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Do you want your submission marked as confidential? *	No
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Which of the following best describes you? *	Agricultural Industry
Which draft PNF Code are you providing a submission on? *	Northern NSW
My comments	please see attachment
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Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice Review 2020

MY SUGGESTIONS

1. For there to be one department only.
2. That department to contact every landholder to explain the rules clearly.
3. As forestry takes up our grazing land, resulting in less livestock food, we should not have to be screwed down about harvesting our own timber
4. Farmers, like all business owners, take pride in their assets, but we can't control the weather and if timber is there to help pay an account, the harvesting of it should be left up to them.
5. Firebreaks should be widened to accommodate tree height, eg. If trees are thirty metres tall, then the firebreaks should be thirty metres wide.
6. Boundary fence clearing should also be the same measurement as tree heights.
7. Falling limbs damage fences and are a safety issue, so appropriate distance is essential, eg. eucalyptus trees self-prune.
8. As dwellings must have a fifty metre clearance around them, the safety of native fauna, flora and any livestock should be enhanced by using the same measurement for any firebreaks and boundary clearances.
9. According to the code of practice timber, harvested on private property is devaluing that property, however this does not take into consideration the obvious fact that native timber always self-regenerates.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management is what I do.

As a child I grew up on a dairy farm on the Tweed that my father selected and cleared in 1923. This was next door to the farm (comprised of two lots) that I now own. I sell beef and timber.

Both these farms border the Mebbin State Forest, where I have witnessed the harvesting of timber since I was a child. The forest was managed by forestry to the extent that to this day we still have and can appreciate the abundance of timber varieties, as a clear felling followed by burning policy ensured vigorous regrowth of native timber. After clear felling tree trunks and limbs were lit, and a controlled fire left the cleared ground full of ash, where the seeds of the felled trees germinated and within a few months new trees were sprouting out of the ground.

We rode our horses through the Mebbin regularly, visiting our Uncle Mick O'Brien, who lived in a shack next to the Cutters' Camp. He had bee hives. This gave us the opportunity to frequently observe the forest and the results of clear felling and burning. It was also common practice for ourselves and neighbours to go and plant watermelon and pumpkin seeds in those areas and when we returned to harvest these crops, the regrowth of native timber was well on its way. The eucalypts took off, followed by bangalow palms, tree ferns etc.

Selective logging with a no burning policy was eventually introduced, this was and remains very unfortunate as it has had the effect of encouraging the rampant growth of lantana.

I know and understand the natural flora and fauna and the lie of my land intimately. I have won poetry awards for writing and reciting about its native and agricultural aspects.

A comparison of arial photos of my farm taken by your department over the years, clearly shows the increase of native bush, because I of my careful nurturing of its natural environment.

Timber is one of the most natural renewable resources in the world.

As I have been harvesting timber on my property since 1977 and my second Lot since 1990, this has occurred several times, so records of this will be with the PNF.

I was given permission to harvest and clear land over that time by Mr O'Connor and Mr Cox.

Eg. harvesting records in my ledger and diaries note harvesting on,

1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1991, 1994, 2008, 2010, 2018, 2019

