

Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Dear Shona

I am writing on behalf of the Forest Industry Council (Southern NSW) Inc. (FIC) which represents 30 forest and forest industry businesses that produce in excess of one billion dollars of product from the largest forest region in NSW. FIC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the TAFE NSW Riverina Institute Forest Industry Training Centre (FITC) for training and accreditation services which we consider to be a valid and effective model for this industry.

FIC has been a member of ForestWorks for two years and are part of its committee and industry liaison network. FIC has contributed to ForestWorks on multiple levels, such as:

- participation in the SEC; review of skill standards and training materials,
- input and participation in Working Groups for qualifications,
- validation of the industry skills scan, and
- attendance at the annual conference

I consider that ForestWorks accurately and reliably represents the views of the industry on skills and employment issues with the support of industry and the Government. We are very appreciative of the materials (especially the Forest Industry Assessment Plan System) and forums for skills development now facilitated by ForestWorks and appreciate the attention we receive from their staff. Facilitation of funding opportunities associated with this very expensive-to-train industry is also much appreciated.

In our view ForestWorks are a key component of our industry and we need this Industry Skills Council role to be continued.

Yours sincerely

Regards,

David Priem

Executive Officer | Forest Industry Council

<http://www.forestindustrycouncil.com.au>