

West RFA Submission

July 4th, 2019

from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am disappointed with the current degree of consultation by your group during this 2019 RFA review. I was deeply involved in the initial RFA in 2000 during which the consultation with all local Forest Industries was personal and extensive. How is it that as an active Forest Industry Operator, I and other Forest Operators have not been personally approached by your group and our opinions sought out? I ask you the question, "have groups such as Conservation Groups or the like been approached by your review group seeking their opinions"? Or can I assume that they are just as "in the dark" about your review as we small scale Forest Industry Operators are.

When I first started working in Western Victorian State Forests over 90% of Public Land was available for firewood cutting. Over the years, because of the various reviews (like your latest review) resulting in the creation of so many Parks and Reserves this percentage has been completely reversed. Forest Operators have been squeezed out as more Reserves have been created.

My one request to you is that you seriously take on board that timber and firewood are important local commodities for local country people and that you continue to allow VicForests to manage their existing State Forest areas in the sustainable manner which they are currently doing. I just hope and pray that this is not just another exercise to further squeeze the industry as has been the constant outcome in the past.

Please try and listen to and interpret the wishes of the silent majority instead of continually pandering to the vocal minority.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]