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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 February 2018 5:02 PM
To: EPA RSD Forestry Strategic Regulation and Reform Mailbox
Subject: Southern NSW RFA Submission
Attachments: EPAcover_sheet.docx

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to make a submission on the upcoming Regional Forests Agreement for our area Southern NSW.

I have been associated with these forests for over 50 years. I have Bsc Forestry. I have worked in the industry during the 1970's.

I have travelled extensively and have become acutely aware of the value of these forests for Tourism. The terrible drought in the first decade of this century and my time as a farmer makes me well aware of the value of reliable water.

I would recommend the emphasis should be taken away from Timber production in these local forests and Focused on Water and Tourism as sources of value.

I would recommend you look at the changes brought about in Pemberton WA where they changed **their** focus. A small time logging economy is now a booming tourist destination with many more jobs and far less environmental cost per job.

The rise of Mountain Bikes and Particularly Electric bikes is another far better option for these forests. This type of tourism is ideal for small economically downtrodden economies in small towns like Bemboka, Nimmitabel, Candelo, Wyndham, Cathcart, Bombala. Existing forestry roads can be upgraded and camping facilities put in place. Combining this with a rail trail network on the old Cooma Bombala line would add to the benefits to all the above villages. The Monaro country around Bombala and Cooma is spectacular off the beaten track. Bushwalking can also add to this diverse source of employment.

Almost every town we passed through on a recent trip to Broken Hill has Bikes as part of their economy. Bright in Victoria is a shining example. We have as good a resource here. Current national parks are already showing the strain of overuse. Changing the focus on our remaining forests to maximise yield in terms of jobs, economics and environment that benefit the whole local economy, not just Eden and Bombala has to be the way of a sustainable future shared by us all.

Sadly in our local area the Timber Industry has us bluffed and we are yet to tap into this wonderful opportunity. It will need a government with foresight and courage to inject startup money and ideas into our local economy.

The damage logging does to water catchments is well documented. I refer you to the MMBW study in the Thompson R catchment in particular which although based on bushfire regrowth, demonstrates clearly the loss of water yield following conversion of a catchment from Old Growth to Regrowth. The sanded up creek and river beds in the southeast bear witness to the effect of woodchip logging in particular.

The NSW study at Karuah north of Sydney has similar information.

If you factor in the costs associated with logging these catchments and demanded the industry pay its way, I am sure the costs will far outweigh the benefits.

The weight of evidence against condemning native forests to wasteful management practice like logging is mounting.

Having spent more than 50 years exploring the local mountains and forests leaves me in no doubt as to which direction we should be taking our management of them.

Yours Sincerely

