500,000 Trees To Be Planted Next Year Under R.F.A

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Others
The Honourable Henry Palaszczuk

Primary Industries Minister Henry Palaszczuk told State Parliament today up to 500,000 hardwood seedlings would be planted next year as part of the State Government's historic south-east Queensland Regional Forest Agreement.

Mr Palaszczuk said as part of the State Government's agreement to protect jobs, regional communities and south-east Queensland's precious native forests, the Government has announced its commitment to plant 10 million trees and establish 5,000 hectares of plantations over the next four years.

"Under the agreement reached between Government, the timber industry and conservationists, the hardwood timber industry will move from a native forest base to a plantation base over the next 25 years," Mr Palaszczuk said.

Today the State Government, through Department of Primary Industries' Forestry, advertised for expressions of interest for the propagation of the 500,000 seedlings required to be planted on 1000 hectares next year.

Mr Palaszczuk said the seedlings would be planted at Miriam Vale (in Central Queensland), in a region from Caboolture to Bundaberg, Kilcoy, Lockyer and Brisbane valleys next year.

The seedlings to be propagated are eucalypt species including Blackbutt, Gympie messmate, Spotted gum, White gum and a Rose gum hybrid.

"There are already some 700 hectares of hardwood plantations on private land in the south-east," Mr Palaszczuk said.

"Not only will this initiative help provide a secure future for Queensland's hardwood industry, it will also stimulate growth in the nursery industry," Mr Palaszczuk said.

"In addition, the Government is progressing hardwood research valued at $8 million."

Mr Palaszczuk's announcement coincides with State Parliament debate on legislation, which provides for 25-year wood supply in the form of a sales permit ending in 2024.

"The Bill is designed to implement part of the RFA, particularly the provision for the critical long-term security and certainty to the forest and timber industry and for Queensland rural and regional communities," Mr Palaszczuk said.

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