

3 October 2024

Mr Steve Orr
Secretary
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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Dear Mr Orr

I am writing to you as Chair of the Independent Forestry Panel, which has been appointed to lead consultation on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW and the best options to achieve the balance between sustainable supplies of timber and NSW's environmental commitments.

As was noted by Minister Sharpe at Budget Estimates on 29 August 2024, the NSW Government holds considerable scientific expertise and information that would be useful to the Panel. The Panel would appreciate receiving a briefing covering any technical and scientific information held by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) that is relevant to the areas that the Government's Forestry Industry Action Plan is expected to address.

The Panel would also appreciate the briefing covering any recent stakeholder engagement that DPIRD has undertaken that would be useful to inform the Panel's work.

The Panel has also written to the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Environment Protection Authority and the Forestry Corporation of NSW.

At the same Budget Estimates session, Minister Sharpe also noted that the Independent Forestry Panel process should be as transparent as possible. Where appropriate, the Panel would seek to publish any expert information received on its website, so I would ask that any information that cannot be publicly disclosed be clearly labelled as sensitive or confidential.

The Panel would also be happy to receive expert information from DPIRD in the format of a presentation.

I invite the DPIRD to respond with its relevant information by **Friday 18 October 2024**. If you would also like to arrange a time to present to the Panel, please contact Clare Miller on

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Yours sincerely,

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Peter Duncan AM
Chair
Independent Forestry Panel