



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

Our ref: CTS 05344/22
Your ref: Petition 3719-22

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22/04/2022

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 31 March 2022 regarding petition number 3719-22 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly about proposed selective native timber harvesting on part of Beerwah State Forest (Lot 1 AP 22457).

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, the area has continued to provide a wide range of community, ecological, and recreational uses.

I note that the conservation status of the koala under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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 the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or by email at 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**