

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 384**

**Asked on 16 April 2024**

**MR R KATTER** asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the 2019 Queensland Government commitment to providing a long-term secure future for the native hardwood industry under the Native Timber Action Plan and five years later Queensland is in the middle of a housing crisis in need of timber for new houses—

Will the Minister (a) provide certainty to our sustainable timber industry in North Queensland by guaranteeing resource security beyond 2024 or (b) confirm any plans to deny Queenslanders access to essential building materials?

### **ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government's Native Timber Action Plan included early decisions regarding State-owned native timber supply in Queensland. These decisions included ending supply of State-owned native hardwood timber in the Southeast Queensland Regional Plan area (SEQRPA) on 31 December 2024; and continuing supply in the Eastern Hardwoods region for at least a further two years until 31 December 2026. State-owned native timber supply in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' other supply regions is under existing sales permits (contracts).

The potential extension of existing sales permits for the supply of state-owned native hardwood in North Queensland beyond 2024 is being considered by the Queensland Government as part of the Native Timber Action Plan deliberations.

There are many complex issues and diverging community views about the future of native forestry in Queensland. Therefore, the Queensland Government is giving appropriate consideration to all issues and views to formulate policies about the future, including the views of the members of the Native Timber Advisory Panel and industry stakeholders such as regional sawmillers in North Queensland.