



# Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Minister for Science and Innovation

Your Ref: A1336972  
Our Ref: CTS 15899/24

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

19 SEP 2024

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 26 August 2024 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 4126-24 concerning the protection of Deongwar State Forest, and arboreal hollow dependant native species from ecologically unsustainable logging practices.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) works with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to advise on sustainable forest management. This includes provision of science-based advice to ensure the protection of threatened arboreal hollow dependant native species. I have full confidence in DESI's officers to provide guidance on this matter.

The *Code of Practice for native forest timber production on Queensland State forest estate 2020*, (the Code) prescribes environmental management standards for timber harvesting on the State forest estate. DAF and DESI work together to implement the Code.

As you may be aware, on 26 June 2024, the Honourable Steven Miles MP, Premier announced as part of a new 30-year Queensland Sustainable Timber Industry Framework, that a new Greater Glider Forest Park will be established in the Eastern Hardwoods timber supply region.

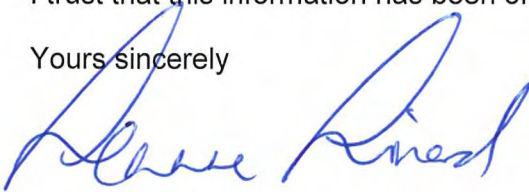
Extending on this commitment, on 31 August 2024 I jointly announced the Government's intention to formally protect 54,000 hectares of greater glider habitat in South East Queensland as part of the proposed Greater Glider Forest Park. It is intended that these areas of State forest be transitioned to a new natural capital reserve tenure, which will prohibit native hardwood logging, prior to their assessment for further protection, which will protect high value ecosystems and significant habitat for iconic threatened species, including the greater glider.

While the current focus of the Queensland Sustainable Timber Industry Framework is on South East Queensland and the creation of the Greater Glider Forest Park, it will also include a comprehensive statewide assessment of biodiversity values. This assessment will establish best management of native forests and support decision-making as well as identifying areas that are critical for protection.

I would also add that the Queensland Government is heavily invested in the protection of our unique biodiversity and has committed to continue to grow the protected area estate under the *Queensland Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*. As logging ceases in the Eastern Hardwoods region by the end of 2026, the Queensland Government is working on identifying State forest areas of highest ecological value to transition to protected areas.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leanne Linard', is written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Leanne Linard MP

**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and  
Minister for Science and Innovation**