



Your reference

Our reference Tanja 2011

FORESTS NSW

ABN 43 141 857 613

2 Crown Street (PO Box 42) Batemans Bay NSW 2536

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/forests T 1300 880 548 F 02 4472 6557

26 September 2011

Mr Jamie Shaw
PO Box 7226
Tathra NSW 2550

Dear Mr Shaw,

Re: Harvesting in Tanja State Forest

Thank you for your submission and for meeting with Mr Kevin Petty regarding the proposed harvesting of Tanja State Forest. I note that you have also written to Mr Nick Roberts, Forests NSW CEO, on this matter. Mr Roberts has asked that I respond on his behalf.

As a result of the Eden Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) negotiated between the Commonwealth and State Governments, Tanja State Forest was set aside for long term timber production. Through the RFA process 20 year wood supply commitments were made and the timber resource in Tanja State Forest is required to meet these commitments.

The proposed harvesting in Tanja State Forest will be conducted in accordance with the Eden RFA under the provisions of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA). The IFOA sets the standards for protection of soils and water in forest harvesting, with specific management conditions contained within the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). The EPL prescribes the conditions under which harvesting and roading operations may be carried out so as to mitigate soil erosion and to protect the aquatic environment from pollution. It is based on empirical evidence drawn from scientific studies throughout the world as well as a number of catchment studies carried out in coastal NSW.

The IFOA also sets standards for protection of high conservation value old growth forest, threatened plants and animals, rainforests, riparian areas, wetlands and swamps. Conditions for the protection of these values are contained within the Threatened Species Licence (TSL).

The efficacy of the IFOA and its embedded Licences is tested through regular independent auditing by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

There is also a body of scientific evidence to show that timber harvesting which complies with environmental protection prescriptions poses a much lower risk to water quality than many other land uses.

Under the Eden and Southern Regional Forest Agreements, Forests NSW supplies up to 71,500 cubic metres of high quality logs to the timber industry for high value products - house frames, flooring and bridge construction. More than half of Forests NSW' timber revenue from the South Coast comes from the sale of high-value logs to regional sawmills.

Access to a market for woodchips assists industry in achieving economies of scale in harvesting, haulage and sawmilling operations. In turn, this allows the production of building and other timber products for domestic consumption at world-competitive and affordable prices.

Forests NSW takes its responsibilities for management of environmental values on its estate very seriously. In native forests, Forests NSW spends more than \$5M per year on environmental protection measures like harvest planning, prevention of soil erosion and water pollution, environmental audits and flora and fauna research and surveys.

Sustainable harvesting in the relatively small areas of production forest remaining in NSW supplies products to satisfy a demand that would otherwise be met by imports, sometimes from countries which may not have such strict environmental protection measures.

Forests NSW is committed to a process of consultation which I believe is demonstrated by the two community meetings that have been held over the proposed harvesting. I note your "residents preferred position" points. Please see my response to these points below. While Forests NSW recognises the value that the residents place on Tanja State Forest and appreciates your offer to buy the trees, there is not just the royalty that is the issue, but also the need to meet wood supply commitments between the NSW Government and long term customers.

1. Timber harvesting operations in the Southern Region are fully integrated with all timber products segregated on log dumps and trucked to various customers. In the Eden RFA Region Forests NSW have formal supply agreements to supply sawlogs to Blue Ridge Hardwoods and residual products to other customers.
2. Forest Management Zones (FMZ) are designed to cater for the various site specific values while promoting the regeneration of the forest for timber production. Various areas within compartments 2102, 2104 & 2108 will be excluded from harvesting as indicated on the draft operational maps you have been provided. FMZ 3b areas recognise other non-timber values for consideration, and as such will have modified prescriptions of 50% canopy retention. FMZ 4 areas will permit a greater level of canopy removal so that wood supply commitments can be met.
3. The removal of all felled products will greatly assist in the reduction and prevention of wildfires in this area of forest. Post harvest burning, conducted a low intensity targeting fine leaf and tree-heads, also mitigates against destructive wildfires which can cause damage to the natural environment. Larger logs and retained trees will provide ongoing habitat for a variety of species.
4. A large proportion of the drainage lines and rainforest areas are already contained within forest excluded from this harvesting event. All mapped and unmapped drainage lines are protected with varying exclusion zones from 15 to 50 metres either side and rainforest buffers of 20 metres. The widths of these buffers are based on empirical scientific evidence drawn from studies throughout the world and

in coastal NSW. It is also noted the rainforest occurs on moister southerly and south-east facing slopes in this case providing additional protection.

5. The net harvest areas of all three compartments are relatively small and are separated by similar areas that will not be logged during this event; hence the mosaic of logged and unlogged areas that you seek will be achieved from current plans. Timber harvesting and hazard reduction burning will significantly reduce the long-term bushfire risk.
6. Where practical, log dumps are placed to minimise the visual impact from roads and advantage points, however for safety considerations dumps must be placed on level terrain which is generally adjacent to roads associated with ridgetops.
7. Forests NSW has considered school bus times and commuters driving to and from work. It is proposed that no log haulage occur between 7:30 – 8:30am and 3:30 – 4:30pm Monday to Friday. State Forest roads may also be closed from time to time when timber harvesting occurs within two tree lengths of a road or machinery is operating on a log dump within 10 metres of a road. Road barriers, signage and communication protocols will be in place to ensure the public is well informed and kept safe.

I note you are also concerned that the proposed harvesting operation will impact on the Tathra MTB Enduro event. I am confident that the proposed operation will have no impact on this event when it occurs in 2012.

Your comments are appreciated and will help shape a final decision on this important area. If you would like to discuss the issues further please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Petty on (02) 4475 1414.

Yours sincerely,



DANIEL TUAN
REGIONAL MANAGER SOUTHERN