

Public submission

ROBERT CHARLEY AO

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Submission

Charley Bros – landholder Mid Coast NSW

I write as a participant in the Timber industry over a long period of time.

My grandfather purchased our holding at [REDACTED] in 1906 and since that time we have harvested on a sustainable basis.

In 1947 my father built a mill and harvested hardwood, principally blackbutt, tallowwood and ironbark. He was cutting railway sleepers under contract and, as a small boy, I enjoyed my school holidays, principally in the mill. That is where I learned the technicalities of sawmilling and forestry.

The mill was subsequently sold but we have continued to sustainably harvest our forest until very recently overseen by a reputable professional forester.

We have been careful managers of our forest although affected by wildfires and bushfires in recent times.

Over the past 30 years, areas of our holding have been purchased by Government agencies to add to the State's network of National Parks.

Our remaining land is retained as a productive hardwood forest. It has been carefully managed to provide timber products.

I find it hard to accept that we would not be allowed to continue to harvest without adequate compensation from Government, particularly as I would wager that we would not be permitted to use such land for any commercial purpose.

Robert Charley AO