

Australian Rainforest Honey Pty Ltd



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Cypress Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Submission on South Western Cypress State Forests

We write to request that the South Western Cypress State Forests remain available for lease to the housing of bees. As honey producers, our business relies on our ability to lease apiary sites in State Forests and National Parks.

The South Western Cypress State Forests are essential to our livelihood. Combaning has got Mugga Ironbark and Grey Box – much wanted honeys. Jindalle has Mugga Ironbark, Grey Box and Grey Mallee. Yathong and Coolabar forests have been leased by us for many years. We are fourth generation beekeepers – my grandfather used these forests for housing bees in the 1920's.

Our industry is environmentally friendly – bees are a natural occurrence – without bees many species of vegetation would no longer exist. We feel that this industry does no damage to our native forests.

As a business that produces and packages our own honey, we employ 8 full time staff to run 3,000 bee hives. We supply Woolworths/Safeway and Franklins supermarkets on a national level and smaller stores on a local level. We are 100% Australian – we do not import honey from overseas. Our business relies on being able to produce our honey locally.

As well as for honey production, we need these forests as they are integral to the health of our bees – we 'rest' our bees in these forests during the winter months so that their numbers increase and the overall health of the bees is improved/ maintained.

Losing access to these forests would severely impact on our ability to produce the honey required and maintain the hives we currently own.

We hope you take the above into account when reviewing the past management and deciding the future management of the South-Western Cypress State Forests.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. J. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P" and "J".

Pat Roberts
Managing Director