



# CONSULTANTS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



## **FOREST RESOURCE SECURITY** **Review of QDAF commercial assessment methods**

Our strategy to achieve this is to improve resource security, expand farm forestry's role, increase revenues and recognised co-benefits from farm forestry and improve understanding of sustainable forest management in the general community.

## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

### **Review of QDAF commercial assessment methods**

#### **Key EOI Information**

The South & Central Queensland Regional Forestry Hub is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from individuals and organisations with the necessary expertise to assist Hub members in:

- Reviewing and understanding the current assessment methods used by QDAF and/or other agencies (as applicable) to assess the methodology used to determine the commercial status of forests on leasehold land – cypress and hardwood forests. The assessment methodology is primarily used in Queensland to assess leasehold land when it is proposed to convert to freehold land and the state is considering whether to retain ownership of any commercial state-owned native timber on the lease.
- Reviewing and understanding current the assessment methods used by QDAF and/or other agencies (as applicable) to assess resource losses from natural disturbances, such as fire and drought.

The project's two activities are expected to be completed using a combination of desk research and in-person / remote stakeholder consultation.

If you believe that your expertise satisfies the requirements outlined in this document, please complete and submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

**Closing date for the EOI submission:** 30 September 2024

**Email your EOI to:** [k.fullarton@seqfh.com.au](mailto:k.fullarton@seqfh.com.au)

Contact person: Kerry Fullarton, Hub Manager

South & Central Queensland Regional Forestry Hub

Phone: 0498 018 144

Once submitted, your EOI will be considered by the Hub Committee. If the proposal is deemed acceptable for consideration, a Hub representative will contact you to discuss your proposal.

## 1. Introduction

### South & Central Queensland Regional Forestry Hub

In September 2018, the Australian Government launched the National Forest Industries Plan: Growing a Better Australia – A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth. The Plan outlines the Commonwealth Government’s strategy to drive growth in the renewable timber and wood fibre industry. It provides the vision and certainty needed for Australia’s forestry industry and supports the sustainable forest industries as long-term growth engines for regional Australia.

The plan ambitiously aims to deliver a billion new trees over the next decade (including 400,000 new hectares of plantations nationally) to meet a projected fourfold increase in global demand for timber and wood fibre products by 2050. This translates to planting the right trees, at the right scale, in the right places.

The Commonwealth Government supported the Plan in the 2018-2019 Federal Budget with a \$20 million commitment over four years to help implement actions identified in the Plan. The Hub was setup as part of the Commonwealth’s commitment which, pursuant to the Plan, includes nine forestry hubs across Australia.

The South & Central Queensland regional forestry hub will determine the opportunities and barriers for the forestry and wood products sector and detail the findings of its assessment and growth pathways in reports to the Commonwealth Government and stakeholders.

The steering committee is representative of industry and includes key stakeholders in the region. In order to drive the Commonwealth’s key objective of planting one billion trees in the next decade under the plan, the Hub has identified a number of key priorities in consultation with both industry, community, and government stakeholders.

The Hub’s priorities include:



#### **Communication**

- Increase industry’s social media presence
- Integrate and standardise communications
- Coordinate and centralise education communications



#### **Workforce Planning & Development**

- Improve perception of regional forest industries and occupations
- Improve workforce planning, recruitment and retention
- Address regional ‘thin’ training markets



#### **Manufacturing, Value Adding, Product and Process Innovation**

- Advance prefabrication and competitive manufacturing



### **Forest Resource Security**

- Improve resource security
- Expand farm forestry's role
- Increase revenues and recognised co-benefits from farm forestry
- Improve understanding of sustainable forest management in the general community



### **Infrastructure and Supply Chain**

- Extract increased and integrated value from residues
- Improve basic regional infrastructure
- Add value through improved supply chain logistics.



### **First Nations Australians Traditional Knowledge and Economic Development**

- Establish and advance industry engagement with First Nations Australians
- Develop appropriate economic partnerships with First Nations economic and community organisations

## **2. Project Justification**

Cypress and hardwood processors and other stakeholders have identified the topics covered in this EOI as of interest. This is due to the relative uncertainty and reduction of log supply, which can be caused by the assessment methods and processes used in the industry.

## **3. Project Scope**

**Activity 1.** The aim of this project activity is to review the current assessment methods used by QDAF and/or other agencies (as applicable) to determine the viability or non-viability of leasehold lands where it is proposed to convert the leasehold land to freehold land. The project will identify gaps and opportunities for improving the assessment methods and process transparency, thereby reducing the risk of land containing potentially viable stands of state-owned timber being converted to freehold land due to inaccurate assessment, which could result in type 2 errors (false negatives). Access to the resource on the freehold land remains available to industry through direct negotiation with the landowner, should the assessment process determine there is insufficient resource to justify the creation of a forest consent area. Note: Clarity around the types of leases described above should be included - e.g. grazing homestead perpetual lease, freehold lease and any other lease;

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commerciality assessment/considerations about type of product range that could be held in stands (e.g. all products, saw log, girders, poles and other products etc. Also to describe the strategies in place to accommodate salvage operations, including the extraction volumes of logs and the subsequent impact on future allocations. Outline the key factors or criteria used in the methodology for determining minimal land parcel size, productivity, product mix, and other relevant considerations. Additionally, providing a description of how legal and regulatory considerations are addressed in the assessment, particularly in relation to leasehold land, native title, and Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

2. Beside reviewing QLD current assessment methods, a literature review of well-recognised and used standards / assessment methods and processes used in other Australian jurisdictions, as well as 1-2 examples of established processes in other countries (Europe and North America), will be conducted to assist with the project. These assessment methods and processes shall be on jurisdictionally owned native forests and excluding native plantations. This review must take into consideration differences such as forest type, drought resistance, fire tolerance, scale, commercial value, distance to the resource etc.

**Activity 2.** The aim of this project activity is to review the assessment methods used to assess resource losses from natural disturbances, such as fire and drought. The review should consider the location of the resource (distance), commercial viability prior to the nature disturbance, viability of salvage harvesting etc. The application of poor or inaccurate assessment methods can impact the quantity claimed under Force Majeure provision should QDAF be unable to meet supply commitments.

Overall, the project aims to improve the accuracy of the assessment methodology used and increase transparency in the process. Information from the project will be able to be used by Governments to identify gaps and areas for resource assessment improvements and help contribute to greater industry growth by ensuring a fair and transparent assessment of resource losses from natural disturbances and the estimation of log supply arrangements for industry.

## A. Methodology

The study should identify and discuss the following key components for Activity 1 & 2:

### Activity 1.

- Review the assessment methods used by QDAF and other agencies (as applicable) to determine the viability or non-viability of leasehold land that are proposed to convert to freehold. This review should focus on understanding the current processes and identifying gaps in the existing methods that need to be addressed to ensure better outcomes.
- Conduct a thorough literature review of assessment methods and processes used in other Australian jurisdictions. This will help in identifying the best practices and the limitations of the existing methods used for assessing the viability or non-viability of leasehold stands proposed for tenure conversion.
- Identify well-recognised standards and 1-2 examples of established processes used in other countries, specifically Europe and North America. This will help to expand the range of assessment methods being considered and provide further context for the evaluation of the existing methods used in Australia.

**Activity 2.**

- Review the assessment methods used to assess resource losses from natural disturbances such as fire and drought. This will help to identify the best practices in assessing such losses and inform the development of a comprehensive assessment processes.

Overall, a combination of literature review, case studies, and expert consultations would be required to achieve the scope of the points mentioned.

LGAs covered by the Hub include:

- Banana Shire Council
- Bundaberg Regional Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Gladstone Regional Council
- Goondiwindi Regional Council
- Gympie Regional Council
- Livingstone Shire Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Maranoa Regional Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Noosa Shire Council
- North Burnett Regional Council
- Rockhampton Regional Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- South Burnett Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Western Downs Regional Council
- Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council

The project must also contain consultation with businesses market leaders, research and development organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

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Key stakeholders to be consulted during the project include, but are not limited to:

- Queensland State Government (QDAF)
- Wood Processors
- Australian Forest Contractors Association
- Local and Commonwealth agencies as appropriate

## B. Project Deliverables

Key deliverables include the completion of the following at the satisfaction of the Hub Committee:

- Detailed project plan, including stakeholder identification and consultation methodology, is completed by applicant;
- Draft reports are completed and presented to the Hub Committee at different stages of the project life (as agreed);
- A final report is completed and presented to the Hub Committee before the project completion.

## C. Project Timeline

The project is scheduled to begin 4 November 2024 and conclude 26 May 2025

## D. Selection Criteria

The Hub will select the successful applicant for the report based on evaluation of all submitted proposals against the following criteria.

### **CRITERIA 1: Capabilities and expertise in producing technical reports related to the project scope**

To address this selection criterion, the expression of interest should describe the following:

- An overview of the applicant's organisation and business operations;
- Applicant's experience, skills and capabilities relating to the project's scoping requirements as outlined in Section 3 above; industry knowledge and working in industry would be favourable.
- Examples (list) of any publicly available reports that the applicant has produced related to the project scope;
- An overview of the proposed project team;
- A brief description of professional experience for each project team member, highlighting their experience and capabilities in relation to the project requirements;
- A key point of contact for the Hub who will act as the Project Manager for the project.

**CRITERIA 2: Key point of contact and project team**

To address this selection criterion, the expression of interest should provide the following:

- An overview of the applicant's organisation and business operations
- An overview of the proposed project team
- A brief description of each project team member's professional experience; highlighting their relevant experience and capabilities in relation to the project requirements
- A key point of contact for the Hub who will act as the project manager for the project

**CRITERIA 3: Total cost and cost structure (against the identified deliverables)**

To address this selection criterion, the expression of interest should provide the following:

- Total cost that will be charged, inclusive and exclusive of GST, for completing the project;
- Breakdown of cost structure against key project deliverables.

**CRITERIA 4: Proposed methodology to achieve the scope of works**

To address this selection criterion, the expression of interest should provide the following:

- An outline of the proposed methodology and/or approaches to be adopted to achieve the scope of works and deliverables, including an outline of a project plan
- Breakdown of cost structure against key project deliverables.



**Attachment 1: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

**FOREST RESOURCE SECURITY**

**Review of QDAF commercial assessment methods**

**PART A: Applicant Details**

Lead Organisation Name	
Address	
Primary Contact Name	
Position Title	
Telephone	
Email	

**Part B: Selection Criteria**

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