

Remake of the Coastal IFOAS
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Submission to the Remake of the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA) Discussion paper – February 2014.

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wishes to make this submission in response to the public consultation.

The IFOA contains the conditions that Forest Corporation NSW and its harvesting contractors must comply with in order to conduct forest operations and deliver wood to the native forest industry. This remake as outlined in the discussion paper will reduce complex duplication of regulation that is costly to administer and implement and should deliver the best environmental outcomes and efficient forest production.

- For too long environmental, social and economic issues have been considered in isolation of one another. This review represents a good opportunity for the government to develop a new governance system which integrates and balances environmental values with social and economic interests.
- Given the review of the IFOA it would be timely to also review the issues that are impacting on the industry and its future viability.
- There are thousands of IFOA conditions that exist to protect environmental values. It would be great to also see some indicators that monitor and protect the quality and value of the timber resources upon which the industry depends. Restoring some balance to the way we manage our public forests is long overdue.
- The money being spend on the regulation of timber harvesting on State forests seems to be out of all proportion to expenditure on other more major pressing environmental threats. It's about time that the government stepped back and took a more holistic view of the management of the public forest estate.
- Why is the government focusing only on the regulation of timber harvesting operations when there are much bigger and more pressing environmental issues such as pests and weeds and fire management?

- The rationale behind IFOAs is that forest conservation values are best protected by setting aside forest in reserves. How sound is this rationale and what is the true cost of doing it? Landscape scale monitoring of forest values is urgently needed to demonstrate that the public is getting value for its dollar.

Signed

Lisa Head (signed document posted 2/4/14)

Date

2 April 2014