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About you: Non-Government Organisation

Name of your business or organisation: The Australian Forestry Standard Ltd T/A Responsible Wood

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: Suppliers of raw logs are increasing relying on voluntary sustainability standards (forest certification) as evidence of sustainability to access domestic and international markets, and to maximise selling price. In Australia, 2 forest certifications schemes, Responsible Wood and FSC operate. Both schemes provide performance based sustainability indicators which can be managed to demonstrate that forestry practices are sustainable. This allows for the tracking and labelling of products originating from sustain-ably managed forests. The opportunity for non-certified wood products is rapidly diminishing. The Responsible Wood scheme is based on Australian Standard AS 4708. To maximise commercial opportunities for private native forest growers and to improve sustainable management, there is huge opportunity to better align PNF Codes with performance based sustainability standards. For example, a well aligned and monitored PNF code could be accepted as "deemed to comply" under AS4708, greatly reducing the cost of certification, reducing the management burden on private growers, simplifying the certification process and enhancing both market access and financial returns. Existing NSW PNF Codes already are compatible with many individual certification requirements of AS 4708, however to fully benefit, it would be necessary to conduct a detailed review of NSW PNF Codes in the light of certification standards, identify gaps and where practical and reasonable revise Codes to better align with sustainability Standards.

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?: As discussed under Q1.

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

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

Provide training to private land owners on the practical application of sustainable management e.g what it is, how codes interrelate with SFM, continual improvement and monitoring of sustainable outcomes.

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