

FPQ Ref: FH-EM/RM.00002.A
Your Ref:

Type Date in Full

Name & Address
Suburb_State_Code

Dear Salutation

Signage on State Plantation Forest

I am writing to update you on some changes in recreational permitting arrangements and associated signage which Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ) is in the process of implementing for State Plantation Forest (SPF). These changes are being introduced as a consequence of recent amendments to the *Forestry Act*, which effectively remove the permitting requirements for public access to State Forests, including SPF, where appropriate signposting is in place.

This change to the regulation of visitor access on SPF is essentially an administrative change to the permit management system and does not affect the way visitor access is regulated. Obligations on visitors to ensure that they comply with all road rules, drivers of motor vehicles hold a current driver's licence and all vehicles are registered, remain unchanged. Additionally, vehicle access is restricted to formed roads and visitors must comply with all signage, including timber harvesting signs as a condition of entry to SPF, with permits still required for commercial and group activities.

FPQ acknowledges the considerable time and effort that the plantation sector has put into enhancing the safety of its harvesting and haulage operations and is therefore mindful of the need to ensure that its legislated visitor usage obligations do not detract from the safety of all commercial operations on SPF.

FPQ is also aware that some plantation areas such as Beerburrum are already subject to a high level of visitor usage. A significant component of this activity is associated with unauthorised use and will remain so, despite the aforementioned introduction of signage based visitor regulation. It is anticipated however that additional signage will, as a minimum, enhance visitor awareness of commercial activities undertaken on SPF and their associated obligations.

In addition, FPQ is currently developing a visitor use strategy that endeavours to strike the appropriate balance between FPQ's visitor usage obligations and the management of authorised and unauthorised SPF usage. Discussions with Timber Queensland on the draft strategy are proposed in the near future, as part of the stakeholder consultation process.

Enquiries Jim Dickens
Phone (07)3895 3369
Facsimile +617 3895 3382
Email james.dickens@fpq.qld.gov.au
Mobile 0428 105 384

Level 2
104 Melbourne Street South Brisbane
PO Box 3196 South Brisbane
Queensland 4101
General Enquiries 3895 3340
Website www.fpq.qld.gov.au

In conclusion, I wish to assure you that commercial plantation production remains FPQ's core business and future visitor management strategies will take into account the potential impacts on all commercial operations.

Should you require further information on this matter, or would like further information on the proposed consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact, in the first instance, Mr Dave West, General Manager Technical Services on telephone 3895 3312 or myself direct.

Yours sincerely

Dr Warren Hoey
Chief Executive
Forestry Plantations Queensland

Att/Enc