



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

Our ref: CTS 04423/22

4/04/2022

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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 18 March 2022 regarding petition number 3714-22 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly about proposed selective timber harvesting in Beerwah State Forest Lot 1 AP 22457 tabled in the House on 15 March 2022.

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

The 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.

Since then, it has continued to be available for a wide range of community, ecological, and recreational uses.

I note that the conservation status of the koala under the EPBC Act has recently changed to endangered in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Consequently, the proposed harvest site will be assessed for koalas and koala habitat to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EPBC 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 ongoing engagement, I encourage them to contact DAF on 13 25 23 or by email at [SEQForestryHarvesting@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:SEQForestryHarvesting@daf.qld.gov.au).

I hope that 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**