

Submission to: Forest Industry Advisory Council. Due June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

From: Bob Newman. OAM., B.Sc(For).Melb. Dip. For.AFS., RPF., FIFA., FCFA., NW Jolly Medal Awardee. Former Chairman CFA now Vice President. Professional Forester of over 50 years. Currently PhD student at Southern Cross University.

A Strategic Directions Issues paper:

1. Market trends: Competitive production is possible from exotic conifers, mainly *Pinus radiata*. In hardwood African Mahogany and Sandalwood, for instance. The Acacias, Natural wet and some dry Sclerophyll Eucalypts of commercial form and growth e.g Red Gum. Stimulation needed for plantation establishment in particular *Pinus radiata* for 12,000 to 15,000 hectares per annum for a full rotation. Place small plantation levy on imports for grants for establishment of Australian grown exotics in order to reach an investment attractive hurdle of 8%. Drivers are increasing local demand of population and paper, from structural and special use timber. National disruptions would be lack of availability of paper and structural timber if nothing is done.
2. Emerging Use: *Pinus radiata* for structural and long fibred anatomy. Timber very versatile in use. Barriers: Lack of satisfactory stumpage as income. Wood pellets and chips would increase cash flow of forest and recognise trees as sequestering carbon.
3. Forest Resources: Need exotic conifer plantations with growth over 15m<sup>3</sup> per hectare per annum. Need a formal secondary market, permanent plantation areas and Government Monitoring and Processor/market agents involvement for finance support. More continuing Silviculture Hardwood treatment in existing forest estate. Effort should go for plantation and natural commercial forest research and silviculture under Gov. Standards, but carried out by private sector.
4. Innovation: Main problem is Income or stumpage too low and processors needing to be more involved in specifications. Govt should support research to a large extent at selected Universities. This could stimulate Undergraduate interest in forestry. Coordination via a committee with strong representation of private sector with an outstanding chair and a regular level of budget.
5. Consumer engagement: Need for major market programmes each year in large areas of activity such as capital cities in particular. Awareness needs ABC landline programme often and national awards important for innovation, particularly in the paper/printing industry. APPITA people need to be involved. Forest certification important but not a stimulant to sell more profitable product.
6. Regional approaches: Forestry plantation and natural forest groups=hubs for permanent plantation areas are an absolute need to stimulate forestry activity and overcome too much green attitude. The barrier has been shutting down the independence of State forest Services and the general lack of passionate leadership. Hubs should be located in all States with Councils being part of strong administration and activities to support forest activity and encourage training for young people.
7. Infrastructure: Two Universities, eg Melb. and SCU for geographic purposes form hubs with State and some Commonwealth, and private sector funding. Each Hub has a designated leader. Private sector in hubs should be involved. Currently almost no coordination. Need special prizes for good effort.
8. Industry Skills: Reintroduction of Commonwealth Forestry Scholarships needed similar to RMC Duntroon to get good people to apply with a pathway clearly defined as to the opportunities in Industry. This will generate leaders.