

# TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

## Forestry Research cuts affect Queensland

Federal budget cuts to the CSIRO will set forestry research in Queensland back at a time when it is needed most to meet timber demand and carbon storage.

Earlier this month the Federal Government announced a \$63.4 million reduction of funds to the CSIRO who have reacted by closing the Forest Biosciences Division and redeploying staff.

Industry peak body Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes said that the CSIRO will not continue dedicated forest specific research.

"These budget cuts will impact the growth of Queensland's timber industry," said Mr McInnes.

"Research is needed in subtropical and tropical forestry to assist this emerging industry's growth across Queensland, including Central and North Queensland," he said.

"CSIRO research is fundamental to meet our state's growing demand for timber and to maximise the unique ability of wood to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it."

Mr McInnes said that he is concerned about the lack of focus on these issues if the small numbers of local CSIRO forestry researchers are swallowed by larger divisions in Queensland.

"The situation is more critical when you consider the planned closure of the CSIRO Cooroy Research Station. The option to co-locate these dedicated workers with other forestry researchers including some of the Queensland Government's Horticulture and Forestry Science researchers at the Sunshine Coast University would help to secure the critical mass of forestry research essential to the growth of forestry in Queensland."

**ENDS**

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