



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 11016/22
Your ref: A884885

7 July 2022

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2022 regarding petition number 3751-22 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 22 June 2022 about proposed selective native timber harvesting from part of Beerwah State Forest Lot 1 AP 22457.

Engagement about the proposed harvesting is ongoing, and no decisions have yet been finalised.

Beerwah State Forest was originally established in 1874 as a Reserve for State Forest purposes, including selective native timber harvesting. The proposed harvest area near Ewen Maddock Dam was last selectively harvested in the mid-1990s.

Consistent with the requirements of the *Forestry Act 1959*, a wide range of forest values are taken into consideration in the overall management of all State forests by the Department of Environment and Science (through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P)). These include timber production, recreation, ecological, cultural and other community interests.

If the proposal to selectively harvest the Beerwah State Forest site proceeds, timber harvesting will only occur for a relatively short period of time in the overall forest management cycle. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) will work closely with QPWS&P to manage public access during operations to ensure the safety of all forest users; minimise the impact on visitor infrastructure such as the Ferny Forest Trail; and ensure that the site can be returned to full use by the public as quickly as possible.

I note that the conservation status of the koala under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NC Act) has recently changed to 'endangered' in Queensland. Consequently, the proposed harvest site is being assessed for koalas and koala habitat to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EPBC Act and NC Act.

The Queensland Government's Native Timber Action Plan supports actions to deliver a sustainable native timber industry in Queensland, balancing both jobs and the environment.

Consistent with the Plan, the Queensland Government has committed to ending the harvesting of State-owned native forests in the South East Queensland Regional Planning area, including this site, by the end of 2024.

If the petitioners require further information regarding the harvesting proposal, I encourage them to access an online information hub at <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/seq-forestry-harvest> or contact DAF on 13 25 23 or by email at SEQForestryHarvesting@daf.qld.gov.au.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities**