

**Submission  
No 350**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Newell's Creek Sawmilling Co

**Name:** Mr Marius Heymann

**Date received:** 31/08/2012

---

NEWELLS CREEK SAWMILLING CO PTY LIMITED  
MARKWELL RD  
BULAHDELAH NSW 2423  
Phone: (02) 49978123  
Fax: (02) 49978177  
Email: admin@newellscreek.com.au  
A.B.N.70 000 215 421

S.A. RELFS & SONS PTY LTD  
MARKWELL RD  
BULAHDELAH NSW 2423  
Phone: (02) 49974456  
Fax: (02) 4997440  
Email: relfsmill@bigpond.com  
ABN: 71 000 667 998

---

30 August 2012

The Director  
GPSC 5 Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

SUBMISSION

Report to Government regarding the Management of Public Land in NSW

Newell's Creek Sawmilling Company is a fourth generation family business on the North Coast of NSW in the Bulahdelah area. The company has been actively managing hardwood sawmills and timber production in the area since the early 1900's. Today we employ 100 people in the Bulahdelah and surrounding areas. The Forest industry has been the backbone of this community for generations.

We are very concerned about the future of the Timber Industry in this part of NSW due to the failure of the past Labor Government securing the resource for the Timber Industry. The Labor Government under Bob Carr has locked up vast tracks of land under the banner "conservation". As a trained forester in the Timber Industry for more than 30 years and in NSW for the past 10 years one can see how the native forest we are logging are been mismanaged. By this I mean we are overcutting the bush because we are limited to a small area for sustainable forestry while vast areas have been locked up for timber production and placed under the management of National Parks.

The Australian bush is unique in the world and need to be managed properly. We need reserve areas but at the same time areas for sustainable forestry we need a balance outcome between socio-economic and environmental values. What we are doing now is striving to sustain a Timber Industry on 1.38 million ha under State Forest's control that's available for logging. There are vast areas locked up under National Parks, more than 6 million ha of NP in NSW, with poor management and at great expense to the taxpayer. I am not saying the National Park employees are bad managers but the area is just too big for them to manage and control properly. Where is the balance? Some areas of National

Parks are overgrown by noxious weeds (Lantana for one), feral animal havens and not managed properly for a socio-economic and environmental outcome. Not to mention the huge fire danger looming in some of these areas.

The small area managed by Forests NSW (State Forests) for timber production is not enough to sustain the Timber Industry. Of the 1.38 million ha available for logging, 448,000 ha is reserved and 305,000 is managed for conservation outcomes it leaves State forest with 627,000 ha available for timber production. The Timber Industry is limited to a very small part of the overall resource and this is unsustainable. There are vast areas of land locked up and nobody is allowed to even drive through it. For the forest to grow to its full potential it needs disturbance through its life span. Properly managed forestry practices (logging) under the current rules can only benefit the forests. We need to re-open some of these areas and manage them for sustainability to the advantage of the people of Australia. Processed timber store more carbon than an old tree dying in the forests, just another benefit to add to the climate change debate.

Coastal areas have been locked up to prevent fishermen, 4 wheel drivers and recreationists to enjoy. They are banned from vast areas of land under the banner "conservation". The best conservationists are these people, they love the land and the great outdoors and also look after it, now we ban them from these areas. For example, the Coastal area between Seal Rocks and Teagardens, areas have been closed by NP. Nobody can drive on the beach any more, bush tracks have been closed, no fishing on the beach in some areas, no camping; the list goes on and on.

The next problem we will have due to these vast tracks of land been closed is wild fires. The Black Saturday Fires is an example of areas not properly managed. We need to have access to the forests and do active management in them through a combination of sustainable forestry for its socio-economic value, conservation, land management, recreation, fishing, bush walking and other again for socio-economic and environmental values.

We need to conserve all areas of significance that include parts of native forests for its high conservation value for future generations to enjoy, but we need to let commonsense avail. All we hear and see today is the Greens trying to stop anything to do with forestry, fishing, farming, recreation (4 wheel driving) and the Labor Government backing them for votes, this happens at Federal and State levels.

We are members of The NSW Forest Products Association, who made a very substantial submission to the Standing Committee. What a great report with sustainable and workable suggestions to enhance the growth of the Timber Industry. Australian hardwood is some of the best timber in the world if not the best, let's manage it for the benefit to all and at the same time look after it for future generations. What we are doing today due to the small State Forest areas available for timber production is overcutting the bush to sustain the industry. We need to reopen some areas of National Parks to

sustain the Timber Industry. We have the most regulated forest industry in the world and best practices. By maintaining this status we will always make sure the forest is managed to its potential and within the rules for generations to come.

The idea of locking up the forest into a massive National Park is an unsustainable exercise, mismanaged due to its size and very costly to the taxpayer.

Let's be sensible and utilize the resource given to us by the Creator for the benefit to all Australians'.

Marius Heymann  
*For The Dorney group of companies.*