
REGIONAL FOREST INDUSTRY SUBMISSION

1 message

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To: forests@industry.nsw.gov.au

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 9:12 AM

COVER SHEET

Given names

Geoffrey and Eleanor

Family name

Robin

Organisation (if you belong to one)

Click here to enter text.

Mobile phone

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Email

geoffandden@bigpond.comPlease select **one** of the following:

- I confirm that my completed questionnaire does not contain sensitive information and can be published in full on the Department of Primary Industries website.
- My completed questionnaire should **NOT** be published on the Department of Primary Industries website.
- My completed questionnaire should **only** be published on the Department of Primary Industries website once my personal details are removed.

Please complete page 2 as well.

Please select your interest/s with extending the RFA:

- Forest management framework in New South Wales
- Sustainable access to timber resources
- Research and development
- Conservation reserve system
- Threatened species
- Aboriginal connections to forests
- Heritage values
- Employment in forest and wood products industries
- Recreation and tourism
- Mineral and petroleum interests
- Other interests (please list below)

Responsible financial and asset management in NSW**Privacy statement**

Please read the privacy statement for information about how the Department manages your personal information: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy>

Send your completed submission and cover sheet to:

Email: forests@industry.nsw.gov.au

Mail:

NSW Regional Forest Agreements

DPI Forestry

Department of Primary Industries

GPO Box 5477

Sydney NSW 2001

Alternatively, online submissions can be made via:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say/>

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

The southern forests of NSW are important environmental and economic assets. They cover a tiny portion of the ancient, dry Australian continent, but contain values vital to our nation's wellbeing. These values include ecological

diversity and species habitat, cultural significance to a wide range of people, high value carbon sequestration and great tourism potential.

Magnificent hardwoods have been drawn from these native forests in the past. However, it is now time for the high volume exploitation to cease. The export of our forests as woodchip to other countries, which mostly do not log their own native forests, is nonsensical. Where is the logic in subsidising this process? What is the business case?

The forests are not a sufficiently viable income-producing resource to justify further logging. In fact, according to detailed research undertaken by the Australia Institute, they are costing NSW at least \$40 million a year. The argument that these subsidies are a cost effective way of supporting jobs in this region cannot be sustained. In fact, polarisation in the community, disharmony and insecurity are the results of the failure of governance and the narrow vision for the management of these assets.

For the State to lose money in order to destroy its assets is clearly not good government. NSW Government needs to stop wasting money on subsidies on uneconomic enterprises. The only explanation for present destruction is a fantasy based on early European culture, when forestry workers with incredible skill and strength selectively harvested the forests. The forests could cope with this approach for a certain time. The climate-change crisis of today was not an issue then. Now mechanical forestry is so incredibly efficient that it is both rapacious and destructive, destroying ecosystems which are only now coming to be understood by scientists.

We appreciate the human dimension to this issue and recognise that family livelihoods depend on government decisions. Family companies that have been in the industry for several generations have invested and borrowed to acquire huge trucking rigs and other expensive equipment. These people need financial security and support. We strongly advocate a re-structuring of the industry, providing new opportunities through tourism development, re-forestation and a substantial boost to innovative regional economic development programs.

The RFA was a sensible and pragmatic response to the issues of the time. But the situation has changed and it would be wrong to just role over the RFA and ignore contemporary facts. We acknowledge that the current circumstances are difficult but believe that with an intelligent analytical approach, good government can find a workable solution for the far south coast community – a solution which does not involve paying for the destruction of an invaluable asset.

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