

Name: Valley Watch Inc
Postcode: 2464
About you: Non-Government Organisation
Name of your business or organisation: Valley Watch Inc

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: ** Degradation and fragmentation of our forests are diminishing Wildlife Corridors. These corridors have been identified as critical yet mapping is ignored. ** In our region NE NSW moist forests continue are in severe decline due to factors such as Bell Miner Associated Dieback is currently expanding out of control in many areas. Scientific evidence is being ignored of clearing by forestry as the main cause of BMAD and how to manage BMAD areas. ** There is mounting frustration by EPA's poor response to reported breaches to current PNF codes. ** Timber harvesting and timber industry expansion is at the expense of environmental protection, including the rapid decimation of Koala populations and deterioration of the water quality of our rivers. ** Independent surveys to identify threatened species and their habitats and appropriate regulatory measures to ensure their protection in the short, medium and long term, prior to logging operation approvals is required across all tenures. ** Current stream buffering, including un-mapped drainage lines is inadequate. ** PNF should be excluded from all environmentally sensitive land such as core koala habitat, Threatened Ecological Communities as well as category 2 sensitive and category 2 vulnerable land. ** Self assessment by landholders or logging contractors is completely unacceptable.

Please indicate which code/s you are referring to: All codes

2. Do you have any suggestions to ensure the Private Native Forestry regulatory settings are efficient, enforceable and effective?: **NSW native forests have multiple values including carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and maintenance of water quality, yet the review of PNF is overwhelming concerned with short term timber supply at the expense of other values. Private forest owners should be provided with meaningful incentives to pursue the enhancement of non timber values of their forests for wider community benefits. ** To be enforceable and effective self assessment by landholder or timber contractor cannot be allowed - and needs to be completed by a qualified independent assessor. ** Loss of forest piecemeal with no real overall plan or study is disconnecting wildlife

corridors, threatening species survival. ** Landowners have no idea of the value of habitat. ** Take any enforcement away from Government who have already proved to be totally inept at managing NSW Forestry let alone PNF regulations.

3. How can the NSW Government improve the authorisation and approval system for Private Native Forestry?:

It seems the authorisation and approval system seems to be all about wood supply at any cost. The forest values, mentioned above, which are supported by the wider community are not being given an economic value. These other values need to be considered. What is the value of Carbon Sequestration? What is the value of fresh water? What is the value of a cooler climate?

4. What training and advice services would assist landholders, industry and the community?:

The importance of maintaining health habitat. The true value of a forest. It is noted the net decrease in rainfall is related to the net decrease in forests. Temperature increase on ground is directly related to loss of forests. Poor water quality is directly related to loss of forests.

5. Do you have any other comments or feedback relevant to Private Native Forestry that you would like to share with us?:

Despite providing numerous submissions in regard to both public and private logging changes in recent years, we note that none of our recommendations to improve environmental outcomes from logging have been considered or adopted. We and many in the community have little faith that the current call for submissions will result in changes that improve environmental outcomes, rather they will give greater ease of access to log the remaining forests across the private estate. It is also noted that a month before an election NSW government should not be legally be able to make changes to the detriment of the natural environment, especially in this very volatile time of climate change.