



Media release

6 March, 2008

Forestry a feasible income option for CQ landholders

Harvesting trees for forest products is an untapped market for landholders in the Central Queensland region, according to Reg Connolly.

Mr Connolly, Forest Management Project Officer with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), said many landholders were missing out on a potential lucrative income stream from forestry.

“Many landholders are put off by perceived difficulties with regulations or they believe you can’t harvest or thin trees since broadscale clearing laws were introduced,” Mr Connolly said.

“Establishing a forestry practice requires some planning, but if timber is managed in a sustainable way there will be continued product to harvest and profits to be made.”

Mr Connolly’s role with the DPI&F is funded by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) to provide information and technical support to landholders about sustainable farm forestry practices and marketing timber.

“Landholders can legally thin timber on freehold land under the Department of Natural Resources Code of Practice if it’s done in a sustainable way,” he said.

“Information and advice is available to assist landholders to identify forest species, understand what products can be produced, thin forests, deal with contractors, and know when a forest is ready for harvest.”

Mr Connolly recently developed a range of fact sheets that landholders can order by phoning 49992800 or on the FBA website at www.fba.org.au.

“These fact sheets cover the regulations and species types in plain English to help landholders get started and be successful in farm forestry,” Mr Connolly said.

Technical Manager with the FBA, Gavin Peck, said that sustainable forestry practice ensured areas could be managed for the future and biodiversity protected.

“FBA and its sub-regional groups support increased awareness of sustainable forestry by funding Mr Connolly’s role and working closely with the Central Qld Forest Association (CQFA),” Mr Peck said.

“Improved awareness of sustainable farm forestry is an important aspect of promoting sustainable land management across the Fitzroy Basin.”

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