



**Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade;
Tourism; Commerce; Science**

Our Ref: 60-53201
Your Ref: A985189 Petition No. 052

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair *Peter,*

PETITION NO. 052 – NATIVE LOGGING BAN

Thank you for your letter dated 27 September 2022 seeking information to assist with preliminary enquiries into the issues raised in Petition No. 052 – Native Logging Ban, tabled by the Hon Steve Martin MLC.

In response to a range of ecological issues including climate change, declining rainfall and decreasing forestry yields, the McGowan Government made the decision to end native logging by 2024. It is not a decision that was taken lightly and the Government understands it will affect the native timber industry and native forestry communities.

This is why the Government has committed \$80 million to support workers, businesses and communities as they transition away from the native forest industry. The decision to end native logging by 2024 will preserve at least an additional 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests, meaning that nearly two million hectares of native forests will be protected for future generations, including 9000 hectares of high conservation-value karri forests which received immediate protection upon the announcement.

It is important to note that native timber sourced from approved mine site clearings and forest management activities to maintain forest health will continue to be available for high value furniture, joinery, artisanal products, charcoal and firewood, limiting the impact on firewood merchants and other similar downstream industries. The FPC works closely with both the Mining Industry and Main Roads WA to ensure that all wood products cleared for these purposes are fully utilised. This includes all products from graded timber through to firewood and mulch.

The \$80 million Native Forest Transition program comprises three pillars aimed at supporting works and businesses transition away from a reliance on native timber supply and diversify local economies:

- Workforce Transition Programs
- Business Transition Programs
- Industry and Community Development Programs

These programs are being progressively rolled out over 2022 – 2024 and will complement the investment the McGowan Government has already made in regional Western Australia to grow jobs and strengthen regional economies.

The Native Forestry Transition Plan (NFTP) will provide a framework to support our native forestry workers into new employment and to drive diversification of our regional economies to bring new job opportunities to the native forestry timber region. The NFTP is not working in isolation. As part of the \$5.5 billion WA Recovery Plan to guide Western Australia through COVID-19 recovery, the WA Government invested \$252.3 million in the South West region, to drive economic and social recovery and create a pipeline of local jobs

The NFTP Plan document is in the concluding stages of drafting and will be published in the coming weeks. As it has not yet been finalised, a copy is not provided.

I hope that this provides you with the information you require.

Yours sincerely



HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, JOBS & TRADE

- 1 NOV 2022