

During the Adelaide forum and in discussion with Andrew Wilson and Rob de F'egely, I was asked to contribute my thoughts towards the future directions for forestry.

For information my family business which was formed as a sawmill in 1963 is being forced to close due to the Bushfires of 2013 at Bundaleer and 2014 at Wirrabara. (The only two northern government plantations for SA).

This may bias my comments.

Firstly on discussions with fellow sawmillers and other industry players I would suggest that training for sawmill workers is non-existent and needs addressing. Even though there is already in place in SA, a training organisation, for this industry, it is not being supported by Government. LITA is a training organisation that needs to be more closely aligned with Government to address expanding it's services, to include more sawmill and forest activities.

There needs to be courses in "Safety management" for workers, training for general mill hands, bench operator competency. They also need to be able to train log harvester operators. LITA needs government support for this, but the funding can come from industry. This organisation is already in place and a funding medium has already been set up, why not make this organisation the "go to", training organisation that we need?

Secondly I have strong ideas on the growing and maintenance of forests. In SA where the state government actually started plantation forestry in Australia certain things need to happen.

1/ The ability for an elected Government to dispose of Forests that have been grown for many decades needs to be addressed. The cycle is long term and can so easily be seriously disrupted by bad decisions. This needs to be urgently addressed. Perhaps some form of moratorium to protect the future of our state's core, renewable, resource can be justified.

2/ The manner in which Forestry SA operates also needs some scrutiny. All OK when our forests were making some reasonable profits perhaps, but now, since the forest resource in the S.E. has been sold the real extent of the current management regime is becoming apparent. Concurrent losses need to be better expanded to allow greater transparency. The reported loss of some \$16 million last financial year should be ringing alarm bells and simply should not be tolerated.

Cheers

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