

Response to Parliamentary Australian Forest Inquiry into Challenges and opportunities facing the Australian Forestry Industry.

I would like to address the issues of opportunities for and constraints upon production.

The greatest threat to the continued reliable timber supply from our privately owned native forests is the severe and in many cases unnecessary environmental restrictions and regulations which affect us.

I believe the reason our privately owned native forests are in such excellent condition is due to the fact that we have managed them so diligently over past generations. This includes amongst other things protecting them from out of control wild fires, by employing various hazardous reduction procedures, including such things as hazard reduction burns when ground fuels build up and weather permits.

To guarantee timber supply certainty in the future, land management regulations need to be simpler and more easily understood, thus enabling land owners to better understand how to comply as most are keen to do so but unfortunately just don't know how.

It is my genuine belief that given the correct government assistance and advice our Australian Timber Industry can once more resume the pride of place within our employment sector it once enjoyed.

Regards,

Geoff Roberts