

# Public submission

KYM HAYTER

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**Organisation:** *LM Hayter & Sons Pty Ltd*

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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## Softwood and hardwood mill on the outskirts of Sydney – LM Hayters

### LM Hayter & Sons Pty Ltd

#### Topic 1 Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

The NSW timber industry has been operating for more than 150 years and it's still going because we're operating sustainably. There are NSW forests that have been harvested 10 times over that 150 years because forestry people know how to do their jobs and protect and regenerate the forests they work in. Forest people want to protect the forests and they know they have to work in ways that keep the forests healthy or there will be no timber industry jobs in future.

If we don't supply wood harvested in NSW, we would be importing timber from places where they devastate their forests because they don't regulate their forestry operations like we do.

#### Topic 2 Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Big bushfires that damage the environmental and cultural values of forests are often caused because National Parks are not managed properly. We saw that firsthand in the wildfires of 2019/20 which burned through areas very close to our mill.

#### Topic 3 Demand for timber products, particularly as it relates to NSW housing construction, mining, transport and retail

LM Hayter have been supplying timber to the people of Sydney from the Southern Highlands for the past 60 years. The company has a sawmill in Werombi and two timber yards, one in Narellan and the other located at Mittagong.

The company produces and distributes sawn hardwood for construction, home building and fencing and softwood cut for home building, pallet manufacturing and other purposes.

LM Hayter employs 40 full time staff and another 15 part time. Our people work in the mill, operate machinery, as operators in the treatment plant, in marketing and sales, as truck drivers and loader drivers.

70% of company income comes from wholesalers. And there are some direct customers. Businesses and people from regional areas.

## Submission

Around 50% of the companies expenses, \$8 million a year including salaries, goes to local businesses to pay for things like fuel, steel, fencing, electricity, mechanics, engineers and consultants.

We sponsor the local football team, the Camden Show Society and our local netball team.

Our staff live within a radius of 30km of our three Southern Highlands locations.

Around 80% of staff members are paying off mortgages and at least 50% have families.

We are not investing in expanding the business at the moment. Not feeling confident about the future because of uncertainty but we would like to be expanding the business if we had guaranteed supply. The demand for wood is there, it is steadily increasing.

A lot of the hardwood and softwood timber we sell is going into building new houses and flats in Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra and Newcastle.

### **Topic 4 The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

We rely on the softwood plantations grown by state forests and post wildfires of 2019/20 the supply was diminished by the loss of plantations. Softwood plantations take a minimum of 25 years to grow to produce supply and there are few hardwood plantations that produce a useful supply owing to the 45-50 years to grow. Private Native Forestry is unable to replace supply from state forests and many private landholders do not want the complications imposed on them by regulatory authorities. Any further reduction in supply from state forests will mean a massive jump in imports.

### **Topic 5 The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

State Forests are very important to Hayter's operations. Most of our hardwood and 60% of the pine is harvested in state forests.

A lot of regional towns would shut down without the 9000 NSW timber industry jobs that are mostly generated by the state forests supply.

### **Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity benefits, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risk to forests**