



Timber recycles carbon

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

STATE GOVERNMENT RIGHT ON SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

State Government support for sustainable house designs that suit our lifestyle and climate is commended, particularly as it is an opportunity to reduce Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions say peak industry body Timber Queensland.

Rod McInnes, CEO, Timber Queensland said the feedback the Government has received on the Improving Sustainable Housing in Queensland discussion paper indicates that Queenslanders want homes that suit our lifestyle.

"The fact that the Government is listening to people when they ask for things like better recognition for outdoor living areas and 5-star housing in building codes is a step in the right direction," said Rod McInnes.

"The fact that they are issuing media releases recognising the building sector as providing the lowest-cost opportunity to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions is even better," he said.

Mr McInnes said that choosing timber over other building products is the logical first step to reduce building emissions.

"Timber is the world's most environmentally friendly building product," he said.

"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.

"The production of timber generates few pollutants to air, water and land compared to other building products. It takes eight times less energy to produce a tonne of timber than it does a tonne of steel and a staggering 46 times less energy than a tonne of aluminum.

"In Queensland we can make a big difference to our environment by choosing to use timber.

"The average timber house frame stores around 10 tonnes of carbon and 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."

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