

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 February 2018 9:54 PM
To: EPA RSD Forestry Strategic Regulation and Reform Mailbox
Subject: NSW Regional Forest Agreements Review

SUBMISSION: NSW Regional Forest Agreements Review

COVER SHEET

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Date: 20/2/2018

I confirm that my submission does not contain sensitive information and can be published in full on the Department of Primary Industries website.

For the following reasons, I believe that the current Regional Forest Agreements in NSW should not be renewed.

* The present RFAs have been unable to meet their objectives. They have failed to provide for conservation, for ecologically sustainable use and management of forests or for an economically viable timber industry.

Under the RFAs there has been over logging of forests resulting in loss of habitat which in turn reduces biodiversity. There has been a failure to manage forests sustainably.

The RFAs have proven to be a failed model of forestry management with a general lack of accountability and transparency. There have been many license breaches where key habitats have failed to be protected. This has been due, in part, to unrealistic wood supply contracts.

The economic viability of the timber industry is questionable. The value of forests must be considered beyond monetary value. In terms of employment created, the timber industry is a highly mechanised industry. There has been a decline in direct jobs in the industry and this pattern will probably continue.

* CLIMATE CHANGE has not been considered as part of the RFAs. Forests act as an important carbon store and therefore have a significant role in reducing global warming. Climate Change is the biggest environmental, economic and social challenge for our planet. Forests have a much greater value in addressing climate change. This is a long term value which has economic benefits far beyond those of short term logging.

* What should forest management involve?

The most important step should be to stop native forest logging in NSW. Plantation timber should be the basis of the forestry industry.

We must recognise the value of our native forests beyond timber production. Preservation of forest ecosystems to protect biodiversity and water quality should be the long term focus. Tourism involving our forests has considerable potential especially in job creation.

Protecting endangered species should be top priority. Our record for species extinction must not continue. It is not acceptable that koala populations are now listed as vulnerable. The Great Koala National Park proposal must be supported.

Native forests are a valuable asset which belong to the people of NSW. Our future is dependent upon them. We should be involved in their continued health and preservation. This is not happening under the current RFAs. If we

are to preserve the amazing biodiversity of native forests and overcome the dangers of climate change then we must find better ways to manage our forests. The Regional Forest Agreements must not be renewed.

