

# Forest Products **POCKET FACTS | 2014**



## Forest Products

—responsibly managing commercial use of Queensland’s native forest and quarry resources.

### Who we are

Forest Products is a commercially focused business unit within the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

### What we do

We manage native forest timber production and the sale of quarry materials from state forests, timber reserves and other state-owned lands, as well as other tenures where quarry materials have been reserved to or are owned by the state. We do this across Queensland under the *Forestry Act 1959*.

Our business goal is to responsibly manage the allocation and use of State-owned native forests and related resources for the supply of native forest products and quarry materials. Our primary customers are timber processors and quarry operators.

We work in partnership with key industry, community and government stakeholders to ensure the responsible management and efficient supply of Queensland’s native forest and quarry resources for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

*Cover photograph: Forest Ranger Sales Management Paul Hulme and Overseer Julian Gregson discuss native forest harvesting operations on Wigton State Forest, near Proston. Quad bike safety was a key initiative by Forest Products during 2014 (refer page 5).*



Hardwood poles

## Performance summary

Product	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Hardwood sawlogs	68 957 m <sup>3</sup>	82 596 m <sup>3</sup>	103 468 m <sup>3</sup>
Cypress sawlogs	108 432 m <sup>3</sup>	109 007 m <sup>3</sup>	99 656 m <sup>3</sup>
Landscaping and fencing timber	15 267 m <sup>3</sup>	21 287 m <sup>3</sup>	34 394 m <sup>3</sup>
Mining timber	0 m <sup>3</sup>	26 m <sup>3</sup>	134 m <sup>3</sup>
Girders, corbels, piles and sills	718 m <sup>3</sup>	898 m <sup>3</sup>	2 377 m <sup>3</sup>
Hardwood poles	5 535 m <sup>3</sup>	8 441 m <sup>3</sup>	9 023 m <sup>3</sup>
Other hardwood round timber	2 068 m <sup>3</sup>	1 877 m <sup>3</sup>	3 013 m <sup>3</sup>
Sandalwood <sup>a</sup>	157 m <sup>3</sup> (168 t)	145 m <sup>3</sup> (155 t)	364 m <sup>3</sup> (398 t)
<b>Total log timber</b>	<b>201 134 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>224 277 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>252 952 m<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Total quarry material<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>5 654 758 m<sup>3</sup></b> (9 047 612 t)	<b>5 975 049 m<sup>3</sup></b> (9 560 078 t)	<b>5 642 054 m<sup>3</sup></b> (9 027 286 t)
Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) performance indicators	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Defined Forest Area <sup>b</sup>	3 224 134 ha	3 875 312 ha	3 798 602 ha
Volume of sawlog supplied to chain-of-custody certified sawmills	100 202 m <sup>3</sup>	90 865 m <sup>3</sup>	92 613 m <sup>3</sup>
Workplace injuries <sup>c</sup>	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Number of lost-time injuries	2	1	1
Lost-time injuries per million work hours	12.1	6.4	5.47
Average days lost per injury	1.5	25.9	21.0

*a Quarry material and sandalwood sales are currently reported in both tonnes and cubic metres to align with agency service delivery statements.*

*b The Defined Forest Area (DFA) is the area of land to which Forest Products applies its forest management system that is certified to the Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708:2007. DFA maps are available on the department's website, <http://www.daff.qld.gov.au>*

*c Work-related injuries accepted by WorkCover.*

## Our key achievements for 2013/14

### *Securing access to forest resources*

During 2013/14 Forest Products continued to contribute a commercial forest production perspective to the development of Queensland Government forest policy and assist in securing long term access to State owned native forests for the forest and timber industry.

In December 2013 the Queensland Government released *Queensland's State forests – a multi-use tenure policy statement* confirming that State forests are available for a balanced range of commercial, recreation and conservation purposes, including timber production, beekeeping and quarrying on appropriate sites. The policy statement is available on the Department of National Park, Recreation, Sport and Racing website at [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au).


In conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and to assist with the facilitation of the conversion to freehold land of grazing homestead perpetual leases and other Crown holdings, Forest Products assisted with the drafting of amendments to the *Forestry Act 1959* and to the *Land Act 1994* to provide for forest consent areas. A forest consent area allows the State to retain the ownership of the commercial timber forest products through a profit a prendre agreement between the State and the landholder upon conversion of the State land to freehold land. The use of forest consent areas will help to ensure that the State retains access to native forest timber resources to help meet its supply commitments to the timber industry.

### *2013 Fire Season*

A very severe fire season in the south west region of Queensland resulted in more than 75 individual wildfires that damaged large areas of the commercial native cypress pine resource, despite firefighting efforts by Forest Products in cooperation with the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, the Rural Fire Service Queensland and rural bushfire brigades.



Back burning on a wildfire



Cypress pine is not tolerant of fire and damaged timber stands degrade quickly due to drying and cracking of the burnt timber. Forest Products moved urgently to implement salvage arrangements in cooperation with regional sawmillers to salvage the majority of higher value sawlogs. However it is estimated that about 380,000 tonnes of State-owned cypress pine sawlogs will not be salvaged as it is beyond the capacity of the timber industry to harvest and process before the timber degrades.

### *Safety*

Historically Forest Products has a strong culture of safety that has been influenced by the hazardous nature of native forest timber production activities. Forest Products priority to the safety of staff is demonstrated by Forest Products commendable lost time injury statistics for 2013/14 (refer page 3).

Two important safety initiatives undertaken during 2013/14 were:

- a program commenced to inspect all Forest Products office and building sites for hazards with departmental safety specialists leading the inspections and reporting findings to Forest Products managers.
- following a comprehensive assessment of incident statistics and authoritative advice, Forest Products adopted a policy requiring crush protection devices to be progressively installed on its quad bike fleet in order to protect operators in the event of a roll over.

### *Quarry Material Sales*

Forest Products' sale of quarry material is linked to the demand for quarry material to support construction of infrastructure for expanding coal, gas and other mining operations, particularly in and around the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins. For example, in recent years record quarry material sales of over 1 million tonnes of quarry material have been made in the Moranbah area. In 2013/14 quarry operations in the area had advanced sufficiently for quarry operators to commence significant rehabilitation works consistent with sale permit requirements of Forest Products.

## Our products

### *Native hardwoods*

Forest Products sells log timber to regionally based processing companies in line with the Queensland Government's timber supply commitments.

In 2013/14, we sold 103 468 cubic metres of native forest hardwood sawlogs and 35 051 cubic metres of miscellaneous hardwood products to timber processors and other customers. In addition, we sold 14 413 cubic metres of round timbers.

Queensland's native hardwood timbers, such as spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), are strong, dense and durable in exposed use. Therefore, they are well suited to a variety of uses including building construction, bridge girders, electricity poles, landscape applications and furniture. Pole and girder removals increased during 2013/14 with new sales commencing in central Queensland.

We also sell Queensland sandalwood (*Santalum lanceolatum*), which is a small native tree valued for its aromatic heartwood and oil content. Sandalwood is selectively harvested, processed and exported under export licence to Asian markets principally for the production of incense and joss sticks. During 2013/14, 364 cubic metres (approximately 398 tonnes) of sandalwood was harvested, a substantial increase from previous years that reflects concerted coordination by Forest Products staff, the sales permittee and their harvesting contractors.



*Blackbutt Stand*

## Cypress

Cypress (*Callitris glaucophylla*) is another key commercial species that Forest Products manages for timber production on state-owned land. We supply around 95 per cent of Queensland's cypress log timber. During 2013/14 we sold 99 656 cubic metres of cypress sawlogs to regionally based processors.

Cypress is strong and durable with a light-brown, knotty appearance. It is used in house construction, including flooring and exposed uses such as decking, cladding and fencing.



*Cypress decking*

## Quarry material

Under the provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959*, Forest Products sells quarry material from land where the material has been reserved to or is owned by the state. During 2013/14, we sold 5.64 million cubic metres (or over 9 million tonnes) of quarry material such as crushed aggregate, road base, sand, gravel, fill, landscape rock and pebbles. Most of this material was used in mining-related activities, major regional infrastructure projects, flood recovery works and general construction.

Forest Products administers about 200 quarry material sales permits covering a series of large scale quarries and a range of smaller regional and local quarries across the state. Before releasing new state-owned quarry resources to the market, Forest Products attempts to ensure that the proposed quarry is suitably located from an environmental, community and industry perspective and can co-exist with adjoining land uses.

## Our forest management

Forest Products is committed to the responsible management of state-owned native forest resources and to maintaining forest management certification to internationally recognised standards.

To maintain forest certification, we have implemented a systematic approach to forest management that drives our planning and policy decision making, and our implementation and monitoring of operations, in a framework of continual improvement. Our forest management system is certified to comply with the *Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708:2007* (AFS). The AFS is internationally recognised through the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), which is the world's largest forest certification body.

A revised Standard, the *Australian Forestry Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS 4708:2013*, was released in August 2013. Subsequently Forest Products began a review of its forest management system to meet the additional requirements of the revised Standard and position itself for recertification in early 2015.

Our AFS certification enables us to supply our timber processing customers with a certified native forest product. Our customers can build upon this, through their own chain of custody certification, in order to label and promote the environmental integrity of their timber products, providing access to those discerning markets requiring timber sourced from legally and responsibly managed sources. As at 30 June 2014, nine of our customers carried certification to the chain-of-custody standard, *Chain of Custody for Certified Wood and Forest Products AS 4707:2006*. This means that 47 per cent of Forest Products sawlog removals are being sold to certified customers.



*Forests certified as sustainably managed*





**Forest Products**  
**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
**Queensland, Australia**

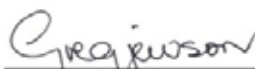
Operates a management system  
that complies with the requirements of:

**AS 4708:2007**

The Scope of Certification is:

Activities related to the commercial harvest and sale of native forest products  
from within Forest Products' Defined Forest Area

Date of Issue: 23 August 2012  
Certificate Number: 14731001-AFS-002  
Certification Number: 14731

  
On behalf of the board members



To confirm the currency of this certificate please email [certification@ncsi.com.au](mailto:certification@ncsi.com.au)  
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Rev 03/09

Forest Products AFS certificate

## Where we are

Our dedicated staff operates from 23 centres covering three forest management areas across Queensland. You can contact us through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Customer Service Center on 13 25 23 (cost of a local call within Queensland) or at one of our offices below:

### *Forest Products Central Office*

Level 6, 80 Ann Street, Brisbane

Postal address: GPO Box 46, Brisbane QLD 4001

Telephone: (07) 3234 0376 Fax: (07) 3221 4049

### *South West Forest Management Area Office*

Level 3, 30 Marble Street, Dalby

Postal address: PO Box 589, Dalby QLD 4405

Telephone: (07) 4672 4833 Fax: (07) 4672 4850

### *North Forest Management Area Office*

25 Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst

Postal address: PO Box 6014, Red Hill Rockhampton QLD 4701

Telephone: (07) 4924 2050 Fax: (07) 4924 2055

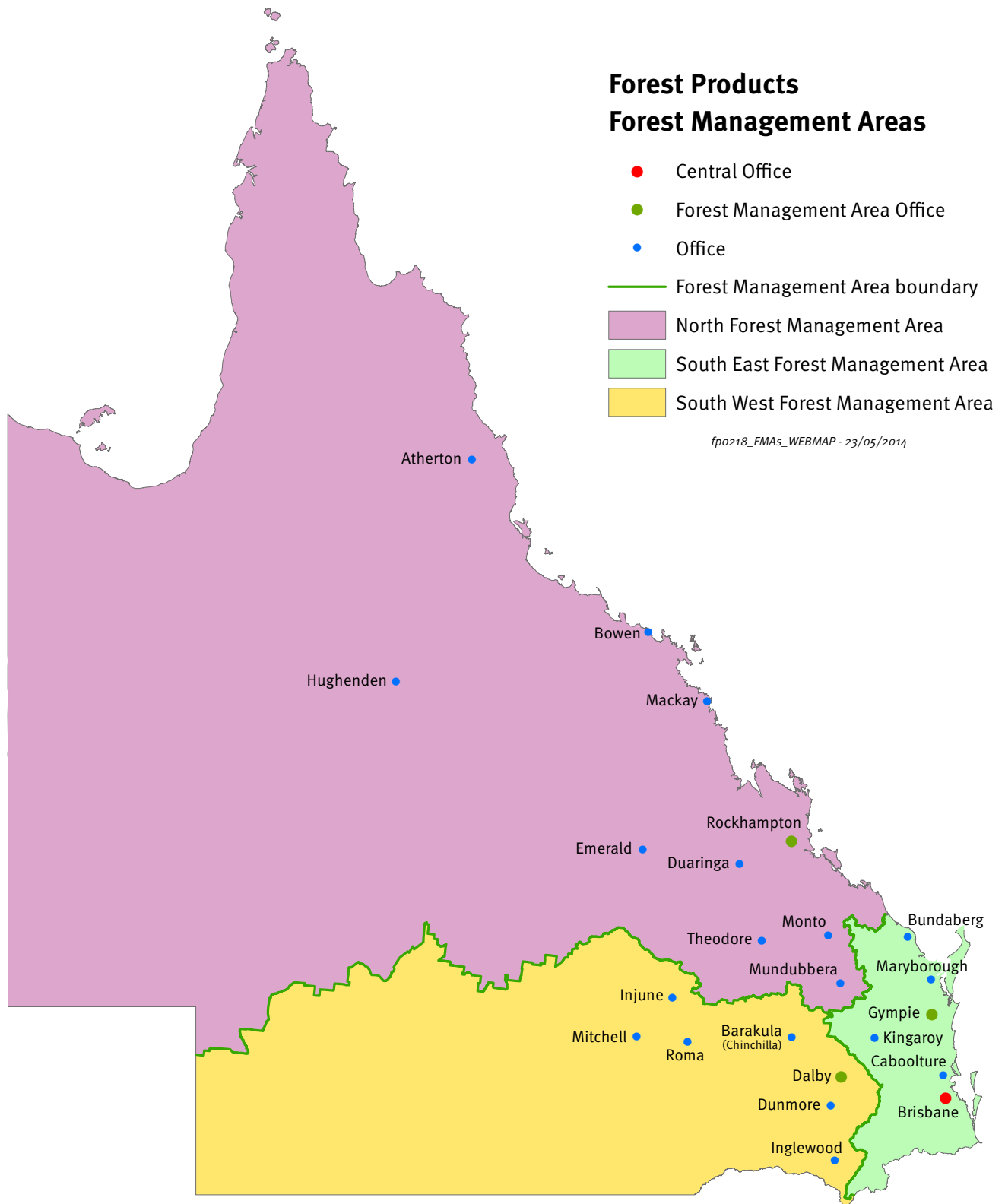
### *South East Forest Management Area Office*

27 O'Connell Street, Gympie

Postal address: LMB 383, Gympie QLD 4570

Telephone: (07) 5480 5355 Fax: (07) 5480 5302

For further information, email [forestproducts@daff.qld.gov.au](mailto:forestproducts@daff.qld.gov.au) or visit [www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au)



*Forest Products forest management areas*

## Our commitment to responsible forest management

In keeping with the AFS/PEFC certification of our own forest management system, Forest Products uses only paper products sourced from forests that have been certified as responsibly managed.



*Blackbutt regrowth 12 years following harvesting on Peachester State Forest*

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