

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

Plantation Strategy Needed for Queensland

A plantation strategy for Queensland will be developed by Timber Queensland in association with Governments and other stakeholders following the release of the proceedings of a Plantation Roundtable recently conducted by Timber Queensland.

In releasing the proceedings Timber Queensland CEO Rod McInnes indicated the Roundtable comprising 40 representatives of growers, processors, Governments State, Federal and Local, community groups and conservationists found:

- There is a clear need for significant new plantings (Timber Queensland says 120,000 hectares) to meet developing domestic demand.
- The financial viability of plantation investment is critical to both private investors as well as Government owned plantation estates.
- Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) are an important vehicle for securing investment funds and secondary trading is necessary to allow these investments to be grown on as long rotation crops.
- The establishment of markets for environmental services such as carbon trading and biodiversity credits is a real opportunity to improve the financial viability of plantation investment.
- Ongoing research and development is required to develop species suited to the available land – now likely to be further inland and drier than traditional plantation land due to cost issues.
- Consistency in Local Government regulation is needed to provide investor confidence together with the development of a Code of Practice for plantations.

Timber Queensland will now seek to engage with Government and other stakeholders to develop the business case for plantation expansion, identify the appropriate respective roles and actions for various levels of Government, industry and other stakeholders and link with broader industry development and natural resource management initiatives in Queensland to underpin the future of our \$2.7 billion per annum timber industry and its 20,000 employees.

A copy of the Plantation Roundtable findings can be found at www.timberqueensland.com.au.

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