

N J L Packham Pty Limited

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SUBMISSION – SOUTH WESTERN CYPRESS FORESTS ASSESSMENT

HISTORY

N J L Packham Pty Limited (hereafter referred to as N J L Packham) is a labour hire company incorporated in 2004 and is based in Condobolin, New South Wales. Grants Sawmilling Co. Pty Limited hires the services of N J L Packham to assist with the operations of their Condobolin sawmill.

Grants Sawmilling Co Pty Limited have been a client of N J L Packham since incorporation when they commenced hiring the services of seven full time employees. That number has now risen to twelve full time employees and one part-time employee.

N J L PACKHAM EMPLOYEES

The employees hired to the sawmill have committed themselves to living in Condobolin with six in the process of paying off a mortgaged residential premises. Other employees have periodical financial commitments in relation to asset purchases.

The employees have entered these obligations with the understanding that they were employed in an occupation that provided them with long term security (i.e. the 20 year wood supply agreement held by Grants Holdings Co Pty Limited). Other opportunities for secure employment in Condobolin are difficult to come by as the drought has restricted employment in the primary employment sector – the rural community.

Two of the employees hired to the sawmill each have over twenty years employment in Cypress sawmills and offer a great deal by way of managerial and hands on experience to the industry.

REMOVAL OF THE RESOURCE

N J L Packham is an interested party. Its operations are significantly affected by that of Grants Sawmilling Co Pty Ltd and Grants Holdings Co Pty Ltd. If there is a cut to resources, then the direct employment of thirteen people in the Condobolin district will be placed at great risk. The loss of all thirteen positions in Condobolin will have a flow-on effect to other local small businesses that are either supported by N J L Packham employees, the Grants company's or both. These businesses are already encountering an extremely difficult trading period due to the prolonged drought conditions.

Replacement jobs will be difficult for NJL Packham employees to secure. Their age, the possibility of the requirement to re-skill, and the aforementioned drought conditions will most likely lead to the need to leave Condobolin or face long-term unemployment – both of which options are far from ideal.

Please consider the position of NJL Packham and its employees when making your assessment with regard to the future use of South Western Cypress Forests of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Packham
(Chairperson)