



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Forest Policy Group

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): I am pleased to announce the establishment of a forest policy group within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Initially this group will operate for four months to finalise the western hardwoods agreement and resolve native hardwood logging in public forests in the Rockhampton, Mackay-Proserpine and the far-north regions. The group will also identify and remove impediments to investment in plantations on private land. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, there is also a need to look at cypress logging and the new group will do this over the following 12 months.

Its staff will be drawn from the Departments of State Development, Natural Resources and Water, Primary Industries and Fisheries, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The group will report to the Executive Director of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Environment and Resource Policy Unit) and, ultimately, to my Director-General.

Mr Speaker, as results from this group come to hand, I will keep the House informed.

Already, our statewide forest process has produced the historic South East Queensland Forest Agreement.

It remains today as the only regional forest agreement that has stood the test of time in Australia.