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25 March 2010

Attn: Natural Resources Commission

Dear Sirs/Madams

RE: SUBMISSION TO THE REGIONAL FOREST ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOUTH WESTERN CYPRESS STATE FORESTS.

Scandinavian Forestry & Engineering and Log Max Australia is a small privately owned business based in Tumut, NSW. We have been involved in the forestry industry for the past 20 years. We currently employ 17 people. Our core business is supplying specialised tree harvesting machinery to all facets of the forest industry, including plantation softwood, hardwood, native, and exotic. Our business also includes cypress in south western New South Wales. This region is a great supporter and an integral part of our business.

We have a strong business relationship with most of the current key operators in this region. These logging contactors and saw millers own machinery supplied by our business and they engage our services for maintenance and repairs as well as regularly purchase consumables and spare parts as required. At present there are 10 Log Max Harvesters and 1 Eco Log Forwarder working in the river red gum and cypress industry, this represents over 10% of our customer base that are directly affected by any changes in this region.

Any changes to the south western state forests would immediately affect our business with reduced sales of consumable items and spare parts etc and would have a long term effect on sales of any new equipment.

We are already experiencing first-hand the negative impact to our industry with the recent outcomes in the river red gum forests. We have been contacted by several of our customers in the red gum industry who have no options left but to make employees redundant and place machinery into a market. The market is already overflowing with used equipment and our customers from this region have little chance of realising anything like a realistic value for their equipment.

These customers are now lost to our business and will never return. Any similar result in the south western cypress industry will only serve to further reduce our customer base and reduce the viability of our business and others like us. This will also have a detrimental effect on the towns and communities that benefit directly from cypress industry as it is today.

We ask that you consider very carefully the far reaching consequences of any such actions being undertaken in the south western cypress forests of New South Wales.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

David Wakem
Director
Scandinavian Forestry & Engineering, Log Max Australia