



CENTRAL QUEENSLAND  
FOREST ASSOCIATION  
**Annual Report**  
2007/2008





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry**

*The Central Queensland Forest  
Association gratefully  
acknowledges the funding and  
partnership support provided by  
the Commonwealth and  
Queensland Governments and  
local natural resource  
management groups*



# CQFA

## Introduction

The Central Queensland Forest Association (CQFA) has traditionally been funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland State Governments and had a charter to represent the interests of all forest industry stakeholders in the region which extends from Miriam Vale in the South to Bowen in the North and is contained to the region east of Drummond Range [Approx within 300km of coast].

Funding cuts by the Federal Government in late June of 2008, have focussed CQFA to a referred future where Central Queensland is widely recognised as a region in which forests are valued for their economic, social and environmental contributions to the community.

The objectives of the organisation are:

- To co-ordinate, support and represent the interest of all forest industry and associated stakeholders with similar objectives.
- Promoting plantation and native forest management as commercial forestry activity.
- Providing services and information to landholders to assist them in their understanding and development as NRM forest managers.

The actions to achieve this include:

- Leverage the economic profile of CQFA through industry, NRM and other government funding bodies.
- Advance the goals of CQFA using inter-organisational promotion and networking at all levels, building partnerships and providing assistance to private and government operators alike.
- Build a commercially sustainable forest based consultancy business that funds delivery of CQFA's preferred outcomes



# CQFA

## Indicative Operating Environment

The Commonwealth Government recognizes that there is a pressing need to protect Australia's unique natural environment and to improve the sustainable management of our natural resources. Consequently, it is refocusing its natural resource management programs in the Caring for our Country initiative to better target national priorities.

Caring for our Country will focus on achieving strategic results and invest in six national priority areas through regional catchment groups:

- a national reserve system,
- biodiversity and natural icons,
- coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats,
- sustainable farm practices,
- natural resource management in remote and northern Australia, and
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement.

The State Government works with the Queensland forest industry to build a positive investment environment, facilitate market access, enhance industry efficiency, and provide innovative solutions through smart science in collaboration with other research and development providers.

## CQFA Board of Directors

### **President: Peter Milne**

Peter has been CQFA President for 3 years. He is also a Board Member and Chair of the Audit Committee of Animal Health Australia and Food Standards Australia & New Zealand, Chair of QNIC and the Belmont & Brian Pastures Committee. Peter was a former President of the Cattle Council of Australia. He managed Cracow Station for many years and is also a qualified accountant.

### **Vice President: Larry Acton**

Larry has been involved in CQFA for 6 years. Larry is a cattle producer from the Blackwater district. Larry was instrumental in merging The Cattlemen's Union and The United Graziers Association to form Agforce - Queensland's peak Agricultural Lobby Group where he became the organisations first President.

### **Treasurer: Bruce Chapman**

Bruce is a cattle producer from the Calliope Region and has been actively involved in CQFA for many years. Bruce has been an active supporter of R&D in agriculture for the last 30 years.

### **Graham McKenzie**

Graham is a forest grower from the Mackay region. He grows plantation timbers and manages native forest for timber production. Graham is vice president of Mackay Whitsunday Australian Forest Growers (AFG) Branch. He has been a national director of AFG since 2004 and has been involved in CQFA for 6 years.

### **David George**

David is a forth generation Sugar Cane and Cattle Producer from the Brightley area south west of Mackay. Has had a long interest in Natural Resource Management issues and became involved with Forestry through the 2004 Envirofund project of the local AFG group. Has a degree in Business and is active in Agforce and other farming groups such as Chair of Central Region Rural Innovation and Support Group. Also holds a Financial Director position in both the Mackay fibre Producers and the Advanced Nutrient Solutions companies.

### **Dr Colin Creighton**

Colin Creighton, Director of the 'Water for a Healthy Country'; former CEO National Land and Water Resources Audit; CEO Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group; Former Director Water for a Healthy Country Flagship; & CQFA Board. Colin resigned from the Board at the February meeting in Mackay.



### **Pierre Mare**

Pierre began his forestry career in South Africa in 1995 with SAPPI Forests. In 1998, after qualifying as a computer programmer, he joined a company specialising in software for the agricultural industry where he spent the next 5 years. In 2005 Pierre joined ITC and now manages ITC's pulpwood operations throughout Queensland.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

<b>Management Committee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>
24/08/07	Mackay	Board Meeting
22/10/07	Rockhampton	AGM & General Meeting
17/12/07	Rockhampton	Board Meeting & Special General Meeting
22/02/08	Mackay	Board Meeting
11/04/08	Rockhampton	Board Meeting
13/06/08	Mackay	Board Meeting
02/07/08	Rockhampton	Special Board Meeting

### **Staff**

The Association has a full time Executive Officer Mrs. Anne Stünzner. Anne has been in the position from April 2006.

Mr. Reg Connolly DPI&F was delivering a Forest Management Advisory services in the Fitzroy Basin under a sub-contracted position from CQFA to QDPI. Reg has extensive experience as a forester and his skills have been complementary to CQFA's vision. Reg resigned the role in June 2008 to take a position with DNR&W in Mackay, and the position has not been refunded by FBA in its current form. Instead, the delivery of native forest management advisory services will be directly contracted for delivery to CQFA.

The CQFA office recruited Yolanda Leitao as office administrator in October 2006. Yolanda comes from an administration and accounts background. Yolanda continues to work 1 day a week for CQFA.



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Chairman's Report

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**CQFA Chairman  
Peter Milne**



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**CQFA Chairman  
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## Treasurers Report

The 2007/2008 financial year saw CQFA move to a new Auditor. The organisations previous auditor Judith Ward informed the organisation that she would be scaling down her operations and no longer able to accommodate CQFA.

That CQFA move to auditor Sue Filer was passed as a motion at the 2006/2007 Annual General Meeting. Sue is a Certified Practising Accountant with more than 15 years experience in taxation accounting and small business. Sue graduated with a Bachelor of Business Degree in 1990 and was admitted to the status of Certified Practising Accountant in 1996. The accounts were presented to Sue in July and have been completed in a timely and professional manner and are included in this report.

CQFA has had a turbulent year with respect to funding. On the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008 the Executive Officer was informed that the Federal Government was cutting funding to the national PFDC program effective July 31<sup>st</sup>. Nationally to date of the 19 PFDC's, only 8 remain. The State Government followed suite on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008. CQFA is extremely disappointed with this decision by the Federal and State Governments. Sustainable forestry is a natural solution to many of the climate change cost issues facing the community and the funding cut decision by government is extremely short sighted in this regard.

It is to the credit of current and previous CQFA board and management that the organisation is in a strong financial position to continue to deliver services. With careful budget regulation by staff and the Board, the total equity of the organisation has improved \$20,000 on the previous financial year with expenditure down by \$42 000.00 and income up by \$10 000.00.

The purchase of a laptop computer with Wireless Broadband for the Executive Officer has contributed to these savings. More flexible work delivery options have reduced travel costs to and from the office and accommodated the balance between work and family. These factors have been vital in retaining and recruiting quality staff to the organisation.



## Treasurers Report

While 2008/2009 will not see direct Government assistance to the organisation, CQFA has been contracted to deliver \$150 000.00 of funding for the Fitzroy Basin Association for forestry extension and incentives program. These funds, a sound financial position and continued funding opportunities through *Caring for our Country* and *Reef Rescue* mean that the organisation is well placed to continue to deliver forestry advice and extension services in the region.

The absence of government monies also provides opportunities. CQFA is examining the prospect of building a commercial arm of the organisation that will offer a fee for service consultancy structure as an option for landholders. The reliance on Government funds in the past limited the opportunities for CQFA to move in this direction.

In closing I want to express my thanks to both Yolanda and Anne for their cooperation and help throughout the year. Their collaboration has enabled the financial reporting process to run smoothly.

**Bruce Chapman**  
**Treasurer/Secretary**  
**Central Queensland Forest Association**



## Executive Officers Report

It has again been a busy year at CQFA with many ups and downs. The framework within which CQFA operates has been radically changed. The organisation no longer has the relative security of three year funding contracts between State and Federal governments. Instead we are faced with the uncertainty of continual reapplication for one year project funding periods that offer no guarantees of success or continuity.

But its not all bad news. The commitment by FBA to contract the delivery of its forestry incentives and extension to CQFA, on-going projects with Agforests, CSIRO and the recruitment of an Indigenous Forestry Project Officer has actually seen the expansion of CQFA in the past few months. The excellent financial position of the organisation combined with the above opportunities provides a brighter horizon upon which to focus. Quite frankly, after a year of nervous expectation I am relieved that we know where we stand. At least now we can move aspects of the business forward and develop the organisation without the constraints on Government protocols.

My role would not be possible here at CQFA without the continued and strategic support of the CQFA Board. The on-going leadership and absolute professionalism of the Chairman Peter Milne. In conjunction, the expertise of individual members have helped enormously to address industry issues as they arise. Two of our newest board members, Gavin Peck and Pierre Mare have both been integral in many of the activities and achievements of the organisation this year. I have no doubt that Gavin has played a role in securing continued funding for forestry via FBA for the Central Queensland Region. I would also like to note the role of board members Graham McKenzie, David George and Pierre in lobbying to dissolve the misinformation and tension that exists between the sugar industry and managed investment scheme plantation companies.

In April 2008 CQFA undertook to review the Business Plan going forward to 2011. The Board recommended the services of Dr Bob Miles to facilitate the process. The result is a radically streamlined and efficient document that provides the direction and considered flexibility to move the organisation forward. CQFA would like to thank Bob for his input and note that his presence at CQU will be sadly missed.



## Executive Officers Report

While I am thanking people it would be remiss not to note Reg Connolly, Fred and Gayle De Costa and Yolanda Leitao.

I spent several months trailing Reg to forestry sites and absorbing as much of his forty years experience that I could. Reg has been endlessly patient with me and his secondment back to Mackay DNR has left a void within the industry. I do know however, that the CQFA sites in the Mackay Region will be surreptitiously supervised.

Fred and Gayle De Costa were contracted by my husband and I to mill some timber privately on farm. While I was on my own time, working with them and learning from them gave me a greater depth of understanding and knowledge about timber that has translated directly to my role at CQFA.

After surviving the audit process last year, Yolanda Leitao has stayed with the organisation and continues to manage the CQFA accounts in a timely and professional manner.

I would like to note the resignation of Dr Colin Creighton. Colin provided an intimate understanding of the NRM issues in the Mackay Whitsunday region within the broader political framework of National policy directives.

On a more positive note, I would like to welcome Ms Pam Jeffrey. Pam has agreed to work as office administrator for CQFA. Pam also holds a position at FBA and her inside knowledge will help enormously in the delivery of the FBA forestry incentives project.

