



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

Our ref: CTS 23171/23
Your ref: A1193575

20/12/2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2023 regarding petition number 3992-23 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly and concerning selective native timber harvesting operations at Deongwar State Forest.

Selective native timber harvesting in Queensland's State forests, including those operations presently occurring within Deongwar State Forest, must meet the requirements of the *Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's state forest estate 2020* (the 'code') which is administered and overseen by the Department of Environment and Science (DES). Further, selective harvesting operations in Deongwar State Forest are managed to comply with all applicable Queensland environment and heritage laws, including the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

During harvesting operations more than half of the standing forest is retained, including those trees required for habitat or for other purposes under the code. These measures protect the typically larger and older trees favourable to hollow-dependant species, while simultaneously providing suitable conditions for robust natural regeneration of younger trees.

I am aware of significant fires in the vicinity of Deongwar State Forest and the effect this can have on native forests and their associated ecosystems. In line with the requirements in the code, selective harvesting operations must be managed to ensure there is no increase in fire risk, including through the appropriate management of harvest residues. Systematic fire management planning and hazard reduction activities on Queensland's State Forest estate are also undertaken by DES.

I trust 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