

Name: Murray Webster

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About you: Individual

Name of your business or organisation: ForeSense P/L

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: Simplification. The current codes are too complex. Sustainability requires regrowth. Eucalypt seeds require bare soil to germinate and sunlight to thrive. This is achieved by the removal of areas of the canopy. Most ecologists do not take this into account, which has resulted in prescriptions aimed at decreasing disturbance in the short term, but, it is causing long term degradation including decreases in CO2 sequestration by vigorous regrowth, and decreases in productivity. Good forest management requires application of silvicultural principles that have been the subject of decades of research. Prescriptions seem to be totally ignorant of the silvicultural literature. Poor fire management is the biggest cause of habitat degradation in areas of native vegetation. Aboriginal people managed this land for 50 000 years or more. Most ecologists and environmentalists willfully ignore this fact, because it does not fit with their ideas of "climax communities" and their belief in a perfect balance of nature. These ideas/beliefs are akin to terra nullius, are not rational, and will not achieve biodiversity conservation. The focus on stopping this and stopping that do nothing to address the fundamental issues around how best to manage native forests and provide socio-economic benefit in a changing climate.

Please indicate which code/s you are referring to: Northern NSW Code of Practice, Southern NSW Code of Practice, River Red Gum Code of Practice, Cypress and western hardwood forests Code of Practice, All codes

2. Do you have any suggestions to ensure the Private Native Forestry regulatory settings are efficient, enforceable and effective?: Take a less prescriptive and punitive approach. Work with people to achieve common goals. This can be a win-win. Develop demonstration forests that show what can be done in terms of timber production, regrowth, and maintenance of clean water and healthy habitat.

3. How can the NSW Government improve the authorisation and approval Simplification

system for Private Native Forestry?:

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

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