

2 April 2024

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Premier of Queensland
The Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
By email: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

cc
The Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning
Minister for Public Works
By email: housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

The Hon Mark Furner
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
By email: agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier,

Master Builders support for native forest resource security for Queensland industry

Master Builders is concerned about the lack of progress by the Queensland Government in refreshing the South-East Queensland Forest Agreement (SEQFA) and commitment to ensure ongoing resource security for a sustainable native hardwood timber industry.

Queensland's native hardwood forests produce timber products essential to the delivery of new housing. The traditional Queensland was founded on the use of native timber species and the renovations and extensions market, as well as new housing and infrastructure projects, still require a significant amount of hardwood timber products. Products such as flooring, decking, cladding and structural posts and beams.

Recent experience has shown how damaging supply chain problems can be to the delivery of new construction, especially housing. A reliable supply of timber products will also be essential in the industry's transition to a lower carbon built environment.

Master Builders is therefore urging the Government to ensure that locally abundant and sustainably managed native hardwood supply is made available for industry to provide timber products to be used in the construction of housing.

Accordingly, it is now critical the Queensland Government implements its commitment made in 2019 under the Native Timber Action Plan to secure a long-term future for the industry. We call on the

Government to deliver the resource security promised so that industry can invest and grow this renewable industry.

As the current Queensland state forest wood supply contracts expire at the end of 2024, new contracts are needed quickly to avoid the loss of investment, industry disruption, and adverse regional outcomes including downstream impacts on builders and homeowners.

Master Builders supports Timber Queensland's recommendations to the Queensland Government. These actions are needed to ensure a viable and sustainable hardwood industry essential for meeting the growing demand for renewable timber for future housing and infrastructure needs.

These recommendations include:

- new 20-year State wood supply contracts to industry for the South-East Region as soon as possible, and subsequently for the Central Queensland and North Queensland regions;
- certainty for private forest owners to manage and invest in the responsible management of their forests by providing a long-term right to harvest, in accordance with the appropriate code of practice and/or management plan, to remove sovereign risk; and
- greater support for private forestry education and extension services so that farmers and landowners, including traditional owners, can implement best forest management practices to increase timber yields, profitability and related environmental benefits such as reduced land clearing for other uses.

To help ensure a continued reliable supply of this key construction material, Master Builders' urges the Queensland Government to implement these policies as soon as possible.

Regards,

Paul Bidwell
CEO