



TIMBER QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

HISTORIC FOREST AGREEMENTS AT RISK

Government owned plantation company stifles investment in plantation processing putting transition from native forests to plantations in doubt.

Recent commercial activity by Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ), a wholly owned-by-Government plantation grower, will put the historic South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) and the more recent Western Hardwoods Plan (WHP) at risk say SEQFA signatories, Timber Queensland and Australian Rainforest Conservation Society (ARCS).

FPQ's decision to ramp up royalties, renege on contractual commitments to supply log timber and impose unacceptable trading conditions on industry will result in no new investment in plantation processing in Queensland, investment that is needed to support the Agreements.

Speaking today on the difficulties industry is experiencing with FPQ – ARCS founder Dr. Aila Keto said “The Conservation Movement is disturbed that the hard won co-operative arrangement with the timber industry to transition from native hardwood forest to plantation, will falter if industry does not invest in plantation processing because of the actions of its monopoly supplier FPQ”.

“Conservation outcomes linked with Queensland's timber needs coming essentially from plantations will suffer if a thriving, expanding and profitable plantation processing industry cannot be achieved,” Dr Keto continued.

Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes joined with Dr Keto in predicting the demise of new investment in plantation processing in Queensland putting the implementation of SEQFA and WHP at risk.

“We've been trying for almost 12 months to negotiate with FPQ to have them honour previous agreements with major industry players for log timber supply, to ensure royalties charged don't send industry broke and that new supply arrangements support long term industry investment, but to no avail” says Rod McInnes.

Aila Keto and Rod McInnes joined together today in calling on the Bligh Government to take its responsibilities for FPQ seriously and sort out this out-of-control Government business.

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