



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

Our Ref: CTS 04461/24
Your Ref: A1250127

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8 APR 2024

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

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ ^{Neil}

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2024 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 4037-24 concerning the protection of Deongwar State Forest.

I acknowledge the dedication the petitioners have to the expansion of the protected area estate across Queensland and specifically their advocacy for Deongwar State forest and the values it contains. 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. This can be due to the range and extent of existing uses and activities, which can be 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, including consideration of Deongwar State forest.

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
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