

KYE MCPHERSON

Submission ID: 205285

Organisation: *Tableland Timbers*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:56:16 PM

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

Do you feel confident or uncertain about whether to invest in your business at the moment? Very uncertain

If so, why?

This form is a prime example. The industry is being fast tracked without due diligence. Think of the industry as a stepped-on land mine. Rather than carefully supplanting the weight the industry carries for the community's economy with another over time, we are shifting things before building and developing options for existing infrastructure.

What do you think are the three most important things about having a sustainable and diverse hardwood timber industry in NSW?

Renewable self-seeding, non toxic products, healthy practices that are being refined and improved for the good of nature in an ongoing process. Farmed Timber means maintaining a naturally diverse environment. From experience timber raised in a healthy, wholly natural ecosystem is more durable with strong species characteristics, has a better strength rating and does not have travelling end checks and cell collapse displayed by plantation timber.

The soil, flora and fauna native to each species in its area of origin is vital to the cell structure and overall health of the plant.

Plantation timber commonly fails when it comes to structural standards and many yards are wary of it.

Would you like the panel to visit your operation and why?

It is very important to have full exposure and understanding of something you wish to make an informed decision on.

What improvements to current practices would you suggest. This includes dealings with FCNSW, the operation of the CIFOA, the workings of the EPA:

For years I have thought of the following: Merging National Parks, Crown Land, NSWALC and State Forests.

Stage 1: NSWALC assesses a sector with National Parks and NSW RFS. Key areas highlighted and light footprint practices recommended.

Stage 2: Forestry (FCNSW, CIFOA, EPA) maps pathways for extraction, then selects trees for farming employing a rep from NSWALC trained to assess trees.

Step 3: Contractors farm the selected trees.

Step 4: Operations are cleaned of waste, any non-native flora and fauna is removed, pathways are selected for long term maintenance, strongly influenced by NSW RFS/ EPA with tourism in mind.

Step 5: The area is opened to Tourism and Universities for study. Depending on Stage 1, some areas may be restricted to NSWALC/ National Parks/ Universities.

Stage 6: The area is maintained by Government Work incentives that deliver starting skills bases to those industries involved in every stage. Learning to care for our land.

Stage 7: The area is revisited in 7-10 years, depending on the growth rate of the area.

This would support our forest management, lessening the burden on taxpayers, making this government industry less top heavy.

This would also enable better fire management nationally.

This would stop the mange effect happening to our forests due to overlogging, due to restricting a resource.

It is a more natural Silviculture, that still wood include arboriculture of selected trees and stands.

Your experience of hardwood plantations:

Wood that comes from them are lesser quality and durability than native. Why clear native bush, destroying eco systems. Selectively Farming timber is a proven practice when done traditionally.

Selecting the tree is the most important thing a person should be trained in. Those who have not been trained to read a tree will fall it and it will go to waste. Or they will fall it in the wrong direction, damaging other trees.

Your experience with the need for the continued operation of silvicultural practices:

The complete ecosystem is needed to be tended in silviculture

Your experience with the maintenance and support of biodiversity in native forests:

It needs to be deliberated more over time with a diverse and fair committee supported by sub committees. Some practices can be functional with real gains and feedback.

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

Comments on the condition of State Forests in comparison to National Parks that show State Forests are better maintained for environmental values:

State Forests present less of a fire risk. This is the elephant in the room.

And once again:

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It would put foremost Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and threatened species

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

Commentary on the demand for native forest timber products, increasing or decreasing:

There is strong demand for Australian Hardwood Nationally and Internationally. I envision that the value of our wood should be increased internationally. Our wood is commonly sources by skilled builders and craftsman.

An example is Grey Ironbark can be GOS and gain a instant grade of F27 when cut correctly. Furniture, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Entertainment Areas, Structural, Fencing, Landscaping, Gardening and warmth over winter. All of these are environmentally friendly. At most times locking up carbon for the life of the structure.

Is there competition from substitute products? Are these are environmentally sound as sustainable timber?

Yes, plastic, concrete and steel which have a massive carbon footprint and are not renewable.

This is where we put the information about your company from the questionnaire:

Tableland Timbers 56 Clark Rd Trenayr 2460 NSW

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

Role of PNF in your business? Is the supply growing or diminishing? Challenges, if any, that PNF sector has in supplying:

Over the years the quality is diminishing due to less and less land qualifying for timber farming practice.

Role of hardwood plantations in your business:

Very limited

What challenges exist to the establishment and maintenance of hardwood plantations?

There is not enough cleared land to put them. It would require either clearing native forest to put in plantations are taking up good farmland which will impact on food production.

Are hardwood plantations once planted maintained with thinnings to provide a comparable product to native forest product?

The ones I know of are limited in species and not native to their area.

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

What is the importance of State Forests to the operation of your business?

We are primarily supplied by PNF. And secondary from forestry via resale.

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

It is chemicals and farming practices that must be addressed. Carbon is released from trees when they reach a certain age. This is good for surrounding trees, just like nutrients they share in their root systems.

Questionnaire for submissions to Independent Forestry panel

Introduction

Name of Company/entity: **Tableland Timbers**

Description of the Business: (harvester, saw miller, timber processing, timber wholesaler) **Sawmiller**

Timber Category (Flooring, poles, girders, firewood, etc.) **Structural (F27, F22, F17, F14), Fencing, landscaping, organics**

Description of the nature of business including details of the skills involved, **GOS Timber for special orders (eg: Contractors for NAVY warfs, Bridges, Heritage buildings) Building supply yards, direct to local builders and craftsman, handles, crossarms for power poles, boards/ flooring, dunnage for transport and storage, fencing, landscaping and waste to organics.**

How long has this business been going? Is it a family business? **24 years, it is a family business that grew from 5 generations of Timber Farming.**

Do you have one site or more than one? If so, where? **Trenayr and Dundurabin**

Location (District) **Grafton area.**

Workforce information

Number of full-time employees **12**

Number of part time employees **3**

How many people work in your business are family members)? **4**

Do you know if any workers are from First Nations (Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander) descent? **4**

Do your workers have families? **Yes**

Do you think most workers would have mortgages? **Yes**

What would happen to the families relying on your business for their livelihood, if the native forest harvesting ceased? **Most have worked their whole lives in this industry. Its like asking a fisherman to heard camels and vice versa.**

Residential area for these employees, local or travel distances. **Local**

Skills and training of employees. **Sawyer (assess and saws the best grade of wood from the log for client orders), Tailor Out (Work with the Sawyer to keep the cuts true and keep the sawyer safe), Yardman (unload trucks, select- grade and cut logs to needed lengths for orders), Canadian Driver (breaks the rounds down for the bench), Docker (grade wood and dock imperfections), Stacker (place wood into size and grade packs), Loader (move packs and load them on trucks), Maintenance Man (Maintain equipment and machinery), Office (take orders, source logs, organize loads, process incoming and outgoing expences)**

Business Operations

What area of commerce is the main source of your income (Government, energy utilities, public works, local government authorities, architectural firms, etc.)

Wholesale yards in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne

Distribution of product (Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, overseas) **Wholesale yards in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and overseas**

Contract with what types of companies, (architectural, construction. Engineering)

Wholesale yards in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne

What percentage of operating expenses is paid to local businesses. **68%+ (\$3,200,000+)**

What percentage of operating expenses is paid to businesses out of the local area. **5%+(\$240,000+)**

What services, inputs or supplies that are used in your business are bought from other businesses in your region? **Logs, Fuels & oils, Tyres, Tools, Parts, Mechanical Services, Machinery, Hired equipment, vehicles, chainsaws, Endsill, Strapping, Admin, Advertising, Cleaning, Log Haulage, GOS Timber Transport to Yards in the cities, First Aid, Safety Wear, Clothing, Toiletries, Sewage Removal, Rubish Removal, Toner, Office Supplies and Sundries .**

What services, input or supplies used in your business are bought from outside the local/region and where do these come from e.g. from Sydney or Brisbane. **Electricity, Saw Maintenance, Strapping.**

How would your business be affected if native hardwood harvesting ended? **Business would cease to function. Sustainable supply is vital and has a flow on effect for many industries relying on our product and industries relying on supplying us products to enable production.**

Would it affect any other local/regional businesses or community groups? **Yes, it is a vital thread in the infrastructure of our region.**

Do you consider other firms in the industry to be competitors? Or is what you offer unique? **Yes, we have competition. We do however supply special orders most mills don't have the ability to cut.**

Local Sponsorships

Does your business sponsor any local communities' events or teams and if so, what is the reason you do? **We have sponsored Camp Drafts, Sports Teams and Festivals over the years amongst individual sponsorship.**

Submission template explained.

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