

Name: Meg & Peter Nielsen

Postcode: 2480

About you: Landholder

Name of your business or organisation: National Party members

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: We need a total rethink. Improvements need to be made in line with the critical time in which we find ourselves. As farmers all our lives, we note the very obvious signs of climate disruption all around us. The vital service that trees provide as carbon storage & sequestration needs to be taken into consideration first and foremost before any further logging of PNF is approved. We need to be valuing and retaining as many trees as possible. The health of our agriculture depends absolutely on a stable climate with reliable rainfall. Food production must be our priority. Let's not squander this valuable resource for the price of timber sales. Trees are far more valuable left standing on our farms to both the farmer and the wider community. Stopping deforestation & retaining tree cover which could make all the difference between survival of species...including our own... or not. Please refer to the report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Please indicate which code/s you are referring to: Northern NSW Code of Practice

2. Do you have any suggestions to ensure the Private Native Forestry regulatory settings are efficient, enforceable and effective?: For PNF regulatory settings to be efficient we need a wider, truly independent panel, not those captured by industry or influenced by government. Balancing biodiversity & timber quotas has proven to be just 'greenwash' words in the recent regulations for NSW RFAs. Let's not allow this to be the case with PNF. To ensure regulations are enforceable and effective: Providing good education for landholders so that they understand the importance of retaining trees for their known advantages for carbon storage & sequestration, attracting rainfall, and the value to them as landholders moisture retention soil stabilisation, pest control. It's estimated forests store one third of all carbon emissions. Employment of more rangers would ensure that regulations are enforceable & effective. Adding the benefit of a large number of jobs.

3. How can the NSW Government improve the By looking at the bigger picture, considering the negatives of logging forests, truly considering the forests as habitat

authorisation and approval system for Private Native Forestry?:

the many thousands of species including the 2000+ endangered & threatened species of flora & fauna we are destroying when we log in any other way but GENUINE selective logging.

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

Providing good education for landholders, industry & community so that they understand the importance of retaining trees for their known advantages for carbon storage & sequestration, attracting rainfall, and the value to them as landholders for moisture retention, shade, soil stabilisation & pest control .. It's estimated forests store one third of all carbon emissions. Suggest referring to IPCC report & the expert ecologists in the Dept E of H , Githabul Rangers. We need to provide re-training to people currently employed in the Timber Industry. Training in the rehabilitation of forests and new large scale reforestation projects.

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

These are very different times we are living in now and we need a different mindset and approach. it is essential for us the value forests as a far more invaluable asset to Australia as they stand, not as saw logs. We need re-training schemes so that Industry workers need not lose out in employment but can adapt to rehabilitation of forests, both private & public and importantly the large scale planting for reforestation projects, ensuring that we assist with carbon reduction targets. This is crucial. We have a duty to future generations to do all we can to ensure they don't have to try and live with our mess.

PNF Submission from Peter Nielsen

1 message

P & M Nielsen [REDACTED]
To: pnf.info@ils.nsw.gov.au
[REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 6:39 PM

Submission for Public Native Forests.

Northern NSW Code of Practice & All Codes.

It is my opinion that Private Native Forestry has not been carried out in an ecologically sustainable way due to industry lobbying of political parties, ignorance or bias of some MPs, Ministers & advisors, & the opposition from some landholders.

There is a culture of refusal to use best practice & a denial of science based guidelines & relevant environmental research. There is a very worrying refusal to require pre-logging surveys & avoid interference of threatened species. There is failure to retain important old trees, hollow bearing trees, recruitment trees & feed trees. There is failure to even bother to identify ecosystems requiring protection. There is failure of responsible forest management, not responding to forest degradation requiring rehabilitation. There appears to be a culture of secrecy, a lack transparency which shows contempt for genuine community concerns & hides a serious failure to effectively regulate PNF operations. Of great concern is the inadequate protection of streams and riparian buffers.

The current NSW Government leaders need to overcome their myopic obsession that logging is the only possible use of native forests and begin valuing forests for all their many other important uses. I would like to see them promoting these non-logging values, while encouraging and facilitating conservation measures.

Carbon storage & sequestration so important to help us achieve our emissions reduction targets. The recent report from the IPCC makes it clear that we need to stop deforestation & commence large scale reforestation projects if we are to keep temperatures to 1.5c. It is estimated that forests store around one third of all carbon emissions. The lungs of the Earth, trees breathe in CO₂ & breathe out oxygen for us to breathe...how perfect is that? Forests attract rainfall, retain moisture, regulate stream flows, provide essential habitat for our flora and fauna (including the 2000+ threatened species in danger of becoming extinct if deforestation continues at this present rate). Forests give us recreational areas, our mental health & well-being, aesthetic & spiritual values, (the Japanese call it "forest bathing"). All these must be considered as part of any assessment of forests.

To ensure enthusiastic public support & participation, comprehensive training should be provided to landholders, the industry, workers & the general public, educating them about these values, ensuring participation. It is important to identify *all* opportunities for landholders, beyond forestry, such as conservation covenants, stewardship payments, funding for bush rehabilitation, funding for habitat protection etc

Many surveys undertaken show that logging of native forests has lost any social licence.

I would like to see the NSW Government look at payments to encourage & assist landowners to protect areas of high conservation value: Conservation grants & stewardship payments. Providing annual payments to landowners for the volumes of carbon stored in their forests would assist in achieving our carbon emissions reduction targets.

Yours faithfully

Peter Nielsen
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