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CONSTRUCTION
FORESTRY
MINING
ENERGY
UNION

FORESTRY &
FURNISHING
PRODUCTS
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Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
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Dear Secretary,

Our organisation the CFMEU provides industrial representation for workers in all sectors of the Forest and Forest Products Industry.

ForestWorks as an Industry Skills' Council is in a unique position of being able to assist all stakeholders involved in all seven sectors of the industry in facing their respective skills and training development challenges. It is the view of the CFMEU that due to the integrated mutual reliance of the sectors making up the industry, the importance of stakeholders being able to liaise directly with an organisation which is exclusively dedicated to the skills and training requirements of the entire industry cannot be overstated.

Through its role, ForestWorks has provided the vital element in the improvement of skills and training which has constructively led to the realisation of the wider industry's development demands. ForestWorks' continued contribution is vital for the accomplishment of the industry's growth potential and consequently the continued healthy livelihoods of the industry's workers, their families and their communities.

Many of ForestWorks' workforce development initiatives and policies for the industry and broader community achieve objectives that the CFMEU and ForestWorks share. We are happy to report that our members have benefited directly and indirectly from ForestWorks' activities. We value ForestWorks' contribution and the advice and knowledge they provide towards skilling the current and future workforce. We will endeavour to continue to coordinate our efforts with ForestWorks to meet common objectives regarding skills and training.

We have worked with ForestWorks for some time now and are part of its committee and industry liaison network. We have contributed to ForestWorks on multiple levels, including as participants in the SEC, in review of skill standards and training materials, through input and participation in Working Groups for qualifications and through validation of the industry skills scan. In addition to this, we have participated in ForestWorks annual industry conference. ForestWorks consultative nature helps determine its expanding significance to the industry.

ForestWorks through its methods and actions has cemented itself as an organisation which is well respected, highly valued and vigorously supported by the industry and its workforce. In addition to ForestWorks being a vital contributor to many positive outcomes for the industry and those reliant on it for their employment, it has demonstrated scrupulous governance standards by having a constitution, elected directors, ASIC registration and auditing. We are proud of our association with ForestWorks.

We have read ForestWorks submission and to our knowledge it is an accurate representation of their role and their effectiveness.

It is the view of the CFMEU that ForestWorks are a fundamental component of the industry and we need its Industry Skills Council role to be continued.

Yours sincerely

Michael O'Connor
National Secretary
CFMEU Forestry & Furnishing Products Division