

Question on Notice

No. 700

Asked on 25 May 2023

MR A PERRETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Native Timber Advisory Panel’s Communique from October 2022 which states ‘...the panel chair’s report which is currently with the Honourable Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agriculture Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, for consideration’—

Will the Minister advise (a) what are the outcomes from the chair’s report and (b) when will the chair’s report be publicly released, ensuring appropriate accountability and transparency?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government’s Native Timber Action Plan committed to bringing stakeholders together through a Native Timber Advisory Panel to provide views on a sustainable future for the industry that also ensures conservation outcomes.

At the meeting held in September 2022, the Panel chair presented several potential futures for native forestry in Queensland to generate discussion and obtain Panel member views on key issues.

These views were documented after a healthy discussion, and members were also invited to make a written submission about their views. The views and written submissions of the Panel have informed a Panel chair’s report.

The next step for the Plan is to release a paper for public consultation outlining the Government’s proposed future policy direction for native forestry in Queensland.

The Panel chair’s report is an important consideration in the development of this paper, with many of the complex issues it addresses still being under active consideration by the Government. As such it is not appropriate to release the chair’s report at this time.