

4. Forestry business

My company is an important supplier of services to the timber industry (strike out if not applicable)

My company is an important secondary processing entity in the timber supply chain (strike out if not applicable)

The continuity of forestry operations is important to me as my business depends on a sustainable long term forest-industry supplied both from state forests and private forests to the mills in NSW.

I support having robust environmental guidelines for the forestry industry but imposing too many highly restrictive rules leads to increased costs that threaten the economic viability of the industry.

This is a close supply chain and the businesses are reliant on each other to thrive. The margins are tight and the industry, particularly in regional areas are often the lifeblood of some country NSW towns.

The issue that I would like to highlight with the remake of the IFOA is the NSW Government promised that the IFOA would be reviewed with two factors in mind – a balance between the commitment of no deterioration in environmental values and no net wood loss for industry.

I support this view and stress that it is important to retain the workforce in the forest industries which currently employ just over 22,000 people in NSW and provides a valuable supply of timber to a variety of Australian businesses.

The draft is a narrowly conceived document which gives no consideration to the dynamic nature of the Australian bush and the need for active and adaptive management. It naively assumes that classifying forest as a reserve is enough to protect it. The draft lacks the flexibility and latitude which is needed to achieve good environmental and commercial outcomes.

It is vital that the NSW government understands that the forest industries are important to the NSW economy and any environmental legislation must balance environmental principles with the social-economic considerations. The state of NSW must not lock up every state forest by making it too hard to harvest.