

Regional Forest Agreement framework questionnaire

1 message

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 To publish or not to publish: I confirm that my completed questionnaire does not contain sensitive information and can be published in full on the Department of Primary Industries website.
 Select your interests: Forest management framework in New South Wales, Research and development, Conservation reserve system, Threatened species, Aboriginal connections to forests, Heritage values, Recreation and tourism, Other interests
 Other interests: I do not want to extend the RFAs once they expire in the next 2-3 years. They have proven to be financially loss making for NSW taxpayers, who are subsidising loggers by about \$1 million pa. Most of the chip millers and saw loggers also are losing money, despite these subsidies, and offer low and falling levels of employment. The forests should be preserved for carbon capture, water and biodiversity conservation. As government's committed to extend the RFAs this 'consultation' process is a sham.
 How effective do you think the RFAs have been : Not effective
 What elements would you want to see retained and remain unchanged : The current system is a uneconomic 'closed shop', and is irrevocably broken. Only loggers are allowed access to our forest, even though logging is financially, economically and environmentally unsustainable. Nevertheless, under Government direction, Forestry Corporation NSW could continue to manage the native hardwood forests for carbon capture. New businesses who wish to use the forests for carbon capture must be able to bid along with loggers for use of the forest resource over the next 20 years. My research shows they could offer the NSW taxpayers much higher returns, and create more employment, without subjecting NSW public forests to the environmental degradation of logging. See <http://www.tai.org.au/content/logging-or-carbon-credits>.
 What elements would you want to change?:
 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? : Very important
 Alignment with contemporary policies and programs?: Very important
 Alignment with the National Forest Policy Statement and global agreements on sustainable forestry?: Very important
 Improving review and reporting requirements: Very important

What improvements could be made to the five yearly review and consultation processes?: This process is totally flawed unless other businesses apart from loggers, such as those expert in measuring and auctioning carbon credits or tourism ventures, be allowed to bid for use of NSW's public native forest resources.

What improvements could be made to support the day-to-day implementation of RFAs?: Remove logging companies' right to participate in the RFAs as they have proven incapable of meeting required standards of environmental management. They also cannot afford to pay any positive compensation to the NSW taxpayer for their access to the resource. In any other industry they would have disappeared long ago.

What further research and monitoring could be important to consider for future RFAs?: Transparent assessment of the economics of current logging in NSW public native forests is essential. As these operations are loss making for the NSW Government and taxpayers. Most logging operators either make losses now or would do so if they did not receive subsidies. Hence such an assessment should result in a cessation of future logging.

What improvements could be made to RFA related communication?: At present, consultation is purely cosmetic. The Government has already made up its mind to extend the RFAs despite overwhelming economic and environmental evidence against them, and hence any attempt to influence the outcome through better communication would appear to be futile.

What improvements could be made to the RFA implementation framework to support a rolling extension mechanism?: No future commitments should be made to supply any specific quantities to timber to loggers. In the past, failure to provide agreed quotas resulted in huge taxpayer funded compensation to Boral. Hence such guarantees are fiscally irresponsible on the part of the NSW Government.

What other improvements could be made to the RFA framework?: As outlined above, an open competitive process should be introduced whereby a whole range of businesses should be permitted to bid for access to our public hardwood forestry resources. These could not only include carbon capture and carbon credit sale businesses but also tourism ventures.

Attachments: Executive-Summary-Logging-or-carbon-credits-AI-version-June-2013.docx, type application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document, 1.1 MB

 **Executive-Summary-Logging-or-carbon-credits-AI-version-June-2013.docx**

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