

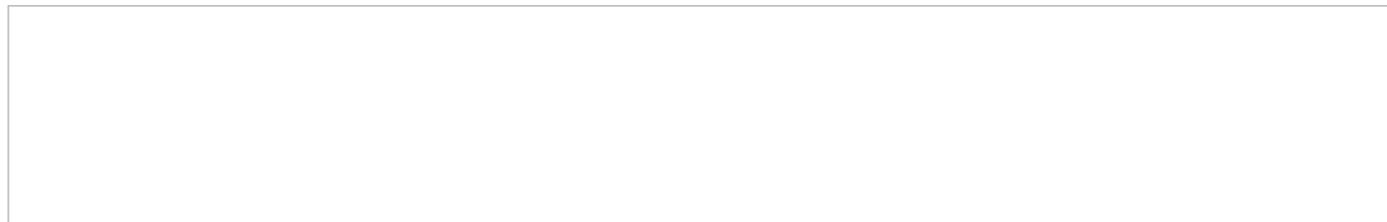
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**RFAs submission**

1 message

To: forests@industry.nsw.gov.au

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 11:50 PM



## Extending regional forest agreements 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:**

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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.
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**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)

#### RENEWAL OF RFAs NSW

The expiry of the RFAs in 2019 and 2021 for Eden and the Southern Regions presents an opportunity to rethink forest management and consider more sustainable ways of providing jobs and training in a new direction for the stewardship of forests

Australia is ranked fifth in the world for diversity of flora, being one of the twelve "mega-diverse" countries in the world.

85% of the vegetation is endemic, i.e. not found naturally growing anywhere else in the world

These are important and unique statements, yet governments at both state and federal levels continue to support activities in the name of "growth and jobs" that continually reduce the reserves and forests that contain unknown diversity when better opportunities for local jobs could be created through sustainable forests, as listed below

To date there is no fully comprehensive list of all Australian tree species available

Through citizen science, new information about insects, native flora and other native animals is regularly being added to data bases.

Continuing Regional Forest Agreements as currently practised will reduce the ability of extending those lists because we do not know what is living in those areas, or its importance and future application for science or medicine or agriculture.

The term CAR - comprehensive, adequate and representative, has set a low bar for forest biodiversity conservation achievement and has been biased towards commercial interests, with the degradation of biodiversity in state forests

Australia is committed in the National Forest Policy to maintain an extensive permanent native forest estate. Allowing logging and the practices of clearing understorey with large cumbersome machinery, to the detriment of native wildlife and fragile plant communities that inhabit it, counters the CAR points in RFAs

There are so many "unknowns" when RFAs were implemented

Insufficient biodiversity assessment was undertaken from the first day of RFAs and a continuing lack of regular comprehensive and objective reviews throughout the whole period.

It is known that environmental officers have inadequate time allocation with too few in number to carry out a comprehensive biodiversity assessment in any new coupes. Assessments carried out at regular intervals (mini seasonal) could provide a detailed report. Citizen science participation with longer time frames would have proved beneficial to ensure greater transparency and increase knowledge of the biodiversity within planned coupes

It is also known that some loggers transgressed and ignored reports, regulations and information provided. Too few were audited.

#### **Threatened species**

Current logging practices threaten tree and woody specimens for biodiversity

- forest cover is reduced, affecting the habitat of canopy dwelling birds, mammals and insects - including threatened and highly endangered species

- logging at the current rate, with over-estimated quotas, is unsustainable. Already, log diameters are greatly reduced. Far longer cycles between harvesting saw logs will be required.

- habitat fragmentation occurs when saplings and woody and bushy under storey is damaged and/or cleared. Many birds and animals lose their territories as well as homes and food sources. The loss of trees and flora that provide nectar, pollen, insects and small mammals, puts pressure on the existing inhabitants of the neighbouring area when displaced birds and animals attempt to establish themselves, but are seen to be encroaching. Flying fox colonies have suffered and a knock on effect could be poor pollination of the remaining trees. Many natives are forced to move long distances, or have to cross roads to seek food and a new home. Wildlife rescuers contend with many displaced or injured fauna that is both traumatic and unnecessary.

- ground dwelling creatures lose their homes, food sources and are suffocated or crushed

- ecosystems, including the loss of fungi and mosses & lichens, are damaged or lost. We are only beginning to collate data on fungi which is important for decomposition, act in partnership with plants, or provide food for fauna and insects

- Undisturbed dense tree cover retains moisture and filters it slowly through the soil, which can reduce flammability and enable carbon storage.

**I support a change of direction away from RFAs** of non-selective logging and chipping for pulp into a stewardship role to manage state forests in an ecologically sustainable way to generate and maintain regional jobs to:

Conserve the values of forests for today and future generations,

Maintain and conserve the wealth of biodiversity, so unique to Australia

Support and protect the cultural values and heritage of indigenous people

Provide genetic resources in situ for seed banks.

Export seeds to international research institutions

Provide genetic resources for the plantation forestry industry

Help alleviate poverty in other countries, supplying seed of Australian native plants for food

Develop nurseries and advice to assist mining company remediation planting programmes and for agroforestry

Train current employees and related forest industry members as conservation foresters, environmental officers, tour guides, researchers.

Enable state forests to become eco- tourist friendly, or implement passive and active outdoor recreation activities.

Beautiful diverse natural environments attract people and help the economy

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**Send your completed submission and cover sheet to:**

Email: [forests@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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/>

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