

10-12-18

Dear J &amp; N

Thank you for sending me all that paper work. I have browsed through most of it.

Please note that I am now retired and am rapidly losing touch with the timber industry. However having been actively engaged in said industry for almost sixty years I will make some comments for about half the above period I have only been associated with private forest, mainly as a skidlog contractor but also at times been fully involved in log felling and tractor operation.

Private forests in my experience are mostly managed well and continue to produce timber on a sustainable and desirable manner.

May I comment here on ~~the~~ what used to be the "Soil and Water Conservation Dept" which for the most part was manned by practical and level headed personnel, but the last time (a few years ago) I applied for clearance to selectively log a parcel of private forest, I was handed a form to apply for a permit to clear fell, when I questioned this I was told

PTD

it was the ~~only~~ form to be used which I refused to fill in as it is misleading.

I am all for regular "cool" burning of bushland but these days there is too much "red top" with all kinds of perils if things don't go to plan with the result some land owners do not burn at all.

Also the policy of burning off at end of winter is good in its own way, but it was pointed out to me recently that that is when small birds are nesting and many of them close to the ground so it may be better to burn late Autumn!

The other thing that concerns me is the multitude of Forestry Dept roads of which I have used many

but unfortunately when a particular area is closed to logging for various reasons thin good roads are not drained well enough with the result there is a lot of erosion which has a flow on effect to the general wellbeing of the surround ecology and water courses

Please pardon my handwriting but at my age I am not up with all the current gadgetry.

Yours faithfully