

20 June 2022

The Hon. Mark Banasiak, MLC
Chair, Portfolio Committee – Customer Service and Natural Resources
Parliament House
Macquaire Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr. Banasiak

Additional information and correction – Inquiry into the long-term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

I would like to provide additional information to your inquiry and make a correction to my testimony as recorded in the hearing transcript on 24 May 2022.

As I committed to sharing at the hearing, please find attached an independent report overseen by the Commission documenting wood supply trends between 2003 and 2019 on state forests. The analysis found total wood supply declined between this period. Low quality and pulp log supply declined by about 40 percent, with high quality sawlogs supply declining by around 15 percent during the period. High quality sawlog supply was closely aligned with wood supply allocations for most regions, with the exception of the Tumut Coastal IFOA subregion. Resource availability, market forces and supply chain characteristics were the primary drivers of changes in wood supply over this period.

The Commission will soon commence further work on wood supply, including investigating the impacts of the 2019-20 wildfires and the Coastal IFOA conditions on supply compared with the baseline we have now established.

As noted at the hearing, this work was commissioned under the Coastal IFOA monitoring program independently overseen by the Commission. We work closely with a cross-agency steering committee including the Forestry Corporation of NSW and the Environment Protection Authority. Funding for this program ceases in June 2023. The Commission believes this program should continue beyond this date. This will ensure the NSW Government has the necessary evidence to support its commitments under the *NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap* and to continue to meet its broader national and international obligations for ecological sustainable forest management.

At the hearing I noted that from memory the total annual costs of weeds in NSW was \$1.4 billion based on our previous [report](#) on weed management in 2014. This figure is incorrect. We reported in 2014 the estimated mean value to be in the order of \$1.8 billion per annum based on analysis by Cheryl Kalisch Gordon, now Senior Analyst at Rabobank. This figure includes expenditure of over \$64 million by public agencies, and the balance as losses to producers and consumers due to weeds and weed management on agricultural lands.

Please contact me on _____ if you have any further enquires.

Yours sincerely

Bryce Wilde
Executive Director