

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

**Organisation:** J. Notaras & Sons Pty. Ltd.

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## SAWMILLERS - HARDWOOD FLOORING SPECIALISTS

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24 August 2012

Ms Madeleine Foley  
Director  
GPSC5 Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### SUBMISSION:

#### Report to Government regarding Management of Public Land in NSW.

J Notaras & Sons Pty Ltd have been in the Industry for over 60 years.

The Timber Industry need resource security to be able to invest and stay in Business in the future.

There are several points I would like to make regarding the future for this Industry.

Firstly so much of our native forests have been locked up without considering all the facts. The Industry presently log only 30% of the areas set aside for logging in State Forests and even less in privately owned forests.

The exclusion zones need opening up to more silvicultural land management.

There are also a considerable number of National Parks which could be sensibly logged and managed more effectively than being just locked up waiting for the inevitable wildfire to come along.

The Industry has invested heavily in value adding plants on Government Guarantee of supply, which they are unable to sustain and carry on into the future.

The Forest Products Association has put in a very informative submission and J Notaras & Sons Pty Ltd is one of the Companies who have invested in new equipment and technology over the last 15 years to employ people in regional Australia and to supply a much demanded value added product.

This Company's two largest problems are resource security and the high value of the Australian Dollar which enables cheap imports from unsustainable and illegal sources.

The regional Forest Agreements were set up to better manage the forest resource and maintain a guaranteed wood supply to the Industry so they could invest with confidence in the future of the Industry.

At present, we believe Forests NSW are overcutting the forests to try and deliver their commitment. We need better leadership so we can have a strong and competitive ecologically sustainable Forest Industry.

The Hardwood Timber Industry in NSW has relied on the delivery of Wood Supply Agreements to supply the resource for processing.

We need security beyond 2023, so as to be able to invest and plan our future knowing that the resource is still available.

There are a number of reserves created after 1995 that do not have management plans and have no information on the values within these reserves and do not have management priorities. These areas should be re-assessed and brought back into the resource pool available to the Industry.

The loss of jobs and economic flow on effect will be felt in many country towns in NSW. It seems that if the outcome is sustainable, more forest areas have to be made available and restrictive regulations have to be eased.

Flexibility is needed in the application of the reserve criteria as well as acceptable social and economic outcomes.

Opening some of these areas to roading and logging will help to manage the threat of bush fires. Properly managed forests can help to reduce the threat of wildfires. There should be a balance between socio-economic and environmental values. Ecologically sustainable forest management is the only way forward.

The Timber Industry on the North Coast cannot survive on the plantation estate alone as most plantations are less than 20 years old. The regrowth native hardwood forest will be the only resource available to meet our Forest Agreement commitments.

It seems that of the 843,000 hectares of State Forests set aside in NSW only 314,000 is available for harvesting, we need to see the exclusion zones re-opened so the Industry can have the confidence and move into the future.

Kindest regards

Yours faithfully  
J NOTARAS & SONS PTY LTD

Spiro Notaras  
Managing Director