

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 500**  
**Asked on Thursday, 30 March 2006**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to a CD Rom “Focusing on Forests” which I understand has been distributed to all State and private secondary schools—

How will this initiative help fill a knowledge gap for secondary students?

**ANSWER:**

DPI Forestry is a \$100 million commercial business group of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and administers a 200 000 hectare commercial forest plantation estate valued at more than \$1.2 billion.

Commercial forestry has a positive story to tell in terms of its environmental credentials and its contribution to Queensland's economy and society.

Including processing activities, Queensland's forest and timber industry comprises about 2 200 businesses, employs more than 19 000 people, has an annual turnover of \$2.7 billion with a further \$1 billion in value-adding and earns the State \$215 million each year in exports.

Commercial forestry is an important part of Queensland's food and fibre sector but there is little in the way of educational resources that focus on it. DPI Forestry receives regular requests from schools for educational material about commercial forestry.

DPI Forestry recently launched a new educational CD-Rom, “Focusing on forests”, which provides material aimed at filling the “knowledge gap” for students. The CD-Rom provides Queensland school students with a comprehensive look at DPI Forestry's environmental and commercial operations as well as an appreciation of Queensland's vital timber industry.

In particular, the CD-Rom looks at forests in the Australian and Queensland context, forest products, forest plantation management, environmental sustainability and enhancement, DPI Forestry's role as Queensland's largest commercial forest grower and employment opportunities in the forest sector. It also includes notes for teachers and students.

The CD-Rom was developed in consultation with the Queensland Studies Authority and is designed for secondary schools' Geography and Studies of Society and Environment curricula. It is targeted to students in Years 8 to 10 and has been distributed free to Queensland state and private secondary schools.

As a CD-Rom, the resource provides an enormous amount of information in a small and convenient package. The production costs were minimal, in the vicinity of \$4000, and the CD-Rom is easily updatable.

This is important, particularly as DPI Forestry will soon become a new plantation forestry entity, *Forestry Plantations Queensland*. These changes will be acknowledged in future editions of the CD-Rom.

Although "Focusing on forests" is designed for schools, members of the public can contact DPI Forestry for a copy. The CD-Rom was featured in recent press advertising for "World Forestry Day" and resulted in members of the public contacting DPI Forestry for a copy of the CD-Rom.