



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

9 April 2025

ONE NATION TO PROTECT FORESTRY JOBS IN QUEENSLAND

One Nation has moved to protect the 8,500 direct jobs in Queensland's \$4 billion forestry sector as part of its policy to make Australia self-sufficient in timber and help address Labor's national housing crisis.

Senator for Queensland and lead candidate Senator Malcolm Roberts said One Nation's policy would leave old-growth forests and other sensitive areas untouched while still supporting targeted and sustainable harvesting of native trees.

"Forestry is a truly renewable resource," Senator Roberts said. "Forestry workers carefully select a handful of trees out of thousands and they, literally, grow back.

"As the sixth largest country in the world, the fact that Australia imports timber is a national disgrace and is contributing to the skyrocketing costs of building a house. Other countries have lower environmental standards in relation to forestry which Australians would never accept in this country.

"Since COVID-19, builders' timber costs have risen about 200% leading to the collapse of many building and construction companies.

"One Nation will support a 'local wood first' government procurement policy and the introduction of country-of-origin labelling on timber and wood products. We'll crack down on illegal timber imports .

"Our policies to exempt basic building materials from GST for homes up to \$1 million for five years, and to reduce electricity costs by 20%, will help reduce industry costs. We also support the delivery of forestry tertiary education for workforce sustainability and development, and we're backing the industry's call for a national fire response plan for Australia's forests.

"One Nation's main priority is to increase the forestry plantation estate, both in Queensland and nationally. We'll extend plantation establishment grants to help meet the industry's target of an additional 18,000 hectares of forestry plantation per year.

"Improving our timber resources is critical to our efforts to increase housing supply. We must plant more trees and become self-sufficient in timber so we don't have to rely on imports from countries with poorer environmental standards and exotic pests, and we must also explore innovation in value-adding – such as generating energy from wood waste.