

Name: Roger Small
Postcode: 2410
About you: Landholder
Name of your business or organisation: spinifex country products

1. What improvements should the NSW Government consider making to the existing Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice?: Firstly, I believe that currently the PNF code encourages the development of single species monocultures because it has a requirement for min. basal area density across the whole operation. Obviously this is very detrimental to biodiversity, I think it is very short sighted. My idea of a good PNF operation is a network of areas of untouched habitat which are joined by corridors following watercourses, and as an offset PNF operations should be permitted to have a reduced requirement for basal area densities according to the quality of the land that it occupies. eg I have many areas (acres) of locked up regrowth (cypress, bullock etc) that theoretically cannot be touched because it doesn't meet the DBA requirements, yet grass or quality recruitment trees cannot be released through clearing of those areas. Basically, in the drier, lighter country a more flexible method of optimising PNF operations needs to be considered eg submission by the owner of alternative methods of operation for approval.

Please indicate which code/s you are referring to: Cypress and western hardwood forests Code of Practice

2. Do you have any suggestions to ensure the Private Native Forestry regulatory settings are efficient, enforceable and effective?: Quite a bit of non-approved selective logging occurs in my region and probably all over the state. This is carried out by harvesters who pay a percentage to the landholders. I think that: 1 - both the harvesters and the landholders should be liable for the non approved harvesting and the harvester should view the permit before commencing operations, 2 - the buyers of the logs or finished products should be required to show that they have come from an approved operation. The buyers should view a permit before purchasing timber products.

3. How can the NSW Government improve the authorisation and approval system for Private Native Forestry?: PNF is a long term operation which needs to be able to be passed as a going concern to new property owners. I am now past retirement age and need to be able to offer the property for sale with the confidence that the PNF approval will be able to be passed to the new owners. Currently, the way I understand it, is that I will need to advise LLS that I

no longer will be needing the PNF approval (effectively cancelling it), and then the incoming owner needs to apply for approval. This does not give the buyer the confidence needed to buy the property as a PNF operation, and it does not give me the confidence that our good management practices will be able to be continued into the future.

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

My wife and I have variously worked for Landcare, QMDC, Border Rivers/Gwydir CMA, and NSW Parks and Wildlife. We believe that PNF is a great way of making an income while sustainably and responsibly managing land and biodiversity. An added benefit is that we have managed to drought proof our income. We attended the forestry operations courses available at the time and found that while they are useful from the production perspective, they did not educate the PNF owner about the sensitivity of the operations to biodiversity. I think that potential PNF operators should be made to attend a course educating them about their potential negative impacts on biodiversity and the importance of carrying out their operations with sensitivity to plants and wildlife.

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