

## Question on Notice

No. 755

Asked on Wednesday, 12 July 2024

**MRS D FRECKLINGTON** asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the South East Queensland Forest Agreement (SEQFA) and the importance of the hardwood timber industry in the South Burnett—

Will the Minister advise what plans are in place to grow this regional industry through greater resource security, given the supply of state-owned native sawlogs ceases from 2024?

### ANSWER:

On 26 June 2024, the Premier announced the release of the Terms of Reference for the 30-year Queensland Sustainable Timber Industry Framework (Framework), outlining the Queensland Government's commitment to a sustainable long-term future for Queensland's timber industry.

The Premier also announced that the Framework will be backed by a \$200 million funding package that will support the future of the industry – securing good timber jobs and timber supply. This package will support the development and implementation of actions arising from the Framework, including:

- Support for timber plantation expansion and innovation in timber processing.
- Potential subsidies to assist industry with increased transport costs.
- Increased accreditation and certification support.
- An education and extension program with landholders and traditional owners.
- A comprehensive state-wide assessment of biodiversity values mapping to establish best management of native forests and support decision-making.
- Additional rangers.

Securing sustainable timber supply to ensure Queensland's housing needs are met is also a key commitment of the Framework. The Framework will start from a baseline that there should be no reduction in current overall timber supply levels between 2025 and the end of 2034.

Detailed work will be undertaken as part of the Framework to understand the full supply and demand picture and consider how to best secure future sustainable supply, including potentially through native timber harvesting in central and northern regions, while new plantations progress.

The regulatory framework for the harvesting of privately-owned native timber in Queensland will also be updated and improved including the establishment of a new 'Category F' under the *Forestry Act 1959*.

The Framework will be in place by mid-2025 and will be finalised with support from a dedicated Stakeholder Advisory Group.