

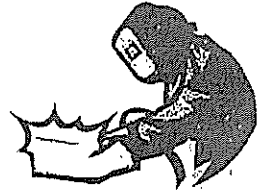
# W. Clark & Sons Pty. Ltd.

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## GENERAL ENGINEERS

FITTING & MACHINING - GENERAL WELDING  
ALUMINIUM WELDING - HYDRAULICS -  
ENGINEER'S SUPPLIES



PO BOX 75  
NARRANDERA 2700

25<sup>TH</sup> March, 2010

Cypress Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO BOX 4206  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

Please find our enclosed submission regarding South - Western State Forests.

(3 pages)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L D Light', written over a dotted line.

L D LIGHT - MANAGING DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P McNally', written over a dotted line.

P McNALLY - DIRECTOR - COMPANY SECRETARY

REFERENCE: REVIEW OF USE AND TENURE OF SOUTHWEST CYPRESS REGION

WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGED IN GENERAL ENGINEERING SITUATED IN NARRANDERA – A TOWN OF APPROX 5000 – IN THE RIVERINA AREA OF NSW. NARRANDERA IS A BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED TOWN WELL KNOWN FOR ITS TREES, WIDE STREETS AND AMMENITIES , FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SO PROUD.

OUR BUSINESS IS BASED ON MANUFACTURE, REPAIRS AND MAINTENCE OF EQUIPMENT, SO ESSENTIAL TO LOCAL INDUSTRIES, THE FARMING COMMUNITY, (WHICH OUR TOWN IS BUILT ON), AND REMAINING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

WE EMPLOY 6 FULL TIME, 1 PART TIME AND 1 OFFICE EMPLOYEE FULL TIME. WE NORMALLY LIKE TO TAKE 1 APPRENTICE ON EACH 2 YEARS. 20 YEAR AGO WE EMPLOYED 10 FULL TIME TRADESMEN AND 1 FULL TIME AND 1 PART TIME OFFICE EMPLOYEE. WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OR SCALING DOWN OF GOVERNMENT DEPTS. (E.G. TELECOM (NOW TELSTRA), NSW RAILWAYS, FOREST NSW ETC). FOLLOWED BY THE CLOSURE OF OTHER BUSINESSES – PARTLY DUE TO THE DOMINO EFFECT WE HAVE HAD TO DECREASE OUR STAFF TO ITS PRESENT SIZE.

AT TIMES OF DROUGHT AND RURAL RECESSION, SUCH AS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE PAST 10 YEARS, BUSINESS CAN PROVE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ALL IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

WE HAVE BEEN MOST FORTUNATE TO HAVE AS A CUSTOMER – GRANTS SAWMILLING CO PTY LTD. THEY HAVE BEEN CUSTOMERS FOR APPROX 40 YEARS . OVER THESE YEARS WE HAVE WITNESSED THEIR PROGRESSION FROM A SMALL OPERATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT IT IS TODAY AND BEING ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN OUR TOWN.

OUR BUSINESS HAS GAINED MUCH WORK FROM THIS COMPANY OVER THE TIME . IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE PLAYED A LARGE PART IN THE UPGRADE OF NARRANDERA AND CONDOBLIN SAWMILLS AND CONTINUING MAINTENANCE TO ENABLE THEM TO FULFILL THEIR 20 YEAR WOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NSW.

THIS WORK HAS CERTAINLY PLAYED A LARGE PART IN OUR BUSINESS BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT STAFF.

THE SOUTHWEST CYPRESS REGION HAS BEEN A SUPPLY OF RESOURCE TO THE TIMBER AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES FOR AROUND 100 YEARS. IN THIS PERIOD THE FORESTS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED BY OUR SAWMILLERS AND FOREST NSW (WHEN THEY HAD A LARGER MAINTENANCE STAFF).

THE FACT THE FORESTS ARE STILL IN PRIME CONDITION (EXCEPT THROUGH LACK OF WATER DUE TO OUR CONTINUING DROUGHT) IS TESTIMONIAL TO THE WAY THEY ARE HANDLED.

THE PUBLIC ARE ABLE TO USE THESE FORESTS FOR ALL RECREATIONAL AND GENERAL PURPOSES AS THEY WISH. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE THEM BECOME NP WHERE WE ARE TOLD WHERE AND WHAT WE CAN DO IN THEM AND HAVE THEM LITTERED WITH FALLEN TIMBER AND UNDERGROWTH SUCH AS THE BUSH FIRE AREAS OF VICTORIA, CANBERRA AND OUTSKIRTS OF SYDNEY THUS ENDANGERING OUR AND OTHER TOWNS AND SMALL VILLAGES IN THE AREA.

SHOULD THESE FORESTS BE SHUT DOWN TO TIMBER MILLING IT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON OUR BUSINESS AND STAFF FROM DIRECT DEALINGS WITH

GRANTS SAWMILLING CO PTY LTD. THE EFFECT ON OUR TOWN AND SURROUNDING AREAS WOULD ALSO BE VERY SERIOUS. THE FLOW ON FROM THIS WOULD HAVE A HUGH EFFECT ON THE VIABILITY OF THE PRESENT FORM OF OUR BUSINESS.

OUR TOWN CANNOT AFFORD THE LOSS OF SUCH A LARGE INDUSTRY. OUR PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO BECOME COASTAL FRINGE DWELLERS. WE LIVE HERE BECAUSE WE LOVE IT.

OUR SAWMILLERS ARE NOT SCIENTISTS, HOWEVER WITH A PROVEN RECORD OF MAINTENANCE AND CARING FOR THE FORESTS OF THIS AREA , WE FEEL TO HELP ALL SECTIONS OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITY THEY MUST BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

THE FACT THE GOVERNMENT OF NSW RECENTLY ALLOWED LARGE GRANT MONEY TO HELP WITH THE UPGRADE OF THE MILLS WHICH ALLOWED GRANTS SAWMILLING CO PTY LTD TO OBTAIN A 20 YEAR WOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE NSW STATE GOVERNMENT AND ARE NOW POSSIBLY FACING COMPENSATION PAYMENT FOR CLOSURE AND CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT (ALL TO BE PAID FROM THE TAXPAYER DOLLAR) IS SCANDALOUS.

PLEASE DON'T LET IT BECOME ANOTHER BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLER.