



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

Our ref: CTS 17557/23
Your ref: A1155489

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16 October 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2023 regarding Petition Number 3946-23 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly and concerning native timber harvesting at Deongwar State Forest.

Native timber harvesting in Queensland's State forests must meet the requirements of the *Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's state forest estate 2020* (the 'code') which is administered and overseen by the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Native timber harvesting often results in bark, leaves and tree limbs remaining at the harvest site. The retention of this material contributes to maintaining the nutrient cycle at the location.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) within DES has responsibility for managing fires on around 2.9 million hectares of forest estate across Queensland. Fire management, both planned operations and preparedness for bushfire response, considers the risks associated with vegetation type and fuel load, which is variable across the estate. This ensures beneficial outcomes for natural and cultural values.

Consistent with the Code, debris resulting from selective native timber harvesting operations is managed to reduce potential negative impacts of bushfire to standing trees and to not increase the potential for bushfire spread. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides advice to DES on timber harvesting areas so that residue from timber harvesting can be taken into account in its fire management planning.

Under the Native Timber Action Plan, the Queensland Government has committed to ending native timber harvesting in State forests in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area by 31 December 2024, including Deongwar State Forest.

I hope that this information is of assistance to the petitioners. If you require further information, please contact Mr Dan McIntyre in my office on 07 3719 7420.

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**