



Queensland
Government

Department of
Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry

Reference: CTS00239/13

16 JAN 2013

Dr John Glaister
Director-General
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
PO Box 15187
City East Qld 4002



Dear Dr Glaister

John

The principal purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent decisions by the Honourable John McVeigh MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the management and harvesting for commercial log timber production of native forest areas within State Forests.

Minister McVeigh has approved that the areas of State Forests previously excluded from further harvesting by the former State Government, as well as the State Forest areas proposed for tenure transfer to the protected area estate, are now available for commercial log timber production and associated harvesting once again. This includes the State Forest areas within the 1.2 million hectares previously identified in the Western Hardwoods and Cypress Regions for proposed inclusion in the protected area estate and the remaining State Forest areas in central Queensland, the Mackay-Proserpine area and the north Queensland ecotone forests.

The reinstatement of these State Forest areas has provided a much needed boost of confidence to the native forest timber industry through the provision of greater certainty of supply. There is once more a belief in a long-term future for this significant regional and rural industry.

In addition, the management of the cypress forests within State Forests in southern and central Queensland for on-going commercial log timber production has allowed the department to offer the long awaited sales permits to the 14 eligible cypress sawmillers to harvest cypress sawlogs under the provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959* for period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2037.

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The Minister has also approved that harvesting can commence in the so-called Part A areas within the region covered by the South East Queensland Forests Agreement. This harvesting is required to help meet the State's contractual supply commitments for south east Queensland and is scheduled to commence this year.

These matters were briefly discussed at the 9 November 2012 quarterly meeting of the newly formed Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Forestry Operational Group, where discussions were respectively led by Mr Clive Cook of QPWS and Mr Geoffrey Kent of DAFF.

At the next meeting of the QPWS and DAFF Forestry Operational Group, scheduled for 13 February 2013, DAFF proposes to discuss in more detail the efficiencies for both agencies that should be incorporated into *Code of Practice for Native Forest Timber Production for State Lands*, including the suggestion that there should be no requirement for QPWS to approve a Code compliant Operational Harvest Plan for a State Forest sale area. DAFF is also keen to see the current five yearly review of this Code completed as soon as possible as this has benefits for both industry and the agencies.

DAFF will in the near future provide QPWS with a Strategic Harvesting Plan for each region listing the proposed individual areas (or MUIDs) scheduled for harvesting over the next few years.

If your Office requires any further information, please contact Mr Geoffrey Kent, Director, Forestry of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on telephone 07 3405 6920 or email geoffrey.kent@daff.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jack Noye
Director-General
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry