

Regional Forest Agreement framework questionnaire

1 message

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Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 4:17 PM

Given name :

Family name:

Organisation:

Mobile phone:

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To publish or not to publish: My completed questionnaire should only be published on the Department of Primary Industries website once my personal details are removed.

Select your interests: Sustainable access to timber resources, Research and development, Employment in forest and wood products industries

Other interests:

How effective do you think the RFAs have been : Partially effective

What elements would you want to see retained and remain unchanged : The commitments to Industry and Regional Development The commitments to a long term timber supply strategy • The Purpose of the Agreements The Duration of the Agreements The Basis of the Agreements The Five Yearly Review

What elements would you want to change?: A minimum proportion and area of public native forest and a minimum yield of high quality timber from public native forest to be made available to the industry in perpetuity. An explicit requirement to use fire more proactively to protect and promote forest values including ecological health and protection of human life. Include an acknowledgement that the current guidelines for ecological sustainable fire management are too conservative and are failing to protect and promote forest values

Simplifying the RFAs and removing redundant or duplicated commitments?: Important

Maintaining a strong focus on triple bottom line outcomes?: Very important

Updating references to legislation, codes of practice or new regulation? : Important

Alignment with contemporary policies and programs?: Important

Alignment with the National Forest Policy Statement and global agreements on : Very important

sustainable
forestry?:

Improving review
and reporting
requirements: Very important

What
improvements
could be made
to the five yearly
review and
consultation
processes?: Greater commitment and better public resourcing is needed to build a more durable monitoring and reporting systems that can be used to track RFA performance.

What
improvements
could be made
to support the
day-to-day
implementation
of RFAs?: The NSW EPA is conflicted as it operates as both a forest policy maker and an environmental regulator, this department needs to be disbanded.

What further
research and
monitoring could
be important to
consider for
future RFAs?: Forest monitoring only occurs on State forest and therefore unless it is extended to national parks and reserves, it is a major waste of public monies as there is no benchmark to which performance can be objectively judged. Cross tenure research into the conservation status of species listed as threatened under the Biodiversity Conservation Act is sorely needed and long overdue. Vast tracts of land have been removed or quarantined from timber harvesting and reserved on the unsubstantiated premise that they are providing critical habitat for threatened species. For many of these species, their initial listing can stem from there being a lack of basic knowledge and information about their natural distribution and density.

What
improvements
could be made
to RFA related
communication?: Communication needs to be more timely, frank and honest. . Collective responsibility (both governments and many departments) often leads to a lack of individual accountability.

What
improvements
could be made
to the RFA
implementation
framework to
support a rolling
extension
mechanism?: Having RFAs that last for 20 years and have a rolling extension mechanism (which automatically extends RFAs for a further five years is strongly supported. The number of reporting obligations associated with the five-yearly review should be streamlined

What other
improvements
could be made
to the RFA
framework?: Greater government accountability must occur. Under the current RFAs there are many cases where the Parties have failed to deliver on their commitments, obligations and milestones. Where this has occurred there has been no acknowledgement of fault, no commitment to make good and no recourse for those companies and people affected. This obfuscation of responsibility and duty has undermined the integrity of the existing RFAs.

Attachments: No file uploaded