

24 February 2022



Portfolio Committee 4  
C/o Joseph Cho  
Principal Council Officer  
Upper House Committees | Legislative Council  
Parliament of New South Wales  
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**Responses to Questions on Notice from Tuesday 8 February 2022 INQUIRY - LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY - TIMBER & FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY. Legislative Council - Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional New South Wales, Water and Agriculture**

1. **The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Just a quick question that you can all take on notice, because Wes has a few questions I think. I have not got my head around the new merged council entities and the non-rateable land that you have in the new shires. I am not sure if you have that to hand. If you have not, could you take it on notice?

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** - which is often referred to as a stump tax. What I am really after is each of the shires, the new entities, **what is your non-rateable land at the moment.** Pretty much I just want that on the record.

**RESPONSE:**

Non-rateable land within the Snowy Valleys Council local government area is 5,898 sq kms – 65.8%.

2. **The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE:** Just very briefly. The proposal for a situation where the Government owns land and then leases it to private forest operators at a commercial rate: If that eventuates, what opportunities are there under that arrangement for local government to levy rates and charges, and on whom would they be levied?

**The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE:** How about given the time, would you mind taking that on notice?

**RESPONSE:**

Snowy Valleys Council is aware that land dedicated for the purpose of Forestry does not attract rates and in the circumstance where Government does a commercial lease the arrangements stay the same. Currently at Snowy Valleys Council, Forest Corp provides for the maintenance of its roads and if they were to pay rates no doubt the responsibility for roads would also be transferred. We need to be aware of the implications of asking for rates to be paid and what the offset or otherwise will be on costs that will also be transferred.

Yours Sincerely

Cr Ian Chaffey  
**MAYOR**

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