



## Burnett Catchment Care Association

An Integrated Catchment Management Group for the  
Burnett Region

P.O Box 105 Mundubbera Qld 4626  
Ph: 4165 3551 Fax: 4165 3552 [admin@burnettcatchment.org](mailto:admin@burnettcatchment.org)



## Central Burnett Private Forestry Teleconference

### Discussion points and questions

7 October 2008 – 7.45 to 8.30pm

### ***Dave Taylor – Dept of Natural Resources and Water***

- Dave previously worked as a forestry research scientist with Dept of Primary Industries.
- In Queensland:
  - 3.9 million ha is classed as remnant forest
  - Approx. 1 million ha is considered regrowth forest
- Queensland has the biggest proportion of private forests in Australia: in excess of 200 000m<sup>3</sup>
- Our forests have a range of different age classes and species .
- The largest area of native forests for timber production is located in the Burnett, with more than 270 000ha of remnant forest, followed closely in area by the Mary and Fitzroy catchments.
- Historically, the harvest process was based on the 'high grading' principle, where the best timber was taken and the rubbish timber left behind.
- Now we are seeing that, statewide there is a greater focus on timber production as well as biodiversity and habitat, instead of just one or the other.

### ***Sam Slack – Slacks Hardwood Timber Mill***

- The Burnett is in a great position to be producing more timber from its native forest resource, which has quality timber under high demand.
- There is currently a market for value-added products, which are fetching good prices.
- There is currently not enough hardwood timber to meet the demands, so pine timber is becoming an acceptable replacement – except for the odd 'display piece', which people are also paying good money for.
- It's all a matter of meeting the critical mass that is required to keep the product in demand but continuing with a worthwhile price.
- With our state forest resource being closed in the near future, the industry is looking to the private forestry resource to help keep the supply at that critical mass level, to ensure that the industry does not lose it's customer base.





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### ***Sean Ryan – Private Forestry Southern Queensland***

- The Burnett can produce 50 000m<sup>3</sup> per year.
- The year 2024 will see State Forests closed to hardwood production as part of the sunset clause, which will result in a shortfall in 50 000m<sup>3</sup> per year.
- Our forests are currently undergoing a slow growth rate, but this is as a result of poor management in the past and now.
- To manage properly there needs to be a 'poor quality timber out first' instead of the 'high quality grading' that was previously the way forests were harvested/managed.

### ***Questions from the floor***

1. 'What can you say about the trees for timber versus trees for carbon debate?' Answered by Sean Ryan
2. 'With the closure of more and more mills in our region, will there be an increase in the cost of transport to the next mill?' Answered by Sam Slack; commented by Sean Ryan and a member of the audience.
3. 'How quickly will it take us to turn around our rundown forests?' Answered by Sam Slack.
4. 'Where do you start? What's the first step?' Answered by Sean Ryan and commented by Dave Taylor.

### ***Where to from here?***

If this has sparked your interest and you'd like to know more, or are interested in seeing native forest management already underway in the Burnett, there's an opportunity for you to head along to a *field day at Glen and Janelle Duffin's property on Allies Creek Rd* (just off Boundary Rd) near Monogorilby. This is a day jam-packed full of information to get you started on thinking what needs to be done and where, and what the first steps are. Come along on **Wednesday 15 October 2008**, from **9am** through till 2.30pm and don't forget to *bring your hat, chair, water bottle and a packed lunch*.

For more information on or directions to this event, or how you can participate in PFSQ's 5-day training workshop, contact the **BCCA** office in Mundubbera on 4165 3551 or [admin@burnettcatchment.org](mailto:admin@burnettcatchment.org) or contact **PFSQ** directly on 5483 6535. So what are you waiting for? Get on board!

