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**Fwd: RFA submission cover sheet and comments**

1 message

To: forests@industry.nsw.gov.au

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 11:49 PM

Sent from my iPad

**From:****Date:** 12 March 2018 at 23:21:08 AEDT**Subject:** Fwd: RFA submission cover sheet and comments

Please note. I have had extraordinary difficulty in inserting details into the cover sheet. The iPad format is incompatible and would not allow entries to be made. The cover sheet has finally been completed by accessing a windows system, forwarding, and cutting and pasting. My submission would otherwise have been entered before 5pm, 12th March.

## Cover sheet for email or post submissions

Please complete this form and provide with your submission if you are submitting via email or post.

Note: Use Ctrl+Click to follow hyperlinks

**Your details:**

Given name

Family name

Organisation (if you belong to one)

Click here to enter text.

Mobile phone

Click here to enter text.

Email

Please 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)

Emerging issues

## Regional Forest Agreement Renewal, 2018

Personal submission, expressing concerns about emerging issues and the ability of existing policy settings and management procedures to:

- 1) be proactive, 2) make the necessary consequent changes.

Evidence is growing that global ecosystems are experiencing unprecedented rapid changes, and many of these changes are a consequence of human commerce and industry. It is probable that the rapidity and extent of these changes will reduce the ability of these systems to provide the level and extent of many of the natural services that have allowed the development of life, and sustained it as we know it. Forest systems are prominent as vital providers of these services.

It is entirely likely that these issues will become manifest during the 20 year extension of the RFAs, to the year 2040. This will render the economic assumptions underlying the the profitable continuance of forest harvesting for timber and wood products, (which are already questionable, without including imputed \$costs to the environment) as superseded. It is the other forest ecosystem services, (presently without any imputed \$value), that will become paramount. One, for example carbon sequestration and storage will be recognised and assessed on economic \$value and traded internationally. Other critically essential services, such as provision of clean air, clean water, ecosystem-resilience, climate mitigation, will need protection and enhancement: methods of attributing \$values to these will most likely be developed. Selective premium logging, tourism and forest stewardship will provide employment. Understanding forest fire, its management, its use and control will become a major focus of attention.

All these “newly” recognised services and the policy and management issues they raise will require changes. I am concerned that current methods of pre- and post-harvest assessment, harvest monitoring and reporting, are already deficient in identifying the full extent of the effects of present practices. To expect improvement of existing policy and management practices based on such inadequate information is unrealistic. To identify in a timely fashion emerging issues of the sort envisaged above will require far greater emphasis on gathering and providing and assessing relevant information. There can be no real expectation that change will be accepted as necessary if such information is absent. Nor will the policies and adaptive management practices needed to implement the changes be formed.

The issues involved are beyond narrow political and sectoral social and economic interests: they are of national and global significance.

I submit that it is imperative for an independent, representative and objective body be set up to continually monitor and assess forestry practices, with reference to the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and to take account of all emerging relevant scientific, peer reviewed findings. An annual report to be publicly published.