



# CONSULTANTS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



## FOREST RESOURCE SECURITY

Assessment of the current safety practices in forest operations in Queensland

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

### Assessment of current safety practices in forest operations in Queensland

#### Key EOI Information

The South & Central Queensland Regional Forestry Hub is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from individuals and organisations with the necessary forestry management and operations (current experience and familiarity within the sector) expertise to assist Hub members to review baseline safety practices in the Queensland forest industry to support further development of training and other support materials – to identify issues and ways for improvement within the forestry operating environment.

The project is 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**

This project aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of current safety practices in native forest harvesting operations across Queensland, assessing the PCBU's knowledge and understanding of the legislative requirements, identifying areas for improvement and developing a critical framework to enhance safety standards across the native forest sector/industry.

## **3. Project Scope**

Identify priorities for system and operational improvements that will have the greatest impact on safety outcomes in the Queensland native forest industry including the following elements:

1. Collect and analyse data from various sources, including academic publications, industry and government documents and data, to gain a comprehensive understanding of current safety practices and challenges in the Queensland native forest industry.
2. Engage in consultations with industry representatives, including forest harvesting operators, contractors, safety professionals, and workers, to access their knowledge and understanding of legislative requirements, gather insights into their work experiences, concerns, and perspectives on safety practices.
3. Conduct field visits to a representative sample of native forest operations across Queensland to observe and evaluate safety practices firsthand. This will provide a detailed understanding of how safety procedures are implemented in real-world scenarios.

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4. Identify and critically review relevant safety standards, guidelines, and regulations, as well as training available/applicable to the Queensland native forest industry.
5. Prioritize the elements of safety standards and guidance based on their potential impact on improving safety outcomes for workers and site visitors, prioritize and inform industry on the most critical elements/areas for improvement.
6. Identify the specific elements of safety standards that support demonstration of legal compliance. This will help businesses ensure they are meeting their legal obligations and minimizing risk.

## A. Methodology

The study should identify and discuss the following key components:

- Descriptive analysis of safety practices within native forest harvesting operations - Describe a generic process for the application of the available/current safety standards and practices.
- Evaluation of incident reports and safety breaches to determine systemic vulnerabilities.
- On-site engagement with forestry workers and management to gain an in-depth understanding of on-ground challenges and issues.
- Assessment of extent of Safety Management Systems that may have been implemented and aligned with priorities identified at objectives 5 and 6 above.
- Benchmarking against relevant national and international safety standards to identify best practices that are applicable to the specific native forest operations.
- Assurance frameworks for validating safety in native forestry and procedural guides for conducting safety assessments in these settings.

Overall, a combination of literature review, a minimum of two site visits to native cypress harvesting operation sites and a minimum of two site visits to hardwood forestry harvesting operation sites, stakeholder engagement forum 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

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- 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.

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

- a. Queensland State Government (QDAF)
- b. Forest Harvesters & Processors
- c. Australian Forest Contractors Association
- d. WorkSafe QLD
- e. Educational institutions
- f. 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 21 October 2024 and conclude 21 April 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; industry knowledge and working in industry.
- 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 proposed project teams industry knowledge and working in industry would be favorable.
- A brief description of each project team member's professional experience; highlighting their relevant experience and capabilities in relation to the project requirements, industry knowledge and working in industry
- 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**

#### **Assessment of the current safety practices in forest operations in Queensland**

#### **PART A: Applicant Details**

Lead Organisation Name	
Address	
Primary Contact Name	
Position Title	
Telephone	
Email	

#### **Part B: Selection Criteria**

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

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- 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
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