

Question on Notice

No. 1903

Asked on 27 November 2019

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to each state forest or timber reserve in Queensland (noting that some financial information may be commercially sensitive and that the identities of persons or companies holding relevant contracts or authorities are not sought)—

Will the Minister advise (a) the quantity of timber available for harvest as stipulated in such long-term contracts, agreements, permits or authorities as exist, (b) the total areas in hectares of the forest or timber reserve over which these contracts or authorities extend, if less than the entire state forest area, (c) the dates on which all contracts or authorities are due to expire or end, (d) the quantities of timber actually harvested to date under contracts/authorities currently in force and (e) the revenue that the state has received from the sale of that timber?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- (a) Many individual sales permits issued by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries include nominated quantities of State-owned native timber. However, others do not specify quantities and instead nominate ‘all available’ from a specific location. The department sells most of its native timber via long-term sales permits for the supply of native hardwood and cypress sawlogs, which in some instance include specified nominal annual quantities. These known specified quantities total around 197 000 cubic metres of sawlogs per annum. Each individual sales permit is a commercial contract between the State and permittees. Details of the specific quantities of timber available for harvest under each permit are commercial-in-confidence.
- (b) State-owned native timber production in Queensland is not broad scale clearing of native timber, rather it is the selective harvesting of individual trees. There are approximately 20 million hectares of State-owned native forests available for commercial timber production, including State forests, timber reserves, leasehold land and areas of freehold land where the State has retained ownership of the forest products.
- (c) Existing sales permits for the South East Queensland region will expire on 31 December 2024. Native timber production in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area will end at this time. Native timber production in the new Wide Bay Burnett region will be extended by two years to 31 December 2026. In the Western hardwoods region, annual extensions to ‘rolling-term’ sales permits are expected to end on 31 December 2034 in accordance with the recent decision of Government. Long-term sales permits for native cypress expire on 31 December 2037. There are also a wide range of shorter-term sales permits for central and northern Queensland in place, with varying expiry dates.

- (d) For the 2018-19 financial year, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries supplied around 140 000 cubic metres of State-owned native hardwood timber. Around 125 000 cubic metres of State-owned cypress was also supplied for the 2018-19 financial year.
- (e) As reported in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Annual Report 2018-19, royalty revenue for the sale of State-owned native timber was \$16.952M.