

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1490**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 29 November 2006**

**MR HAYWARD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

Has the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries been able to attract any large international conferences to Queensland; if so, will he give an example of any such conference?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), as a major research and development agency, uses sponsorships to attract key international science conferences to Brisbane to support the government's vision as 'Australia's Smart State'.

These conferences not only bring thousands of business and holiday makers to the State but also reaffirm the State's lead role in a number of key research areas and stimulate national and international sharing of expertise and build collaborations.

In August 2005, DPI&F was the Australian Host for the XXII International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) World Congress. This event drew over 2 000 international and national forestry scientists from 90 countries to Brisbane to explore the theme of 'Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology'.

The IUFRO World Congress was a \$700,000 investment by the Queensland Government that generated over \$6 million for the local economy in the short term and international collaborations and improved practices in the long term.

This was the first time that an IUFRO World Congress was held in the southern hemisphere.

Apart from the economic and scientific benefit of hosting a congress for 2 000 people, there were more than 40 articles, three television stories and numerous radio interviews, which profiled Queensland nationally and internationally as world-leaders in tropical and sub-tropical forest and timber research and Queensland as a fitting meeting place for world-leading forestry experts.

One of the stories was the tree planting ceremony held at Southbank featuring the Wollemi Pine, the world's oldest living tree, which Queensland scientists were able propagate in enough numbers to be marketed world-wide.

There was also a strong indigenous involvement in the Congress, with a number of indigenous keynote speakers and the Queensland Government sponsoring indigenous people from Cape York to attend the conference and arranging pre-conference training courses on building indigenous participation in the timber industry.