



Timber recycles carbon

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE



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STATE GOVERNMENT STALLS ON CLIMATE CHANGE OPPORTUNITY

A simple, cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland's atmosphere which could assist Australia's Kyoto Agreement commitments plus boost the economy, is being ignored or stalled by the State Government says peak industry body Timber Queensland.

Rod McInnes, CEO Timber Queensland says the significant contribution the forest and timber industry can make to address climate change must be fully acknowledged and a growth strategy implemented as soon as possible.

"It's now common knowledge that growing trees absorb huge amounts of greenhouse gases and then when a tree gets made into something else, most of the carbon stays inside the timber," said Rod McInnes.

"We are calling on the Queensland Government to acknowledge this by committing to developing a Queensland Plantation Strategy which will provide direction and leadership for industry growth and deliver significant carbon abatement opportunities," he said.

"There has been talk about various parts of a Plantation Strategy for 10 years now, and although the Climate Smart 2050 committed to a strategy over a year ago, there's been no action."

Federal Government Treasury modelling released last week indicated States with significant plantation forest cover will fare better than those without.

"However, the Bligh Government seems to be in denial about this with no clear position on the role forests can play in the carbon debate," said Rod McInnes.

"The recent budget commitment to establish 8200 hectares of new native hardwood sawlog plantation was welcomed by the industry, but this goes virtually nowhere towards the 100,000 hectares of new plantations required to meet the future timber demands of our rapidly growing population," he said.

"Nor does it do much to contribute to the eight per cent share of emission reductions required by the Forestry sector in Treasury's modelling.

"We need a proper plan that establishes the framework required to meet the timber needs of the state, generate significant carbon abatement opportunities all while delivering a useful and timely stimulus for economic activity."

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