

## TIMBER INDUSTRY and the NATIONAL ECONOMY

The Australian timber industry is a significant contributor to the national economy—to the order of \$400,000,000 a year—and employs mainly in the decentralised areas about 50,000 people (not including forest service staff in each state).

This represents about 11 per cent of the rural work force.

Even so, the cost of timber and timber products *imported* into Australia in 1969-1970 was over \$266,000,000, and at present could well be around the \$300,000,000 mark.

These imports include sawnwood,

roundwood (saw logs, veneer logs, etc.), processed wood (plywood and veneer, particle board and other wood manufactures) and wood pulp and pulp products (paper, etc.).

Despite the fact that it employs 11 per cent of the rural work force (plus forest services) the timber industry has not been accorded the special consideration given other industries located in rural areas. A study group reporting for the Commonwealth Departments of National Development and Trade and Industry claimed it is deserving of such.