

**Submission
No 225**

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

Organisation: NSW Forest Products Association

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The objective of the Forest Reform Agenda sought a balance between social, economic and environmental values. But the process denied the concept that forestry and conservation are, for the greater part, complimentary outcomes of forest management.

The science of forest assessments was only able to capture a snapshot of many values of some of the forests. It was unable to place those values into context, into any relevant ordering of dependancy or in any dynamic of ecology. In many senses it was merely a tool to substantiate an agenda for reservation as an absolute objective. Imperfect data, distorted manipulations of data and in some cases no data or no assessment at all has created unjustifiable reservations, at the cost of timber resource.

In application, under further regulatory restrictions limiting access, resource values have been effectively denied and reduced to unsustainable outcomes, unsustainable for resource and for other forest values.

Social and economic values have been largely ignored, their assessments measuring the collateral damage of reservations, the cost of reservation to communities and adjustment packages to NSW.

The timber industry relies on government to determine yields and relies on the commitments of legislation, Forest Agreements and Wood Supply Agreements to deliver resource for viability of their business.

Particular issues and options to address the issues in each region are outlined. Recommendations to remedy the issues are included and specific recommendations to amend regulations are attached.

Sustainability and resilience of rural communities dependant on forest industries requires extension of Forest and Resource Supply Agreements with certainty, commitment and long term continuity.