



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources

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Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee  
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Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Re: Inquiry into the Sale of Timber Assets by the South Australian Government**

The South East Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) is pleased to provide the following comments under part (e) of the correspondence addressed to Mr Allan Holmes "Inquiry into the Sale of Timber Assets by the South Australian Government" dated 24 February 2011.

The South Australian Government is currently developing a legislative framework for accounting for commercial plantation forestry impacts on the water budget. As a result of this it may be the case that commercial scale forestry companies/corporations will be granted forest water licences or permits for the forest estate existing prior to a legislated date, and/or will be required to purchase forest water licences or permits equal to the deemed calculated water impact of the commercial plantation established after that legislated date.

It is the view of the Board that issuing water rights to the body that has financial control of the commercial scale plantation (whoever that may be) will have no detrimental impact on the region, and in fact will benefit the region as a significant water user (the commercial forest plantation industry) becomes regulated and accountable for its water use, allowing for better management of the entire water balance.

Yours sincerely

Allan Holmes  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**