

## Post hearing responses - Inquiry into Long Term Sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

### Page 3 of transcript:

**Mr MILHAM:** ... The other one is there seemed to be a fair difference of opinion being expressed to the Committee by differing witnesses about carbon cycling in our native forests. We have the privilege in New South Wales of employing some of the best carbon cycling in forests and climate change scientists in the world. We are in the position where other countries and international organisations come to us for advice on the basis of the status of our scientific expertise. Their research – and I can provide copies of papers to the Committee – and the global weight of science accepted by organisations like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organisation under the United Nations is that the use of forest biomass and managing our native forests in that way is not only renewable and sustainable, it has superior carbon outcomes to not managing our forests in that way and is looked at to be part of the solution to a low-carbon future globally.

### **Answer:**

NSW DPI research reports relating to carbon can be found in

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forestry/science/forest-carbon/publications>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) research referenced relating to carbon cycling - "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre, or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit," the report explains (Chapter 9, page 543 of IPCC report *AR4 Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change*).

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/wg3/>

### Page 8 of transcript:

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I wanted to try and get a bit of a better handle on the employment scenarios in the sector at the moment. I have seen various figures, direct and indirect figures, attributed to the sector. I am particularly focused on, I guess, the native hardwood sector here, and I know that obviously PNF supply contributes to that in terms of mill employment and the like. The NRC report specifies some estimated direct jobs. It seems to me these figures are pulled from answers that came from budget estimates questions though. So I think it would be helpful for our inquiry to have a good handle on what the Government thinks about the direct jobs in Forestry Corporation – the mills, the other processors, the logging contractors, the haulage contractors. Can you provide an authoritative figure for us to have an understanding about the implications here for the industry and exactly how many people we are talking about here?

**Mr MILHAM:** We rely on ABS statistics and Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics survey figures, and they do not break down employment in this sector to that level. The industry analysis team within the Department of Primary Industries – that is,

sort of the economics group within the department – calculates the estimates based on the information that is available. We can certainly provide that, and I have got some overarching figures here that I can provide if you have got specific questions that I might be able to answer, otherwise I can take it on notice.

**Answer:**

Confirm the statement in transcript, NSW DPI relies on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2021). Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release#data-download>

In 2020-21, employment in forestry and related industries in NSW increased by 3% year-on-year to 19,800. This was due to higher employment in forestry support services and pulp, paper and converted paper product manufacturing (NSW DPI Performance, Data & Insights 2021). <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/publications/pdi/2021/forestry>

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I am happy to put specific ones on notice. Do you contest the NRC's figures in here that actually give us a breakdown for each of the sub-regions. Estimated jobs in the South Coast, and we are talking about in the mills and in contractors and processing, is 67. Eden is 250 – obviously they have got the chip mill down there. They are quite small figures. On the North Coast estimated direct jobs – this is pre the fires – is 590 across all the mills, contractors, Forestry Corporation staff and the like. Do you contest those figures?

**Mr MILHAM:** No, because I do not know what the basis of those figures is.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I will put questions on notice to that effect.

**Answer:**

Confirm the statement in transcript, no comment on the NRC report figures. Additional questions have not been provided.