

3 September 2025

Department of Primary Industries
Timberplan@dpi.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on draft Queensland Future Timber Plan

Master Builders is the peak industry body for building and construction in Queensland and represents the interests of 10,000 building and construction related members. Our membership spans the full spectrum of the industry – from residential and commercial builders to subcontractors, manufacturers, and consultants.

We welcome the draft Queensland Future Timber Plan (the Plan) as a timely and important strategy for laying the groundwork for a sustainable, reliable, long-term timber supply—critical to meeting the growing construction and infrastructure needs of Queensland.

We endorse the key drivers underpinning the Plan, specifically the significant pipeline of work required to meet the demands of Queensland’s growing population. We are acutely aware of the ongoing challenge for housing delivery, with building approval rates continuing to fall well below the 50,000 new dwellings needed annually to meet the State’s target of one million new homes by 2044. In addition, there is the substantial volume of essential new community infrastructure—including hospitals, schools, and the infrastructure required for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The disruption to supply chains following the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted just how critical secure and sustainable materials supply is to the successful delivery of homes and infrastructure. It was during this period that the cost of timber spiked by 30 per cent¹ and was subject to lengthy time delays, contributing to a blow out in construction costs and timelines. The impacts of which are still being felt across the construction industry.

Meeting carbon reduction targets is an increasingly important priority for the construction industry. Federal climate reporting requirements are already in effect, with their scope set to expand. Identifying how timber can contribute to practical, cost-effective solutions for meeting these targets—without adding to construction costs—will be critical for the industry moving forward.

¹ ABS, 6427.0 Producer Price Indexes

Master Builders therefore endorses the Plan's stated focus areas as being:

- securing sustainable timber supply for housing, construction and infrastructure and other industries
- establishing supply chain competitiveness on an international scale
- developing better regulation that the community sees benefits in
- building and retaining a viable fit-for-purpose workforce in rural and regional economies
- modernising and innovating the Queensland forestry and timber industry through research, development and extension.

To support the successful delivery of the Plan, Master Builders stands with Timber Queensland—as the industry expert—in calling for a whole-of-government and whole-of-industry approach to the Plan's co-design and implementation.

We recognise that effective implementation will be just as critical as identifying the right actions. Delivering on the Plan will require meaningful policy and regulatory reform, supported by sustained public investment over the initial five-year period and beyond, aligned with both immediate and long-term needs. We urge that this be taken into account when formulating investment to support the Plan's actions and objectives.

When implemented effectively, the Plan will support the delivery of the essential housing and infrastructure pipeline through a reliable supply of sustainable timber, while also serving as a key tool in meeting Queensland's carbon reduction targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation. Should you require further detail or clarification, I can be contacted via email michael.hopkins@mbqld.com.au or 0418 984 584.

Regards,

Michael Hopkins
Executive Manager
Advocacy & Member Services