

Introduction

Re: Meeting future market demand: Australia's forest products and forest industry - a strategic directions issues paper.

Natural Resources South East (NRSE) is responsible for delivering a range of programs and projects on behalf of the South East Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR). Working together with our partners, volunteers and the broader South East community, our business includes public lands responsibilities, encouraging sustainable production practices, and conserving and managing the region's environment. Our work aims to achieve the targets set out in the current South East Regional NRM Plan which has been developed by the South East NRM Board in partnership with the community, stakeholders and partners.

General comments

While NRSE has no specific comments to the questions posed in the discussion paper, NRSE commends the Forest Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) on the release of *“Meeting Future Market Demand – Australia's Forest Products and Forest Industry”*. This paper provides an opportunity for not only forestry organisations, but others associated with natural resource management to become part of a broader discussion around the key issues facing the forest industry at a national level.

This discussion paper provides a succinct representation of the current industry trends and issues, and largely reflects the findings of the South Australian Forestry Advisory Board's, *Blueprint for the Future Forest and Wood Products Industry (2012)*, and the *SA Forest and Woods Products Policy Statement (2014)* that confirm the South Australian Government's commitment to the forestry sector and form an important foundation for working together with the forest industry.

NRSE has a long history of working closely with the forest industry in the region, particularly in relation to the development of water allocation policy, making South Australia the only State to fully account for the water used by plantation forests.

Working in partnership is a key directive of DEWNR, and NRSE is continually seeking new ways to engage with industry around issues of common concern. To this end, the opportunity for our staff to attend the recent forum held in Mount Gambier was a welcome initiative and helped to consolidate existing partnerships across agencies and organisations in a less structured setting.

Through the new Regional NRM Plan 2017- 2027, now under development, NRSE will continue to advocate for sustainable natural resource management practices that encourage all industries to compete and prosper in an environmentally sustainable manner. NRSE looks forward to further collaboration with the forest industry on regional issues.

Please direct any further correspondence on this paper to:

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Submission in response to *Meeting future market demand: Australia's forest products and forest industry – a strategic directions issues paper*

Questions for consideration

Vision and objectives

1. What should the vision be for the forest products sector in the coming decades?

Provide response here

2. What specific objectives should underpin this vision?

Provide response here

Issue 1: Market trends and pressures

3. What forest products does Australia have a local and/or international competitive advantage in producing?

Provide response here

4. What is the potential demand for forest products in the coming decades?

Provide response here

5. How can Australia best position itself for this demand, both nationally and internationally?

Provide response here

6. What are the other drivers or disruptions that will potentially affect supply and/or demand?

Provide response here

Issue 2: Emerging uses and markets

7. Which emerging forest products have the greatest potential for Australia?

Provide response here

8. What are some of the barriers to the development and/or uptake of these emerging forest products in Australia?

Provide response here

9. What opportunities exist to better utilise wood resources?

Provide response here

Issue 3: Forest resources

10. What is required to ensure the plantation estate is able to meet future demand for forest products?

Provide response here

11. What is required to ensure the native forest estate is able to meet future demand for forest products?

Provide response here

12. What opportunities are there to increase wood supply from farm forestry, private native forestry and Indigenous owned and managed lands?

Provide response here

Issue 4: Innovation, research and development

13. What are the future research and development needs for Australia's forest products sector, and which of these needs are specific to strengths and opportunities in the Australian context?

Provide response here

14. What are the current inhibitors to private sector investment in research, development and extension and what role, if any, does the Australian Government potentially have in addressing these?

Provide response here

15. How can the framework for coordinating Australian forestry research and development be strengthened?

Provide response here

Issue 5: Consumer and community engagement

16. How can domestic and international consumers be better engaged on the environmental, economic and social credentials of Australian forest products?

Provide response here

17. How important are consumer awareness programs to the future prosperity of the sector?

Provide response here

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18. Can forest certification be better leveraged to achieve stronger demand and better prices for Australian forest products and, if so, how?

Provide response here

Issue 6: Strengthened regional approaches

19. How could forestry hubs better utilise resources and promote greater efficiencies and innovation?

Provide response here

20. What have been the barriers to the establishment and efficient operation of forestry hubs to date, and what might be the role of the Australian Government in addressing these?

Provide response here

21. If additional forestry hubs are to be established, where would they best be located?

Provide response here

Issue 7: Infrastructure

22. What infrastructure will be required to respond to future demand for Australian forest products?

Provide response here

23. What can be done to ensure better recognition and understanding of the sector's infrastructure needs?

Provide response here

Issue 8: Industry skills and training

24. What are the skills and training needs of the sector over the coming decades, and where are the current gaps?

Provide response here

25. Are Vocational Education and Training and university training providers well-positioned to meet the future skills and training needs of the sector?

Provide response here

26. What improvements are required at an enterprise level to support the recruitment, development and retention of the sector's current and future workforce?

Provide response here

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