



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 08697/22
Your Ref: A869698

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7140
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

22 June 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2022 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3747-22 seeking a review of the '*Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland State Forest estate 2020*' (the Code).

The Code prescribes environmental management standards for timber harvesting operations within State Forests. The Code is specifically designed to ensure harvesting operations are conducted in a manner which preserves a forest's biodiversity values, ecological processes, native species and water and soil resources.

The Code stipulates requirements to protect habitat and recruitment trees, mitigate weed and pest incursions, address harvest debris and erosion and drainage requirements, and importantly establish individual species management plans to protect wildlife. In upholding the requirements of the Code, accredited audit officers of the Department of Environment and Science regularly conduct harvest compliance audits.

Coupled with these compliance activities, harvest operations and procedures, the department's broader forest management practices are audited annually by an independent third-party certification body as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to responsible and sustainable forest management and achieving its Responsible Wood Certification.

Evidence to the Code's effectiveness in maintaining sustainable harvest practices has been the suitability of over 400,000 hectares of State Forest in the former South-East Queensland Forest Agreement Area for dedication as protected area since 2006. Further areas of State Forest in this area will also be added to the protected area estate before 2024.

The Code has been reviewed regularly to ensure consideration of the latest science and towards ensuring only the most contemporary and best practice harvesting operations occur in Queensland's State Forests.

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

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
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