

Name: Mark Smith

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About you: Individual

Name of your business or organisation:

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: Independent assessment of the forestry activity that is take place on the land, its impact on the local wildlife of the area with special process around endangered species. That amount of deforestation for a region be considered and that quotas for deforestation be implemented in a region. In travels through central Queensland where land clearing was left in the hands of privateers the result was devastating and a national disgrace.

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

2. Do you have any suggestions to ensure the Private Native Forestry regulatory settings are efficient, enforceable and effective?: Prior independent surveys on impact on threaten species, set quotas and a forestry plan, yearly reporting to plan and quotas.

3. How can the NSW Government improve the authorisation and approval system for Private Native Forestry?: Prior independent surveys, and recognition of existing ecological components, must be certified by the NSW Environment Minster prior to native forestry approvals to improve our native forests on private land. Independent regular site review of forestry plans that would be submitted on application.

4. What training and advice services would assist landholders, industry and the community?: Unfortunately in many instances self interest will direct the actions of landholders so review of actions by independent authority is a must.

5. Do you have any other comments or feedback relevant to Private Native Forestry that you would like to share with us?: It's hard to see how land management, without any prior surveys, or recognition of existing ecological components, can be certified by the NSW Environment Minster to improve our native forests on private lands. As private lands are rarely monitored for threatened species, it is my experience that those involved merely state that no such species occur there. I support this view with the example of an area I have visited many times . The Mount Rae area in the Southern Tablelands. I am aware that a number of

absentee landholders obtained approvals for the sole purpose of commercial firewood on lands that had previously been protected from such inappropriate activities by ecologist and scientists from the same department. It is my understanding that some of the NSW Threatened species of the area and rare vegetation communities were well known to government scientists who had previously marked this area for conservation and protection because of its very high conservation values . It would seem that the introduction of PNF codes of practice have produced a worse outcome for this area. Please introduce mandatory independent surveys prior to giving approvals in the future, and run the necessary checks to ensure such decisions do not happen in the future. I hope that my comments will be considered by Local Land Services and these issues addressed.