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Cypress Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
Sydney NSW 2001

Via email: forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

We submit to the Commission our view that the future of local communities like those in which Grant's Timbers' sawmills are located – Condobolin and Narrandera – would be severely adversely affected should these industries be forced to close due to loss of supply of its raw material.

We are a long-time supplier to Grant's Timber at both these Southern NSW locations and can assure the commission that the future of rural producers such as this should be aided by whatever means; the cost of their closure – or even reduced production – would impact negatively on the economic and humanitarian achievement of these communities.

Grant's Timber employs some 50 local people in Narrandera and Condobolin, including a number of indigenous heritage. These personnel, and their families, depend on Grant's Timber for not just an income, but their self-esteem and knowing there's a local future for their children. It follows that small businesses in these communities are dependent on these 50 families for their commercial survival ... the domino effect from the closure of Grant's sawmills would be swift, tangible, and detrimental to these thriving rural communities.

We live here in South Western NSW and we see first hand that the cypress forests in this region are unquestionably sustainable; a factor that has helped Grant's develop and sustain an export market that contributes positively to the local and regional community, as well as the wider state of NSW. Further, we strongly believe that Grant's processing practises are responsible and non-exploitative.

We urge the Commission to consider the contribution of Grant's sawmills in Condobolin and Narrandera when it puts forward recommendations for the future of Cypress State Forests in South-Western NSW.

Yours sincerely,
Riverina Lift Trucks

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