

23 March 2011

Secretary
House Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry
via arff.reps@aph.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into Australian forestry industry

- Introduction** I would like to make a submission to this inquiry. In particular, I wish to express my opposition to logging of native forests.
- Constraints** Logging of native forests is financially, and environmentally, unsustainable. It is being propped up by governments, at taxpayers' expense.
- Markets for timber sourced from native forests are drying up, in favour of plantation-grown timber. Many mills have closed.
- Logging of native forests is environmentally unsustainable. Far from being a 'renewable resource', logging causes irreparable damage to delicate ecosystems. In Victoria, the government's logging agency has been sued, at great expense to taxpayers, for failing to protect threatened species. It loses money year after year after year.
- The industry employs few people, given how much it costs the government to subsidise.
- Social disadvantages of logging native forests** Logging employs a small number of people in rural towns. In contrast, protecting native forests provides employment for large numbers of people via eco tourism.
- Potential energy production** Native forests are not a renewable resource. Burning forests to create energy is socially unacceptable. In response to this, a number of energy have stated that they will not include energy derived from burning native forests as part of their GreenPower scheme.
- Farm forestry** Farm forestry, on land that has already been cleared, is a better social and environmental opportunity. It will provide jobs in rural areas without the environmental harm. It won't affect tourism.
- In summary** I believe the Australian logging industry must move to plantations and cease destroying native forests.
- No need for any reply. If you wish to reply to this email, I would prefer you did so by email, rather than post, to reduce greenhouse emissions, forest destruction and waste.

Sincerely,

Lee O'Mahoney