

**Submission
No 52**

**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL LAND SERVICES AMENDMENT
(MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2020**

Organisation: North Coast Forest Management

Date Received: 25 February 2021

25th February, 2021

Att: Portfolio Committee 7 Planning and Environment Legislative Council NSW

Re: Inquiry into the Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020

Submission by: North Coast Forest Management

Email to : PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The BILL

In reference to the Objects in the Bill:

Clause “a”

Position: no longer necessary

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 has been repealed.

Clause “b”

Position: supported

Removal of dual consent

For private native forestry, the Bill removes the need for dual consent and the unnecessary involvement of Councils, who have no expertise or specialist knowledge in forest science. Under the current governance arrangements, the process is far from satisfactory. On the north coast alone, there are 35 individual Councils each taking a different approach to how private native forestry is treated. For private landholders required to obtain development approval, the process is akin to a lottery. Removing the involvement of Councils will remove this uncertainty without removing the LLS regulatory framework, which provides environmental protection.

Clause “c”

Position: supported

Extension of PNF plans to 30 years.

The provision that extends the approval period of a PNF Plan from 15 to 30 years is another important measure. The additional time will provide landholders with the confidence they need to invest in their forests’ future, potentially seek forest certification and reduces the need to maximise timber revenue in single harvesting events. This measure will be both good for the forest and good for the environment.

Clause “d”

Position: supported

Ensuring that the Minister administering the Forestry Act and the Minister administering the Fisheries Management Act are consulted on the formulation of the PNF Code is important.

Clause “e”

Position: supported

Allowables under Schedule 5 of the Local Land Services Act should be permitted on a range of Standard Template LEP Zones, including E-Zones and Rural Zones.

Additional Comments on Private Native Forestry and the Bill

Private native forestry in NSW has been a sustainable and important industry in the regional areas . It supports two plus families and its importance has been overlooked for many years. The industry has forged ahead to become sustainable with changes in work practices and supportive legislation. The industry has worked hard to fulfil its commitment to the environment whilst being economically productive for the regional areas. PNF in NSW put back millions of dollars into struggling rural areas, in many places where regional unemployment is at all-time highs. It provides pathways for young people to join the workforce and to further skill themselves in many facets. It is extremely important to remove the dual consent firstly to remove the confusion about governance in different local government areas when it should be under a single piece of state legislation and secondly to remove the undue influence of rogue councillors overriding democratically elected state governments. Surely a single piece of state legislation would be adequate and not 128 different regulations, does the environment recognise local government boundaries?

Kind Regards,
Victor McGuire, for and on behalf of NCFM Pty Ltd.