

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

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Submission

Economic and Social Impact of further curtailing native forestry

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Independent Forestry Panel about the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW from the perspective of a small business operator.

My business provides transport and storage for forestry industry operators based on Class 2 Heavy Vehicles (B-Double) and is based [REDACTED] in NSW. My vehicles operate locally most of the time but we do distribute material to as far north as Townsville and Brisbane and south to Melbourne.

I have operated for 14 years with two additional full-time employees and occasional use of sub-contractors depending on work load. We operate 3 prime movers and numerous trailers configured as required.

70 per cent of our business comes from sustainable native forestry and cessation of that business would be devastating to my business and would have flow-on impacts to other local businesses and the overall community. Nearly every consumable and service is purchased locally with fuel being the only significant input cost from national suppliers.

We rely heavily on a local engineering shop which would also suffer a significant loss of business with flow on effects to their employees and families.

The multiple economic impacts of ceasing sustainable native forestry would not just impact my business and family but the other businesses that we engage with. At this point in time the business is flourishing and we have recently invested in increasing our capacity but uncertainty over future of the heavily regulated and environmentally sustainable forestry industry will make any future investments uncertain and a loss of business would have devastating financial consequences.

Our business is embedded in the local community involving sponsorship of junior football as well as the flow-on economic benefits that accrue from running a successful business based on a heavily regulated and sustainable industry.

Sustainable native forestry on public and private land is rightly regulated and in my lived experience has led to economic benefits to the many towns and communities in the region and contributed to the environmental health of the regions forests bringing significant positive outcomes for the health of wildlife.

I ask the panel to maintain the positive environmental, economic and social outcomes directly attributable to a sustainable native forestry industry in NSW.