

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

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FORESTRY PRODUCTION

I have been employed in the timber industry in the Clarence Valley (NSW) for over 40 years and have first hand experience which suggest it is blatantly obvious to myself and others just how much this region has suffered as a result of the cut back in log supply in recent years. Not just in saw mill closures but flow on job losses.

In recent years we have lost;

- The Federal Match Company
- Northern Rivers County Council
- Over 600 Railway Jobs
- Tooheys Brewery
- Peters Ice Cream Factory
- Norco Butter Factory
- Several sawmills and timber processes

The social and economical stresses inflicted upon our community as a result of these closures have been horrific and it is extremely important that no further shrinkage of this necessary industry occurs. In fact it would make more sense to actually expand it back to what it was 20 years ago. With the correct government support and minor regulation changes this can be achieved.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Terry Hunter