

Question on Notice

No. 1166

Asked on 6 September 2018

MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether there were any significant anniversaries within the Forestry Division over the past financial year, and what are the current focuses of the Department of Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries research?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) Horticulture and Forestry Science celebrated 100 years of Forest Products Research on 18 April 2018 at the Brisbane based Salisbury Research Facility. It all commenced back in 1918 with Mr Edward Swain pioneering the establishment of the Forest Products Bureau.

There were 100 prominent industry partners as well as past and present forest researchers who attended the 100-year celebration. Presentations at this event were given by Mr David Gough, Dr Wayne Hall, Dr Michael Kennedy, Mr Richard Hyne and Mr Mick Stephens.

The current focuses in Forestry research, development and extension (RD&E) are multifaceted to deliver research outcomes spanning forest establishment to mid-rise timber building construction.

Our Forestry RD&E priorities fall within the three major areas of Forest Productivity, Forest Health and Protection and Forest Product Innovation.

To extend our research support to industry we have also forged alliances with the University of Queensland (UQ), University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and industry to conduct complementary research to service the entire forestry, timber and construction industry.

The key focus of the Forest Productivity team is to provide responsible and sustainable forestry systems to optimise forest management and maintain sustainable land-use for forestry and environmental values through:

- improving forest productivity
- understanding forest performance and sustainability
- maintaining and improving forest quality.

The Forest Health and Protection team engages in state, national and international research to deliver pest and disease mitigation, and forest protection through RD&E that focuses on:

- innovative pest and disease management
- supporting and developing resilient forests
- effective Biosecurity systems to protect forests.

Our Forest Product Innovation team conducts research to improve wood products, processing and protection systems with:

- new engineered wood products and building systems for the construction industry
- more efficient wood processing systems
- innovative wood products suited to the new forest resources
- technical solutions for the forest and timber industry sectors.

DAF has enhanced the overall RD&E footprint in the forestry space through alliances with UQ and USC to deliver further complementary research outcomes through the following centres:

- Forestry Industry Research Centre (DAF-USC)
- Centre for Future Timber Structures (DAF-UQ) which includes the ARC Future Timber Hub (UQ-DAF-Hyne & Son-Lend Lease-Arup-Hutchinson)
- National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life (USC-DAF-UQ and Forest Wood Products Australia).