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# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

## **Report on the Review of the Forestry Bill (Bill No. 36 of 2025)**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
**Parliamentary Paper No. 156 of 2025**

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## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

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The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights was referred the Forestry Bill to scrutinise and to return a report of its findings to Parliament.

The Forestry Bill 2025 ('Bill') is a result of the review of the Forest Act 1992 ('Act') which was endorsed by Government. This Bill provides for the management, development and sustainable use of Fiji's forest resources, in which it will also enable the full implementation of the Fiji Forest Policy of 2007 ('Policy'), as well as the National Development Plan, 2025-2029 and Vision 2050.

The Bill embraces the sustainable management of forests and utilisation of forest resources whilst ensuring the conservation of natural and cultural values for the present and future generations. However, the Act does not sufficiently cover or provide for measures which are based on sustainable forest management. The Act does not refer to all aspects of sustainable forest management, and parts of it are inconsistent with recent developments in policy and administration of the forest sector.

Therefore, this Bill endeavours to further harmonise the current policy with the legal regime of forestry and also other more recent relevant land use policies and environmental legislation such as the Environment Management Act 2005. The Bill is a more encompassing legislation for the forestry sector and endeavours to resolve the deficiencies within the Act relating to forest management, licensing and harvesting.

Under the new Bill, logging operations are subject to a more supportive compliance process. Landowners or operators will always receive an improvement notice first, with monitoring officers notifying them of any non-compliance before a fine is imposed. The Bill also introduces a Tribunal Committee, providing a formal avenue for dispute resolution. Designed to be user-friendly, it takes industry interests into account by allowing private sectors to employ their own Forest Practice Officers, certified under the Ministry, to manage Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and monitoring responsibilities.

As part of the review, the Committee conducted public consultation in targeted areas to gather opinions and feedback from the public. The Committee received support and commendation on the introduction of the amendment Bill, from majority of the public that had participated in the public consultation. However, like most activities that impact the lives of the people of a country, there will also be other suggestions that are based on the premise of making improvements.

Consideration was also given to the impact of the Bill on Fiji's efforts in meeting its targets of the sustainable development goals (SDG).

The Committee acknowledges the concerns raised by the submittees and has deliberated at length on concerns raised. The Committee is confident that all issues raised have been addressed and that the Bill is sufficient as it is with some minor amendments.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Committee for their deliberations and input; Hon. Faiyaz Koya (Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Sachida Nand and Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu.

I, on behalf of the Committee, commend the **Forestry Bill (Bill No. 36 of 2025)** to the Parliament and seek support of all the members of this August house for the Bill.



.....  
**HON. RATU RAKUITA VAKALALABURE**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

## COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights ('Committee') is established under Section 70 of the *Constitution of the Republic of Fiji* and Standing Order 109 of the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji*. The Committee consists of the following Members:



Hon. Ratu Rakuita  
Vakalalabure  
(Chairperson)



Hon. Faiyaz Koya  
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Jone Usamate  
(Member)



Hon. Sachida Nand  
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Isikeli  
Tuiwailevu  
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Josaia  
Niudamu  
(Member)

## COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

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Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers who make-up the Committee Secretariat and are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament pursuant to Standing Order 15 (3)(i). The Secretariat team is made of the following Parliament officers:

- Mr. Jackson Cakacaka – Senior Committee Clerk
- Ms. Alumita Cabealawa – Deputy Committee Clerk
- Mrs. Katie Batikawai – Assistant Committee Officer

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

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### **1.1 Background**

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, referred to as the ("**Committee**"), was assigned the Forestry Bill 2025 for review on November, 2025. The Bill was referred to the Committee in accordance with SO 51(2), which tasked the Committee with the examination of the Bill and the responsibility to report on its findings in a subsequent Parliament Sitting.

### **1.2 Procedure and Program**

The Committee has conducted a thorough review of the Forestry Bill 2025 (Bill No. 36 of 2025). This report outlines the findings, observations, and recommendations of the Committee regarding the Bill.

The Committee read through the Bill and deliberated on the Clauses in the Bill. The Committee then invited the Ministry responsible to provide briefing on the intention of the Bill. Thereafter, the Committee then called for submissions from the public and other interested stakeholders by placing advertisements through the Parliament social media platform.

The Committee was mindful of the provisions in Standing Order 111(1)(a) and ensured that its meetings were open to the public and the media, except during such deliberations and discussions to develop and finalise the Committee's observations and this Report.

### **1.3 Committee Remit**

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law, and Human Rights, in accordance with Standing Order 109 of Parliament's Standing Orders, is tasked with several duties. As outlined in Standing Order 110, these include scrutinizing each Bill referred to it by Parliament and review any subordinate legislation presented in Parliament that falls under its purview.

## **2.0 THE FORESTRY BILL (BILL NO. 36 of 2025)**

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### **2.1 Introduction**

The Forestry Bill 2025 ('Bill') is a result of the review of the Forest Act 1992 ('Act') which was endorsed by Government. This Bill provides for the management, development and sustainable use of Fiji's forest resources, in which it will also enable the full implementation of the Fiji Forest Policy of 2007 ('Policy'), as well as the National Development Plan, 2025-2029 and Vision 2050.

The Bill embraces the sustainable management of forests and utilisation of forest resources whilst ensuring the conservation of natural and cultural values for the present and future generations. However, the Act does not sufficiently cover or provide for measures which are based on sustainable forest management.

The Act does not refer to all aspects of sustainable forest management, and parts of it are inconsistent with recent developments in policy and administration of the forest sector. Therefore, this Bill endeavours to further harmonise the current policy with the legal regime of forestry and also other more recent relevant land use policies and environmental legislation such as the Environment Management Act 2005.

The Bill is a more encompassing legislation for the forestry sector and endeavours to resolve the deficiencies within the Act relating to forest management, licensing and harvesting.



## 2.2 Objective of the Forestry Bill

The objectives of this Act are to provide a legal framework that promotes continuous improvement towards the achievement of—

- (a) sustainable and planned forest management and utilisation through an ecosystem-based approach, including ensuring the long-term health and productivity of forests which balances economic, social, and environmental considerations;
- (b) the conservation of Fiji’s native forest ecosystems, with emphasis on biodiversity, soils and water values, including the long-term maintenance of genetic resources and evolutionary potential;
- (c) equitable distribution of social and economic benefits from sustainable forestry to all Fijians, involving fair access to forest resources, benefit sharing mechanisms, and recognition of traditional knowledge;
- (d) integrated, transparent and efficient Government forest management, in close collaboration with traditional leadership, promoting interagency coordination, streamlined forestry approval processes, and enforcement mechanisms;
- (e) climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognising the role of forests in carbon sequestration, reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing forest resilience to climate impacts;
- (f) sustainable promotion of ecosystem services, valuing and protecting the diverse services that forests provide;
- (g) the enhancement of community participation and rights, ensuring the involvement of local communities, iTaukei owners, and other stakeholders in forest management decisions, and respecting their rights;
- (h) the promotion of forest restoration and reforestation, with initiatives that support the recovery of degraded forest land and the increase of forested areas;
- (i) the establishment and management of trees outside of forests, including in agricultural and urban areas to provide environmental, economic, and social benefits;
- (j) ensuring legal timber trade, and preventing illegal logging, with actions to support the trade of legally harvested timber, and to prevent the trade of illegally logged timber;
- (k) encouraging and facilitating the use and advancement of the best scientific knowledge, technological practices, and approaches in decision-making, including administrative and judicial procedures, to support the protection, conservation, restoration, and ecologically sustainable management of forest and use of forests;
- (l) the promotion of research and education, supporting the growth of knowledge, and the education of the populace on sustainable forest management, and the importance of forests;
- (m) advancing a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy while ensuring environmental sustainability and fostering economic diversification and job creation;
- (n) a high-value forest industry, by facilitating value added processing, enhancing product quality, promoting certification and sustainable branding, and expanding access to international markets for legally and sustainably sourced forest products;

- (o) the development of essential infrastructure and institutional capacity necessary for the growth of a competitive forest sector, including investment in transportation, processing, research and development, training and technological advancement;
- (p) the formulation, coordination, and implementation of integrated policies, strategies, and action plans that provide a clear framework for forest sector development, aligned with national priorities; and
- (q) the establishment and support of market-based instruments that encourage investment in sustainable forest enterprises, innovation, and compliance with international standards.

### **3.0 COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE BILL**

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#### **3.1 Initial Reading of the Bill and Deliberation by the Committee**

The Committee commenced its analysis of the Bill, reading through it, Clause by Clause. From this initial reading, it was noted that the Forestry Bill ('**Bill**') seeks to provide for the planned management and conservation of Fiji's forests.

The Committee had extensive discussions on the provisions of the Bill and resolved that it be prudent to firstly hear the views of the public specifically the stakeholders on this very important piece of proposed legislation. This public consultation would then allow the Committee to gauge the public's perspective on the Bill before deliberating further, whilst also bearing in mind the requirements as set down by Parliament in referring the Bill to the Committee.

#### **3.2 Bill Summary**

By way of consensus, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to include the necessary issues that the proposed law intends to address. This would readily give the reader of this Report with the aforementioned information regarding the Bill, which is summarized below;

The Bill consists of 12 Parts which are as follows—

**Part 1** of the Bill includes the short title, interpretation, application, objectives, principles and the general obligations of the new legislation.

**Part 2** of the Bill contains provisions pertaining to governance, the roles of the Conservator of Forests ('Conservator'), the functions of the Department of Forestry ('Department'), the establishment of the Forestry Advisory Council and provision for the right of stakeholders to form associations.

**Part 3** of the Bill aligns all programmes and activities of the forest sector to developments reflected in a policy. This Part also mandates the Department to classify forests based on their forest functions and to undertake forest inventories and assessment and provisions relating to the declaration and management of reserves.

**Part 4** of the Bill provides for licensing and certification of forest practices plan such as import and export licences, forest management licences, wood processing mills licences and the provisions for the enforcement. In order to maintain and update production statistics from all forest areas, this Part allows the Department to measure all logs extracted from native and plantation forests for commercial purposes at the processing plant, by people trained and licensed by the Department.

**Part 5** of the Bill provides for the issue of notices, where required, to ensure compliance with certified forest practices plans and other provisions of the Act.

**Part 6** of the Bill provides for the making of code of forest practices for the planning and conduct of forest practices so as to provide reasonable protection to the environment, including the conservation of biodiversity and streams, landscape management and the control of soil erosion. This Part also provides for the assessment and reporting on the effectiveness of the codes in providing such protection during the conduct of forest practices.

**Part 7** of the Bill provides for the payment of fees and royalties stemming from forest felling and timber extraction. This Part also provides for the customary rights of resources owners and members of the community to use forest resources for daily sustenance.

**Part 8** of the Bill provides for the endorsement of forest management policies and certification and for the appointment of a committee by the Conservator to review the list of forest species under the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002. This Part also provides for the protections of forests from pests and fires, including provisions relating to the appointment of fire rangers.

**Part 9** of the Bill deals with financial instruments and mechanisms and aligns processes for emissions reduction projects, programmes or activities that involve forests with the scheme established under the Climate Change Act 2021 and related regulations.

**Part 10** of the Bill contains provisions relating to the administration and enforcement of the new legislation. Part 10 of the Bill allows for the appointment of a Forest Officer within the Department to act as law enforcement officers and also provides for the appointment of Forest Practices Officers within both the public and private sectors to ensure that all forestry activities are planned and

monitored by responsible and accountable officers. This Part also contains provisions for actions by law enforcement officers, including powers of inspection, arrest and seizure of property.

**Part 11** of the Bill provides a range of other enforcement measures as alternatives to prosecution, including corrective action notices, fixed penalty notices and prescribed fines. This Part also provides for the establishment of a Tribunal to hear and make determinations with respect to appeals against decisions made with respect to licences, plans and corrective action notices.

**Part 12** of the Bill provides for the miscellaneous provisions and for transitional provision which allow for the smooth transition from the Act to the new legislation.

### 3.3 In-depth Analysis of the Clauses of the Bill

The Committee then had extensive discussions on the Clauses and identified certain provisions that merit proper consideration.

These discussions resulted in the identification of a few issues, which the Committee placed as priority issues to be further discussed and deliberated on with the representatives from the drafters and the Ministry of Forestry. Based on the initial reading of the clauses, the Committee made comparative analysis on the Forest Act 1992, and the Forestry Bill 2025. The main issues noted from these discussions are as follows:

Issue noted by the Committee	Clarification by the Ministry of Forestry
Intention on the introduction of the Bill	The Forest Act of 1992 had primarily focused on the business aspects of forest harvesting. In contrast, the new Bill aimed to establish training programs to ensure that communities concentrated more on sustainable forest management rather than solely on timber extraction. This change shifted the traditional forest licensing processes outlined in the 1992 Act toward compliance with modern standards and alignment with new climate change commitments.
Beneficiaries to landowners	Ever since the Forest Ordinance, customary rights had remained, ensuring that every landowner retained the right to use their own resources. Landowners were able to receive both monetary and non-monetary benefits when their forest resources were protected rather than harvested. They were permitted to use timber from their land for personal purposes, but they could not move it outside the boundary without authorization. For example, if timber was harvested in Lautoka and intended for building a house in Suva, a permit was required. The legislation applied whenever a landowner wished to operate commercially.
Inter-stakeholder relationship	The Bill also aligned the Ministry of Forestry with social inclusion, emphasizing its connection to global food systems, security, and broader social development areas. The Ministry worked closely with the Ministry of

	<p>iTaukei Affairs in addressing the iTaukei Resource Development Plans (IDP), ensuring that the social interests of all landowning units were incorporated. This alignment demonstrated that forestry policy was not only about resource management but also about supporting community development and inclusivity.</p>
<p>concept of social watershed and protection watershed in the Bill</p>	<p>There had been issues related to management under the previous Act, but the new Bill was updated to address them by including special management zones, historic sites, political centers, and watershed management. A new watershed management plan was approved by the Water Authority, and the Bill was aligned with these developments. Watershed catchments were designated as part of forest protection zones, encompassing nature reserves and forest reserves that served as the main water sources. As a result, the Water Authority was required to be notified to ensure that these critical water sources received protection under the Act.</p>
<p>Timber harvesting</p>	<p>The new legislation included the classification of timber species, with Class 1 species such as Vesi and Yaka requiring around 100 years to mature. Specific requirements, such as minimum diameter size, were set before these species could be harvested. Since the export market primarily accepted Vesi and Yaka, which fell within Class 1, and local native species were considered high-value in the national market. Before any licensing process, a pre-marking program was conducted, where the industry, landowners, and the Ministry of Forestry physically inspected the forest. Community representatives were recruited and trained to assist in resource volume assessments, ensuring that the amount of timber available was known before harvesting began.</p>

### **3.4 Submission received via public consultation**

All the submissions received during the public consultation were considered and deliberated on extensively. The main points and issues noted from the submissions are summarised below.

Submissions received provided a range of comments and suggestions, which cover various issues pertaining to certain Clauses of the Bill.

#### *Implication of the Act*

It was queried whether communities that travelled long distances to collect firewood from different forest areas as part of their annual fire-walking ceremonies would be affected by the Act. It was clarified that restrictions applied only to trees cut for commercial purposes. The Act provided for forestry practices and harvesting regulations, meaning that individuals who harvested and sold timber without following proper forestry procedures would be penalized under the Act, while those who purchased timber would not be affected.

#### *Issues of License*

It was noted that illegal logging occurred largely because licence approvals were delayed and landowners exerted pressure on contractors. When contractors agreed to harvest forests, they were required to obtain licences first, yet many applications remained pending for over a year. Landowners often expected advances once agreements were made, but contractors could only provide these based on the assumption that licences would be granted. In some cases, contractors took risks by giving advances and services despite the prolonged delays, leaving them vulnerable when licences were not processed. Illegal logging was driven in part by the lengthy licence processing system. Contractors and landowners did not intend to engage in illegal activities, but the delays in obtaining licences created pressure. The system itself effectively forced contractors into illegal logging despite their preference to operate legally.

In the context of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), landowners received no assistance from the government in the form of consultants. For example, a landowner with only 20 acres of good forest could earn a maximum profit of about \$20,000 after expenses, yet was required to pay between \$7,000 and \$9,000 for a consultant's report. This raised concerns about why the Ministry of Forestry could not establish its own team of consultants to carry out these assessments. Under such a system, when a licence was applied for, the Ministry could have directly assessed the area and then either approved or rejected the licence, thereby reducing costs and streamlining the process.

In that regard, the burden of the consultant fee rested on both the contractor and the landowner. While such costs might have been reasonable for harvesting a 500-acre forest, in reality most operations involved much smaller areas of 20, 30, 40, 100, or 150 acres. From these smaller plots, the maximum profit ranged only between \$20,000 and \$50,000, yet landowners were still required to pay consultant fees of up to \$10,000. This disproportionate expense placed a heavy financial strain on both contractors and landowners, making the system unsustainable for small-scale forestry.

### *Fines*

A submittee noted that failing to have a Forest Practices Plan carried heavy penalties, with fines of \$50,000 for a first offence and \$100,000 for a second offence, while corporate bodies faced \$80,000 for the first offence and \$160,000 for repeated violations. For individuals, the maximum penalty was five years of imprisonment. It was then questioned whether improvement notices would be issued before penalties were imposed. The Ministry of Forestry clarified that offences depended on the type of licence requested, and in the case of logging, improvement notices were always given first, with monitoring officers notifying parties of non-compliance before any fines were applied. The new Bill also introduced a Tribunal Committee, was designed to be user-friendly, and considered industry interests. Furthermore, private sectors were permitted to employ their own Forest Practice Officers, certified under the Ministry, to manage Environmental Impact Assessments and monitoring.

### *Obligation for Sawmillers*

A submittee raised a question about whether the Forestry department enforced reforestation obligations on sawmillers in Fiji, as meetings consistently highlighted the depletion of forest cover. This indicated that the country's trees and forests were diminishing. It was suggested that if all sawmillers had contributed to replanting efforts such as planting 10,000 to 15,000 trees annually forest cover would not have declined over the past 20 years. By the time such measures were considered, it was acknowledged that it might already be too late. For example, Tropik Wood was engaged in logging in Kadavu, while another company operated in Dreketi and conducted maritime logging in Gau Island, yet there were insufficient trees remaining across Vanua Levu and Viti Levu. It was therefore argued that all sawmillers should contribute to reforestation, even if the forestry department had not mandated it.

The Ministry of Forest clarified that the issue related mainly to pine, as pine stocks in the country were lower, while native forests remained intact but were costly to access due to expensive operational areas. Companies had to spend more to harvest native forest logs. The new Bill introduced a special management licence, which required every logger to also participate in tree forestry as part of the licensing conditions. It was further noted that all sawmillers, were involved in reforestation efforts and collectively, the industry was engaged in Fiji's 30-million-tree planting programme. The Forest carbon change data showed 1.1 million hectares of forest in Fiji, representing only a 2 percent change in forestry cover. This indicated that Fiji still had a vast forest area available, and the concern was more about species distribution rather than overall depletion.

### *Issuance of License to Portable Sawmillers vs Static Sawmillers*

A submittee questioned why portable sawmills were being licensed by forest officers as compared to static sawmillers. It was highlighted that market competition was unfair, as



products harvested, milled, and sold by strategic sawmills cost around \$1,000 due to higher production expenses, whereas portable sawmills operated at lower costs and undercut prices. This raised concerns about the value of investing in static strategic mills when portable sawmills were gaining the advantage. The submittee therefore requested that the forestry department reconsider its licensing approach and stop issuing new licences to portable sawmills in favor of supporting strategic mills.

It was clarified that the issue stemmed from resource limitations, but it was also highlighted that the Constitution guaranteed every person the right to conduct business and contribute to community development. For this reason, the Ministry of Forestry was geared toward supporting landowners and investors in establishing both portable and static sawmills. Whenever applications were made, the key question raised was the sustainability of resources. The new Bill addressed this by introducing long-term licences, allowing companies to secure and protect specific forest areas for ongoing operations. As a result, it was advised that businesses should not need to worry about competition from portable sawmills, since their long-term licences ensured resource security. This approach was seen as a way of strengthening constitutional rights while sustaining forestry enterprises.

#### *Sawmiller Association*

The Ministry of Forestry highlighted that the Sawmillers Association already existed as an inclusive body representing all sawmill operators, both static and portable. The new Bill allowed the Licensing Tribunal to hear sawmill concerns, review licensing proceedings, and address discrepancies, making the process more user-friendly and industry-focused compared to the past emphasis on extraction and compliance. Strengthening the Association was seen as important, as it ensured that sawmillers' voices were heard and helped the Ministry of Forestry develop clearer plans and guidelines. The Bill also recognized the role of associations, scientists, and research and development, while acknowledging the customary rights of landowning units. It aimed to balance the interests of all stakeholders, entities, extraction operators, and resource owners in forest management. The Association was encouraged to take a stronger role in addressing matters such as Environmental Impact Assessments under the Tribunal system. Additionally, sawmillers were urged to use online licensing platforms to raise urgent concerns, and incentives were considered for those contributing to forest recovery. The Bill extended such support not only to Fiji Pine and Fiji Hardwood but also to all sawmillers, reinforcing the need to strengthen the Sawmillers Association to ensure effective representation and collaboration.

A copy of the oral and written submission can be obtained from the online Appendices of the Report, which can be accessed via the Parliament website: [www.parliament.gov.fj](http://www.parliament.gov.fj)

### 3.6 Sustainable Development Goals Impact Analysis

Consideration was placed on the SDG 5 which focuses on gender equality and empower all women and girls<sup>1</sup>.

**SDG 5.A** “*Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws*”.

The Committee noted that the Bill aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.A, which emphasizes equal rights to economic resources. This alignment demonstrated that the Bill was designed not only to regulate forestry practices but also to ensure inclusivity and fairness in access to resources, supporting broader principles of equity and sustainable development.

In this regard, the Committee following its review of the Bill, fulfilled its obligation as prescribed under Section 110(2) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

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<sup>1</sup> [United Nations: Gender equality and women's empowerment](#)

### 3.7 Outcome of Review

The pertinent issues identified during the review were discussed at length by the Members of the Committee and considered with the assistance of the drafting team, so as to ensure that all these relevant issues were appropriately addressed. The following key provisions were amended as follows.

1. **Clause 11(2):** Typo error – The provision is re-structured to have spacing in between the words for clarity.

*“The Conservator must appoint a member to a committee established under section 10 on the basis of the member’s demonstrated expertise in the matter for which the committee is established”.*

2. **Clause 12(2)(f):** the provision of the Bill is amended and shall be read as follows-

*“~~the Director of Agriculture or~~ a senior representative from the Ministry responsible for agriculture”*

**Rationale:** The Committee noted that the position of Director of Agriculture did not exist within the Ministry and therefore recommended its deletion. It was further suggested that a senior representative from the Ministry responsible for agriculture would be sufficient to serve as a member of the Forestry Advisory Council.

3. **Clause 23(7):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*be*’ before the word ‘*liable*’ to be read as–

*“Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is ~~be~~ liable on conviction, in the case of”*

4. **Clause 29(5):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*be*’ before the word ‘*liable*’ to be read as–

*“Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is ~~be~~ liable on conviction, in the case of”*

5. **Clause 30(5):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*be*’ before the word ‘*liable*’ to be read as–

*“Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is ~~be~~ liable on conviction, in the case of”*

6. **Clause 76(3):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*be*’ before the word ‘*liable*’ to be read as–

*“Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is ~~be~~ liable on conviction, in the case of”*

7. **Clause 77(9):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*be*’ before the word ‘*liable*’ to be read as—

*“Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is ~~be~~ liable on conviction, in the case of”*

8. **Clause 80(2):** Grammatical error - The provision is amended to delete ‘*shall*’ after the word ‘*Act*’ to be read as—

*“All subsidiary laws lawfully made under the provisions of the Forest Act 1992 prior to the commencement of this Act ~~shall~~ continue to have effect but may be amended or revoked by regulations made under this Act.”*

**Rationale:** The Committee noted that the word ‘*shall*,’ used in the provision was redundant and is considered archaic in modern legislative drafting.


## 8.1 CONCLUSION

As highlighted above in its deliberations, the Committee has conducted extensive public consultations and consulted independent legal experts in the Solicitor-General's Office for the purpose of improving the current draft Bill.

At the conclusion of the review, the Committee believes that the proposed amendments are adequate for achieving the objectives of the Forestry Bill 2025.

The Committee through this report commends the *Forestry Bill (Bill No. 36 of 2025)* to the Parliament.

## **MEMBER'S SIGNATURES**



.....  
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure  
(Chairperson)



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Hon. Faiyaz Koya  
(Deputy Chairperson)



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Hon. Jone Usamate  
(Member)



.....  
Hon. Ratu Isikeli  
Tuiwailevu  
(Member)



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Hon. Sachida Nand  
(Member)



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Hon. Josia Niudamu  
(Member)