

26 March 2010

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

forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Re: Submission - South-western cypress state forests assessment

My family and I moved to Narrandera in 2005. Shortly afterwards I gained employment as a Wood Machinist with Grants Sawmilling Co Pty Limited.

Job security was not an issue as Grants had secured a 20 year wood supply agreement with the NSW government. A few years later the NSW government presented Grants Sawmilling Co Pty Limited with quite a substantial government grant. It seemed at that point in time that the NSW government, the Forestry and Grants Sawmilling were planning for a long term commitment.

A couple of years later the NSW government announced there would be an assessment of the south-western cypress state forests. In most cases the outcome of an assessment of this nature results with bad news. This assessment has caused a large degree of insecurity, uncertainty and stress for Grants and their employees along with two country townships. This assessment seems to undermine the integrity and professionalism of the people within the organisation that the 20 year wood supply agreement was originally agreed upon. This assessment could have been handled in a different manner resulting in a far less potential negative impact on companies, workers, customers and townships.

I will not and do not support in any way a government decision to down scale, review or stop our production volumes today or any day at Grants Sawmilling Co Pty Limited. The current wood supply agreement should be adhered to and reviewed in 20 years as agreed upon.

B Keaton