

Public submission

DELMA PARKER

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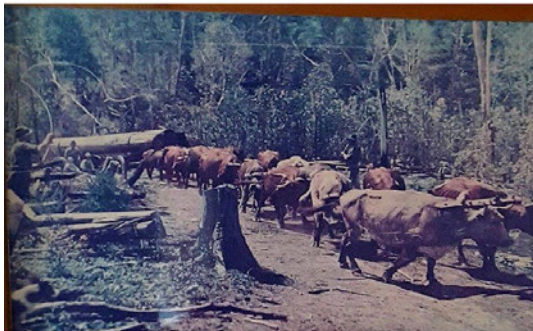
Sustainability of the Timber Industry

My Name is Delma Parker, I am currently 74 and I live in Dorrigo.

In 1906, My Grandfather, Albert Charles Smith (1st gen), came to the Dorrigo Plateau and selected at Megan NSW.

He logged and dairied, he and his brother Cecil had their own bullock teams. The location of where they logged was around the Wild Cattle creek State Forest area.

My Pop's bullock team. Albert Smith & his twin boys, Bert & Fred standing near the log on the wagon on Baff's farm at Megan early 1920s.



In 1932, my father Verdun Ward (2nd Gen) also came to Megan, NSW. After working at different sawmills around Megan, he built his own mill, Ward Bros and Smith, which is still operating today under different owners.

In the 1950's dad (Verdun) also harvested the timber and my brothers, Noel and Ron both worked with him. Even then they protected the forests by only taking selected trees. Some of this logging took place in the exact same areas previously logged by my grandfather (Albert Smith).

After finishing school My Brother Ron Ward (3rd Gen) spent many years in the logging industry working also in the same areas as both My father and grandfather. At this time my husband Graham began working for him.

My husband Graham Parker covered many forests on the Plateau, from Chaelundi, Cascade, Wild cattle creek, Megan and Moonpar, just to name a few.

So, my grandfather, Father, Husband and Brothers logged the same areas, generations apart. Some of these areas are now locked up in the National Park estate and some are still being logged today.

I have 5 sons (4th Gen) all who have worked in the timber industry in different roles,

██████ a log truck driver, wood machinist and sawmill worker.

██████ a log truck driver, saw doctor and sawmill worker,

██████, a log truck driver, log faller, machine operator and sawmill worker.

██████, a saw doctor and sawmill worker.

And ██████, a machine operator.



Photo: late 1980's Graham and 2 sons ██████ and ██████ log trucks lined up

In the 1990's Graham and I bought a Portable Macquarie Forest mill and together we would saw timber for property owners on their own land. They would use their own resource for their own individual needs from housing product to fencing products and everything in between.



Photo: Early 1990's Graham operating our portable sawmill.

TODAY!

Currently [REDACTED] owns and operates a harvesting crew that has been contracted to FCNSW since 2011. [REDACTED] has one of his sons, [REDACTED] (5th Gen) and son in-law [REDACTED] employed on his crew and wife [REDACTED] managing the running of the business. His grandson (my great grandson) [REDACTED] is already aspiring at an early age to be the 6th Generation of the family to work in the industry.



Photo: Aug 2024 [REDACTED] harvesting operation.

I believe that locking the forests into National Parks creates more risks and damage to animals and trees when a fire breaks out as there is no escape as shown in the 19/20 bushfires.

For the past 118 years the timber industry has generated an income for my family members past and present, in turn contributing to the local, State and Federal economy. Feeding, clothing, housing and educating each member literally for generations.

I am proud to say that because of the excellent logging practices, the respect and passion for the forests, by generations of my family, the timber industry remains the viable, sustainable and renewable resource that it is today.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my submission.

Kind Regards

Delma Parker