

Submission  
No 179

**INQUIRY INTO LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND  
FUTURE OF THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS  
INDUSTRY**

**Organisation:** Southern New England Landcare

**Date Received:** 25 May 2021

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The Director  
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
[PortfolioCommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PortfolioCommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

25.05.2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission on long term sustainability and future of the  
timber and forest products industry**

Trees have many values other than their log value: soil protection, water purification, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and aesthetic value readily come to mind and the state forests provide these aplenty.

In the light of global warming and the advent of carbon farming, it behoves the forestry industry to widen their focus beyond plantation and native forestry to help strengthen the development of tree lots for carbon sequestration and the planting of trees on farms.

Growing trees beyond the forest and into farmland will still provide timber for the future. In addition, trees on farms provide many ecosystem services while they grow. For crops, pasture and livestock, the microclimate is made more suitable for production. The provision of shade becomes critical and an important aspect of animal welfare as temperatures increase.

Landholders should be given advice on the species that should be planted in the landscape to maximise production of both timber and environmental services. Forestry staff have the expertise to help with this advice. Forestry nurseries have the facilities and expertise to provide tree and shrub species that are suitable for planting on farm.

Many landholders wish to improve the value of their land for future generations and growing native trees and shrubs are seen as one important strategy for increasing production through increasing soil carbon, microbial activity and water efficiency. Farmers who have grown native plants often comment on the pleasure they get from the small birds that have returned to their properties. The diversity and numbers of birds is a good indication of the overall increase in biodiversity the farmer has achieved.

Landcare networks across the state provide direct communication with the huge number of landholders who are already interested in growing trees on farms. Landcare networks can provide the necessary liaison between forestry and the rural community to improve on the production of forest products on farm.

Southern New England Landcare Ltd has a proven track-record in encouraging landholders to improve their sustainability by planting suitable native species on their properties. We look forward to assisting the forest industry in programs designed to increase timber production on farms in the New England region of NSW.

Please note, we are happy for our submission to be published in full on the website.

Yours faithfully

Karen Zirkler, CEO, on behalf of  
Peter Metcalfe B. Sc. Agr.  
Board Member  
Southern New England Landcare Ltd