Queensland forest and timber industry
Economic snapshot

The Queensland forest and timber industry makes an important contribution to the economy and to many regional and rural towns. This summary of the May 2018 report funded by Forest & Wood Products Australia, *Socio-economic impacts of the forest industry: Queensland*, includes the results from industry surveys of the native forest hardwood and cypress sectors and the softwood plantation sector that were conducted across Queensland during 2017.

The University of Canberra and the Queensland Government would like to thank all survey participants.

For **every job** created by the **forest** and **timber industry** another job is indirectly created in the **broader economy**

8800 jobs

Primary production
Forest growing, management, harvest and haulage

Primary processing
Breakdown of whole log into initial products

Secondary processing
Manufacturing of initial products into other products such as trusses and frames, and furniture

3660 jobs
Sourced from the 2017 industry survey

5140 jobs
Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census

The **native forest** sector employs **10 workers** per $1 million of expenditure, and the **plantation** sector employs **4 workers** per $1 million of expenditure

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Economic contribution

The direct value of the primary production and primary processing sectors is

$743 million

This increases to an estimated

$1.76 billion

when activity in other industries generated as a result of spending by the primary production and primary processing sectors is taken into account

The 2017 industry survey detailed economic value data for primary production and primary processing

Estimates for economic value of secondary processing were outside the scope of this research
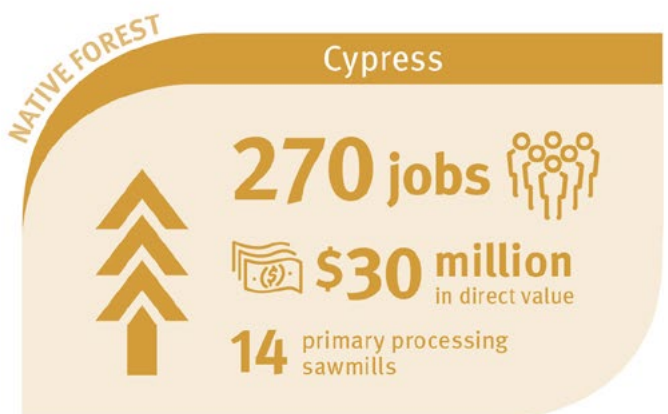
According to data from the *Australian industry 2015–16 (cat. no. 8155.0)* from the Australian Bureau of Statistics the whole Queensland forest and timber industry is worth

$3.8 billion,

which includes forest growing, wood product manufacturing, and pulp and paper.
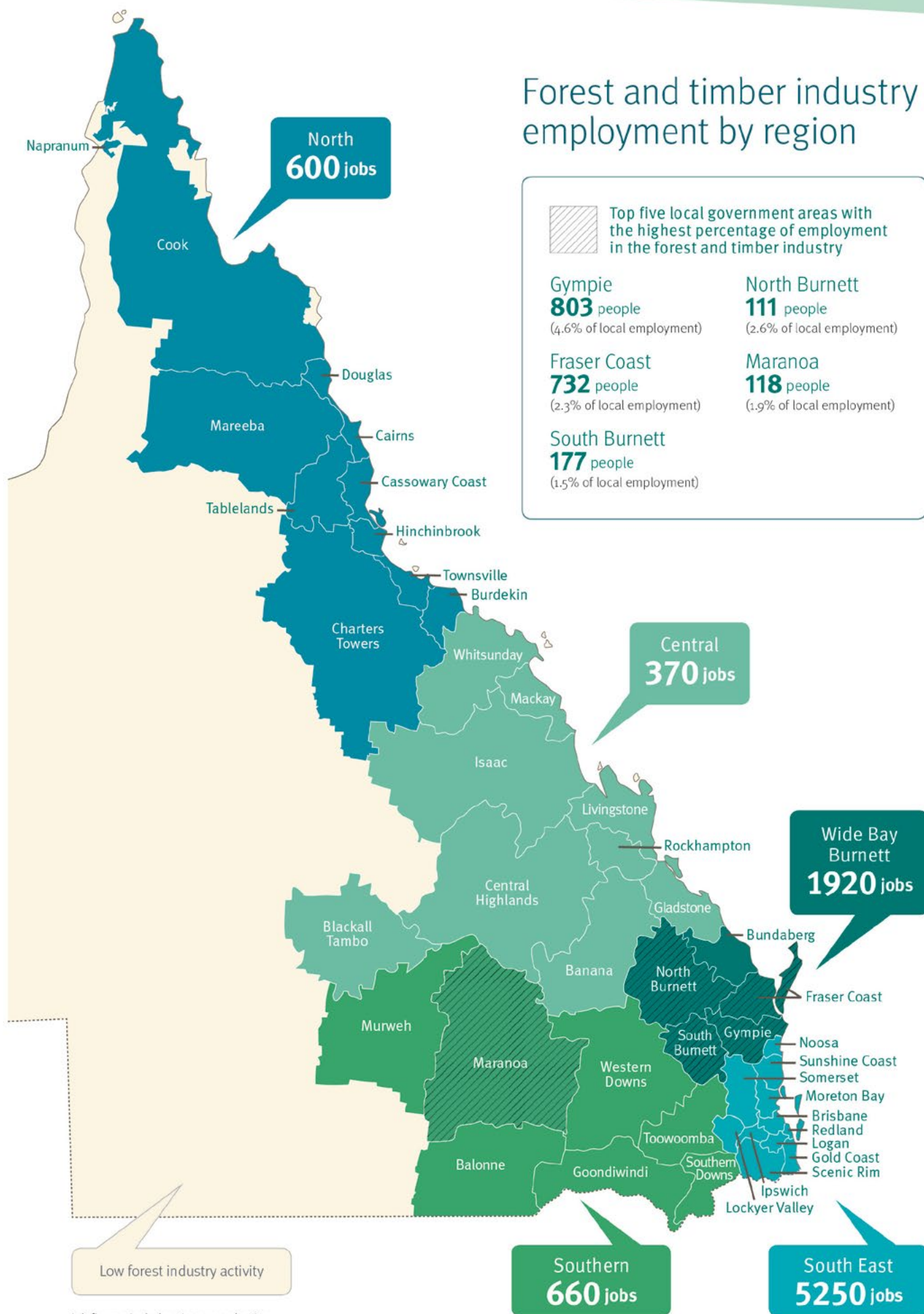
Contribution by resource type

The main resource types used by the forest and timber industry in Queensland are softwood plantations, including Araucaria and southern pine, and native forests, including hardwood and cypress. Each resource type produces very distinct products and operates in its own markets.

PLANTATIONS — Southern pine

1670 jobs
$438 million in direct value
18 primary processing sawmills
149 000 hectares

PLANTATIONS — Araucaria

600 jobs
$115 million in direct value
8 primary processing sawmills
44 000 hectares

NATIVE FOREST — Hardwood

990 jobs
$144 million in direct value
59 primary processing sawmills

NATIVE FOREST — Cypress

270 jobs
$30 million in direct value
14 primary processing sawmills

The jobs by resource type are for the primary production and primary processing sectors of the industry.
Small amounts of activity are spread across the resource types, meaning the employment and economic value will be slightly lower than 3660 jobs and $743 million.
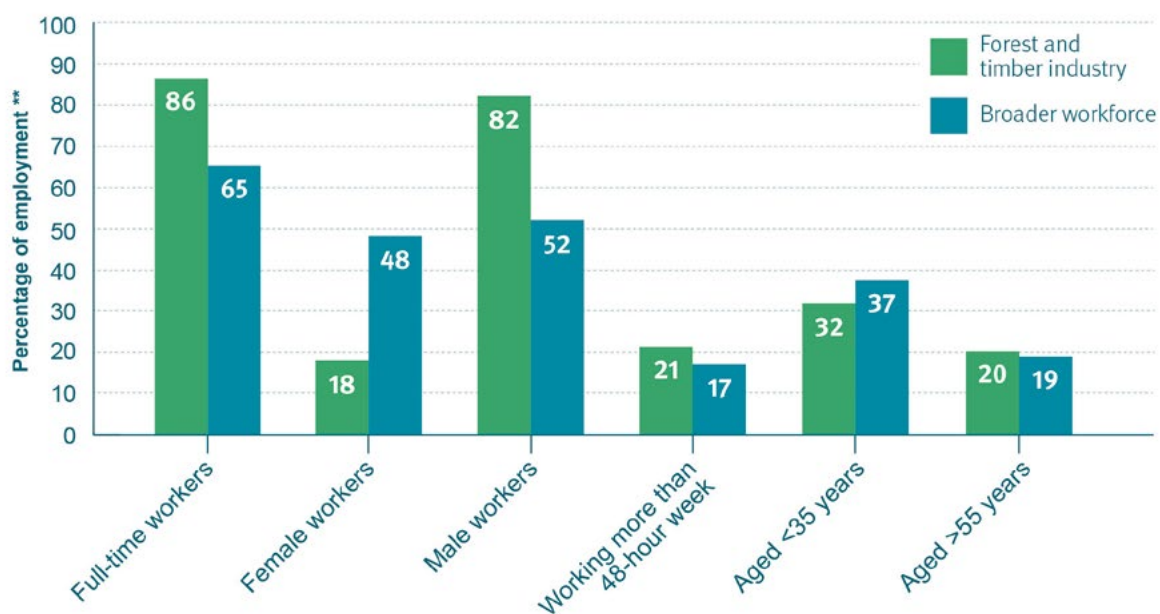
Forest and timber industry employment by region

North
600 jobs

Napranum

Cook

Douglas

Mareeba

Cairns

Cassowary Coast

Tablelands

Hinchinbrook

Townsville

Burdekin

Charters Towers

Whitsunday

Mackay

Isaac

Central
370 jobs

Livingstone

Rockhampton

Central Highlands

Gladstone

Blackall Tambo

Bundaberg

Banana

North Burnett

Fraser Coast

Wide Bay Burnett
1920 jobs

Murweh

Maranoa

Western Downs

South Burnett

Gympie

Noosa

Sunshine Coast

Somerset

Moreton Bay

Brisbane

Redland

Logan

Gold Coast

Scenic Rim

Toowoomba

Southern Downs

Ipswich

Lockyer Valley

Balonne

Goondiwindi

Low forest industry activity

Job figures include primary production + primary processing + secondary processing.

Southern
660 jobs

South East
5250 jobs

Top five local government areas with the highest percentage of employment in the forest and timber industry

Gympie
803 people
(4.6% of local employment)

North Burnett
111 people
(2.6% of local employment)

Fraser Coast
732 people
(2.3% of local employment)

Maranoa
118 people
(1.9% of local employment)

South Burnett
177 people
(1.5% of local employment)

Workforce diversity and skill needs

Forest and timber industry businesses who responded to the survey reported that the recruitment of heavy machine operators is the most difficult, followed by the recruitment of managers and professional staff. Barriers to recruiting workers included lack of workers with the right skills (87%*) and other businesses offering higher wages (76%*).

Businesses commonly need workers with skills in heavy machine operation (82%*) and occupational health and safety (76%*).

* Percentage of survey respondents.
** Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing, 2006, 2011, 2016.

More information

A copy of the full report *Socio-economic impacts of the forest industry: Queensland* is available on the Forest & Wood Products Australia website, *http://www.fwpa.com.au/news-and-events/latest-news/1541-socio-economic-impacts-of-the-forest-industry-queensland*.

To discuss the research, contact Dr Jacki Schirmer, University of Canberra (jacki.schirmer@canberra.edu.au) or call Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, **13 25 23** (within Queensland) or **+61 7 3404 6999** (outside Queensland), or email (forestry@daf.qld.gov.au).