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Subject: NSW logging review a farce, green groups say

The current logging regime is not just too complex. It makes no economic or environmental sense. Nor does what we know so far of the new regime being planned.

The designers of the new regime have been told that wood supplies are to be maintained at 2013 levels and environmental outcomes are to be no worse. This is impossible, in spite of setting the environmental bar very low.

With Government support the Forestry Corporation has over logged so much in the past and its yields are now so low that its own logging plans show that it will log twice the areas of south east forests to maintain wood supply at last year's level. No way can that happen without widespread environmental damage and rising costs. It is already losing \$15 million a year State wide.

Why doesn't the Government get its Forestry Corporation out of native forest logging, and concentrating on its extensive and profitable plantations - they provide almost all of the wood processed for the domestic construction industry.

The loss-making native forest sector is uncompetitive in global wood chip markets. The Government's answer: allow the State's native forests to be burnt for electricity generation, another highly dubious proposition economically, and an environmental and climate disaster.

Forests and forestry policies in NSW need a total overhaul, not the farcical process that has been put in place to prop up an inefficient, unprofitable and environmentally destructive sector.

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