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QPFL ANNOUNCES KEY APPOINTMENTS

Queensland Paulownia Forests Limited (QPFL) board of directors today announced a number of key appointments to its management team aimed at strengthening the company's position to capitalise on a number of growth opportunities into the future.

The Gold Coast-based company is currently exploring options aimed at maximising shareholder value including a trade sale, joint venture or listing on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Dr Stephen van der Mye, previously the company's Deputy Chairman, has taken up the position as Managing Director of the Queensland forestry company.

Chairman David Gold said Dr van der Mye's appointment was a proactive measure to enable the company to be prepared for its next growth phase.

"Stephen has an impressive track record in the financial sector including banking and agribusiness," Mr Gold said.

"His appointment will allow QPFL to make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead."

Dr van der Mye has 15 years significant experience at both executive and non-executive director level.

From 1990 to 1997 Dr van der Mye was CEO of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC), a major lender to the agribusiness sector which, together with Suncorp and Metway banks, merged to form Suncorp Metway.

Dr van der Mye is currently the local chairman of the Bank of Cyprus group in Australia and a council member of Swinburne University of Technology, in Victoria.

He will be based in Queensland to assume a full time position as Managing Director at QPFL.

Other key appointments will further augment the financial and compliance capabilities of the business.

Mr Garry Waldron has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer and brings a wealth of financial and accounting knowledge. He is a past National President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and was previously the CFO of General Electric Fleet Services in Australia.

To strengthen the risk management and compliance areas of the business, the company has appointed David Durham as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer. Mr Durham holds a Bachelor of Law (Hons) and a Bachelor of Business Accounting. His expertise in compliance, trade practices, audit and legal adds significant value to QPFL.

Former CFO Liz Hutchinson will take on three areas of responsibility; in addition to chairing the Audit and Risk Committee, she will continue as Administration and Compliance Director and join the QPFL strategic planning team.

"Liz has worked closely with me on QPFL for the past five years and was instrumental in making Fortuna Corporation one of the New Zealand's Top 20 listed companies," Mr Gold said.

"We have in place talented executives and a dedicated team of professional employees," Mr Gold said.

"These new appointments will position the company to capitalise on the expansion of the business."

Last year marked a number of achievements for QPFL, most notably the pre-sale of its first harvest, the purchase of a timber mill and excellent year-end results.

QPFL offers Paulownia Forestry Managed Investments and currently has approximately \$82 million of funds under management.

The company manages more than one million paulownia trees on plantations in Queensland and New South Wales on behalf of 3,500 investors.

Paulownia is a fast-growing, light-coloured hardwood that is predominantly used in the manufacture of doors, mouldings, boat construction and jointed board. The market potential for rough sawn timber is estimated to exceed \$600 million annually. QPFL offers manufacturers a quality Australian-grown alternative.

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