

*Timber recycles carbon*



## **TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LANDMARK FORESTRY AGREEMENT ABANDONED**

**GOVERNMENT'S CONSERVATION CREDENTIALS IN TATTERS**

In haste to sell its plantation forestry asset, Forestry Plantations Queensland, the Queensland Government has turned its back on conservation by abandoning the landmark South East Queensland Forestry Agreement of 1999 and the more recent Western Hardwoods Agreement.

These agreements between the Timber Industry, Conservation Movement and the State Government allowed for the hardwood industry to exit crown native hardwood forests for plantations over a transitional time frame. The Government agreed to plant 20 000 hectares of new hardwood plantation by 2015 (commencing in 2000) so industry could begin the transition by 2025, or earlier if the plantation was ready.

To facilitate the sale of the plantation asset, the Government has agreed to extend the planting time frame by 10 years to 2025 and, more significantly, as most of the hardwood plantation is on freehold land, will allow the new plantation owner to sell off freehold land acquired from the sale.

Peak industry body Timber Queensland's CEO Rod McInnes said the Timber Industry is astounded and bitterly disappointed that after the Government has spent over \$100 million implementing these agreements and championing them as win-win situations for both conservation and industry, that they would walk away from them for short-term financial gain.

"This is a sad day for both forestry conservation and the hardwood industry. Obviously the Government doesn't care about either saving the native forest or industry's future. Now it is unlikely industry will be able to stop logging native forests by 2025 as planned and the Government's chest thumping about forest conservation is just hollow rhetoric," said Rod McInnes.

**ENDS**

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