

This submission is based on my experience as a resident of the Bega Valley. I am not a member of any environmental group.

I am dismayed that the RFA review process has taken so much longer to be completed than the committed time frame agreed to.

I am dismayed when I have heard radio reports over the years of Forestry or contractors being caught out in their compliance with the agreement, for instance with logging in restricted areas such as rocky outcrops or logging identifiable habitat trees.

I am dismayed that the impact of climate change was inadequately considered in the RFA. As the vast bulk of the logging ends up as disposable paper products this is a net LOSS of carbon storage.

Mechanization of the industry is such that actual jobs in native forestry and processing are now comparatively few, while the value of these ecosystems to the carbon cycle, water cycle and as wild life habitat greatly increases when removed from logging. Commercial benefits come from the recreation and tourism industries that value these forests.

Tax payer dollars should not be subsidizing an industry that creates so many negative impacts on the remnant ecosystems that need all their resilience and diversity possible to buffer against extremes of climate change.

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