

Submission on the 2nd and 3rd Five Yearly Reviews of the NSW Regional Forest Agreements

Firstly, the 2nd review is 9 years late and the 3rd review is 4 years late. This is totally outrageous and scarcely rates a mention in the review documents. Recommendation 3 from the first five year review independent assessment states “Parties to expeditiously initiate a further review process to meet the agreed RFAs second review time requirements”. In the documents for these reviews it states that this is underway. How this can be said with a straight face is unbelievable. The Government has totally failed the whole five year review process which removes any semblance of credibility from the RFA’s.

How the Government can now say they are going to roll over the RFA’s based on 5 year reviews is again totally outrageous and unbelievable. You have not got one right in nearly 20 years, it is absolute arrogance that you think you’re going to in the future.

The ESFM criteria monitoring is also a complete joke. It is easy to say that Forestry NSW practices ESFM and worlds best practice but it is even easier to prove this is not the case. I can take you to any logged compartment and show you multiple breaches of the EPL or TSL. If you truly believe Forestry NSW practices ESFM you would remove section 69za from the Forestry Act which removes 3rd party rights to enforce breaches and let Forestry NSW stand on their own two feet, but of course that is the only thing that is allowing them to get away with the carnage they are inflicting on the forest. The government has wilfully understaffed and underfunded the forestry compliance section of the EPA to enable Forestry NSW to do what they like on the ground.

Based on these reviews the RFA’s are a failed experiment and need to be torn up immediately. There are no recommendations that can fix these broken agreements, and even if there was they would not be implemented based on the performance so far.

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