



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

Your reference: A1242117
Our reference: CTS 03522/24

18 MAR 2024

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Parliamentary Petition 4025-24 tabled on 15 February 2024 concerning commitments of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement.

The Petition was initially referred to the Honourable Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities by the Clerk of the Parliament. Minister Furner forwarded the Petition to me for response as the responsible Minister in accordance with Standing Order 125 (2).

I acknowledge the dedication the petitioners have to the expansion of the protected area estate across Queensland. The Queensland Government remains committed to ending timber harvesting in State-owned forests in the South East Queensland Regional Planning area, by the end of 2024. During the intervening time it will continue to ensure any timber harvest activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation's *Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate 2020* and its Responsible Wood certification.

The Queensland Government's Native Timber Action Plan includes a commitment to progressively transfer up to 20,000 hectares of State forest land in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area to the conservation estate before the end of 2024. This transfer will contribute to the State's objective of growing the protected area system, consistent with *Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030*. The Government remains committed to this early transfer having already dedicated 2,550 hectares as protected area in 2023.

The transfer of any land to protected area is a complex and sometimes lengthy process due to the range and extent of impediments to protected area dedication across the State. State forests are no different in this regard and the department is working closely with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure the best possible transfer outcomes are achieved as soon as possible. The Government will be considering further additions to the conservation estate from across the broader south east Queensland region during 2024.

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

Yours sincerely

Leanne Linard MP
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Innovation