."

"This translates to the average timber house frame storing around 10 tonnes of carbon," he said.

"Queensland builds around 45,000 houses each year. If all of those houses were timber framed we could store an additional 450,000 tonnes of carbon. And that's new and additional storage because the harvested plantations are replanted to begin the cycle all over again."

Mr McInnes says that August 7 meeting is an opportunity for Queensland's Forest Industry to develop a comprehensive position on emissions trading to ensure maximum environmental and economic benefits.



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“This forum will provide information and detail which will allow our industry to position ourselves as part of a climate change solution and not part of the problem.”

“For too long the Forest Industry has been a lightning rod for the extreme green groups preaching that harvesting trees is inherently evil, rather than acknowledging that harvesting and replanting the forest and using the timber produced from that harvesting process to store carbon long term in buildings, is in fact environmentally better.

“If Queensland really is the smart state the Government would ensure our forests and Forest Industry continue to provide economic value to our state, as well as being fundamental to our climate change solution,” Mr McInnes concluded.

Hosting the meeting, industry peak body Timber Queensland has invited leading experts to address the Timber Queensland Board of Directors who represent all sectors of the states \$2.4 billion per annum industry, employing 20,000 people. Directors represent forest growers, processors, fabricators and end users in building and construction.

Senior Queensland Government Officials from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Climate Change, and the Department of Primary Industries and Natural Resources have all been invited to attend together with representatives from the Conservation Movement.

## **ENDS**

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