

# M H & G N REARDON



Thursday, 3 April 2014

Remake of the Coastal IFOAS  
Environment Protection Authority  
Level 12 PO Box A290  
Sydney South NSW 1232

Email: [ifoa.remake@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ifoa.remake@epa.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE REMAKE OF THE COASTAL INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS (IFOA) DISCUSSION PAPER – FEBRUARY 2014**

We wish to make this submission in response to the public consultation in Lismore we attended.

Our local area contributes to employment and the general well-being of our community with the monetary support of the forest industry. Any changes to legislation that makes forest harvesting and production more cost effective while continuing to protect those parts of the native forest that are environmentally important, is always welcomed.

The industry takes great care when preparing for approved harvesting of trees but the continual removal of parts of forests to be placed into the reserve system operated by the government appears to be a process designed to cripple the industry and the local government.

We understand that this remake of the IFOA for the coastal areas will improve the way in which the forest contractors and Forest Corporation of NSW can operate and will remove a lot of paper work and duplication of licences, we are worried that the area of forest that they have made available to them to produce wood seems to be declining. Many of these companies have been operating for over a hundred years and the forests are still producing wood supplies despite the environmental critics saying the forests would all die. As farmers we understand holistic management practices on our property and contractors do the same to manage the resource. We all want the forest to remain in good health and we want the timber industry to continue to produce sustainable wood supplies for the community.

We understand that the changes proposed to the IFOA are designed to make a very complex system more easily understood by contractors and regulators. The move to one licence instead of 4 different and complex licences is a good proposal and should make operations clearer for those who work in the native forest.

Every time a government regulator adds more controls to the timber harvesting industry they do it without considering the impact on the production of timber and frequently the costs escalate. It would be a great pity for future generations of Australians, if we allowed inefficient regulation to strangle this regional industry in NSW and force us to import timber instead.

We support the proposal to ensure that contractors have minimum competency standards as it will bring them into line with other similar contractors in other industries who already have to meet minimum standards. This will improve the operations within the forest and make sure that there is a high level of professionalism in the timber harvesting workforce.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make comment on the proposed Remake of the coastal IFOA.

Yours faithfully

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'Michael'. The second signature is also cursive and appears to be 'Gaylene'.

**MICHAEL AND GAYLENE REARDON**