

*Timber recycles carbon*



## **Timber Queensland Submission to FIAC on the Strategic Directions Issues Paper “Meeting Future Market Demand”**

### THE QUEENSLAND FOREST AND TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Queensland forest and timber industry delivers a broad range of economic, social and environmental benefits to the community. Our modern and sophisticated industry provides a wide variety of jobs for approximately 18000 Queenslanders and is a key economic driver in many regional communities. It directly generates approximately \$3.8 billion of sales each year across its value chain, of which approximately \$500 million can be attributed to the forest growing and first-round processing sectors. It also directly impacts many parts of the Queensland economy. Every dollar of value adding generated by the industry, leads to an estimated additional \$1.80 of value adding in the broader Queensland economy.

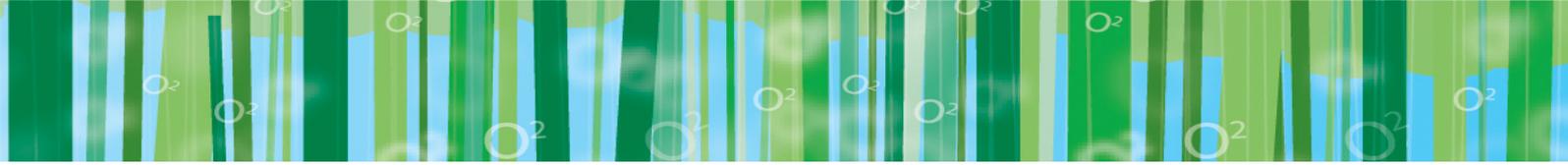
The industry is subject to a range of influences and drivers outside of its control, including the dynamics of the world economy, exchange rate movements, impacts of climate change, shifting consumer and market preferences, as well as population growth and demographic change. Industry is also operating in an environment of increasing community expectations regarding social and environmental performance. This operating environment means that business as usual will not ensure an enduring and competitive forest and timber industry that can continue to deliver a broad range of benefits to the Queensland economy.

The industry has experienced long-term structural change over the past 20 years as it has transitioned to predominantly plantation-grown resources, with decreasing access to native forests, and softwood products displacing a range of traditional native hardwood products. The volume of log timber sourced from plantations by the processing sector first exceeded the volume sourced from native forests in the mid-1990s.

### QUEENSLAND FOREST & TIMBER INDUSTRY PLAN (FTIP)

In 2012, the Queensland industry, via Timber Queensland, together with the Queensland State Government, produced a Forest & Timber Industry Plan (FTIP). The Plan was produced by a Working Group comprising representatives from Timber Queensland, HQ Plantations Pty Ltd, the Housing Industry Association and the then Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF). Input to the plan came from a range of industry participants, a timber industry leaders forum, an industry survey, and individual meetings with a number of industry stakeholders and Government agencies.

The Plan was a recommendation from the Working Group to the Queensland Government and forest and timber industry for their consideration and response, and provides a comprehensive course of action to sustain the growth and innovation in the Queensland forest and timber sector. The timeframe considered in the plan was 30 years with regular reviews to ensure it remains relevant and valid.



The Plan is built around three strategic priority areas and eight objectives for action

1. Timber Markets and Community Support.

- Timber is recognised as the premier construction and building material in Queensland
- Enhanced access to existing and new timber markets for Queensland grown and processed timber
- The community actively supports the Queensland forest and timber industry

2. Business Environment and Manufacturing

- Business conditions in Queensland underpin an internationally competitive timber processing and manufacturing base
- Queensland's forest and timber industry has a highly skilled workforce operating in a safe work environment

3. Forest Resource

- Queensland has Australia's best investment environment for timber resource development
- State forests are managed responsibly for timber production and other commercial activities, recreation and conservation outcomes
- Queensland forest management delivers optimal economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The Queensland Government response to the plan was formally provided in early 2013 and an implementation Committee has been overseeing the implementation of approved Action Items since. The new Queensland Government formed following the State Election on 31st January 2015 have agreed to accept the FTIP in principle with suitable modifications to meet the policy needs of the new Government.

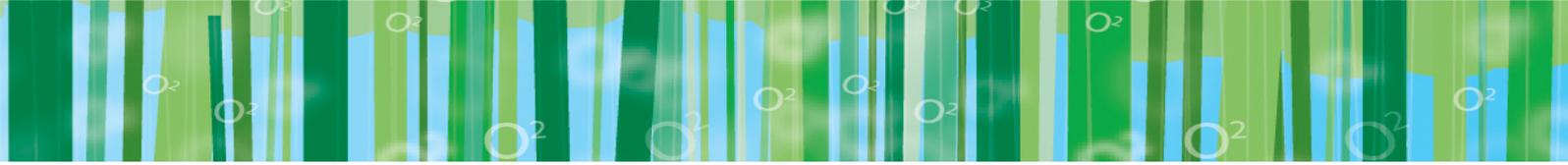
The Queensland industry confirms the FTIP embodies the issues and needs of the industry in Queensland going forward. A copy of the FTIP and the Government response document is attached to this submission.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- National Forestry & Fibre Plan - Timber Queensland supports the production of an effective Forestry & Fibre Plan as outlined by Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA).
- The Federal Government's Agriculture White Paper should include Forestry Issues as both Forestry and Agriculture are regional-based, land – use activities.
- Industry Vision - Timber Queensland supports AFPA's proposed vision for our industry: a forest, wood and paper products industry at the forefront of the new low carbon economy, based on sustainable forest management, plantation resources, and production of fit-for-purpose, competitive and innovative wood and paper products that are the environmental first choice of the consumer.

The vision should include a number of targets including

- Investment targets
- Plantation expansion targets
- Carbon storage target
- Import replacement targets
- Export expansion targets
- Wood product encouragement targets – wood first policies at State & Local Government levels.



## ISSUES

With regard to the specific issues contained in the Discussion Paper, Timber Queensland is in broad agreement with the AFPA submission, with the additional comment regarding Issue 8.

## INDUSTRY SKILLS, TRAINING & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Timber Queensland calls for the development of State / regional Workforce Development Plans to identify skilling needs in the regions and address those needs in a structured manner. Emphasis should be placed on lifting the profile of a career in the Forest and Timber Industry to a career of choice.

The national Timber Award should be overhauled as an industry project to remove some of the archaic provisions e.g. wheelwright and ensure modern technology and job roles are adequately recognised.

**Timber Queensland Limited**  
**2 June 2015**