



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

15 April 2011

Senator the Hon John Hogg
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr President

Pursuant to Senate standing order 38(7), I present to you the interim report of the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee in relation to the committee's inquiry into the sale of timber assets by the South Australian Government.

On 10 February 2011, the Senate referred the following matter to the committee for inquiry and report by 15 April 2011.

The impact of the decision by the South Australian Government to forward-sell the state's \$2.8 billion timber assets on the state's economy, timber industry and on jobs and any other broader impacts, with particular reference to:

- (a) the likelihood of regional job losses;
- (b) the flow-on effects to communities in timber-reliant regions;
- (c) the potential for the private buyer not to consider local impacts;
- (d) the potential for reduced value-adding locally and increased off-shoring; and
- (e) any other related matters.

The committee has held one public hearing in relation to the inquiry. The committee requires additional time to consider the evidence presented to the inquiry and intends to table its final report on 29 April 2011.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Chair