

## What elements would you want to change or see included?

### Native forest management across all tenures

Include a legally binding commitment that requires the State of NSW to introduce new legislation to protect and balance all forest values (environmental, social and economic). The following provisions to be included within the legislation:

- Provide areas where timber production is the priority. A minimum proportion of area and minimum yield of high quality timber of public native forest to be always made available to the timber industry.
- Allow the tenure and use of public land to be more easily changed to achieve better environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- Forest landscape management principles that explicitly recognise the importance of active and adaptive forest management, and a tenure-neutral approach to the management of common land management issues (i.e. wildfire, pest, weeds and climate change, recreation and tourism).
- Biodiversity monitoring to occur across all land tenures.
- Use of fire more proactively to protect and promote forest values including ecological health.
- Use forest silviculture, ecological thinning and the pro-active marketing of low quality timber to improve forest health & productivity.
- Include a statement that recognises the critical role of fire as an ecological management tool that was successfully applied for thousands of years prior to European settlement.
- Include an acknowledgement that the current guidelines for ecological sustainable fire management are too conservative and are failing to protect and promote forest values.
- Include a commitment to engage more indigenous people in ecological fire management.

### The CAR reserve system

- Include an acknowledgement that further expansion of the CAR reserve system is not required within the RFA regions as targets have been met and in many cases exceeded.
- Include a statement that enables boundaries of the CAR reserve system to be adjusted in the future to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes.
- Include an acknowledgement that the CAR reserve system is seen as very valuable but whose purported benefits are not well evidenced.
- Include a commitment to dramatically improve transparency and accountability in the performance of National Parks and Reserves.
- Include an acknowledgement that the listing of over 1,000 species as 'threatened or endangered' has been poorly evidenced and does not accord with international listing standards. Include a fully funded commitment to rapidly complete a scientific review of the listing of all threatened species in NSW in accordance with IUCN guidelines (as required under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, 2016) and make the findings of that review public.
- Parks and reserve managers must undertake co-ordinated surveys for a broader range of key species and report on a five yearly basis, in line with RFA reporting, to demonstrate the CAR reserve system is delivering the conservation outcomes that were expected at the time this land was reserved. The limited amount of work that has been done makes it clear that ecologically sustainable forest management is not being achieved.
- If the CAR reserve system provided the environmental services that should be produced, the pressure to transfer more land from production forests to the reserve system would be greatly reduced.

**Other Comments:**

Over the past decade predator control has become more regular and applied broadly across large areas of state forests and some parks and reserves. This program specifically targets foxes and wild dogs. The response of some critical weight range (CWR) mammals such as potoroos and bandicoots has been remarkable and makes a mockery of activist claims that harvesting is the only threat to these species.

Unfortunately, there is no specific targeting of feral cats across the broad landscape and consequently species at the bottom of the CWR continue to decline, despite the large increase in the area of "protected" parks and reserves.

Concerns over the loss of firefighting capacity with the wind down in the timber industry and forest service over the past 20 years. The reduction in capacity has been further exacerbated by the recent National Parks and Wildlife Service restructure.

There must be a new monitoring and audit framework put in place across both State Forest and National Parks, which has a conservation outcomes focus. The information arising from this framework would then be used to prioritise expenditure on biodiversity recovery programs.

The existing regulatory frameworks need to be amended to codify active and adaptive management as a blue print for future ecologically sustainable forest management across all land tenures.

The loss of aboriginal management of the land has created a major ecological disturbance, that many ecologists fail to recognise, when interpreting research results.

I believe that the ongoing campaign to close down all native forest harvesting will shift more and more of the impact of Australia's forests product consumption offshore, often to countries with lower environmental protection standards. This is unacceptable.

Native forest management across all tenures must be driven by active and adaptive management processes, that incorporate a historical ecological perspective. This perspective is totally missing from current legislation and management of native forests.