

MEDIA RELEASE



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“NSW Government promotes illegal logging”

The NSW Government last week released its draft Private Native Forestry code of practice for public exhibition. This code effectively takes away up to \$2.5 billion in assets from NSW landholders and locks them away in defacto national parks.

With the economic incentive to manage their forest resources stolen from them by the Iemma Government, landholders will walk away from the livelihood that has sustained them for generations.

In response local timber production will dramatically decline, timber mills will close down, vital rural employment will disappear and rural communities will again suffer through short sighted Iemma Government policy.

Perversely, in attempting to protect the NSW environment the draft PNF code will result in broad scale environmental destruction in south east Asia and our Pacific neighbours, as a result of illegal logging.

“If this draft PNF code remains unchanged its effect on the timber industry in NSW will be so great that, as the supply of high quality sawlogs dries up, imports will increase and New South Wales will lead Australia as the number one importer and consumer of illegally harvested wood products” said TCA NSW State Manager Peter Lezaich today.

Timber which is now grown and managed by individual farmers on an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable basis will no longer sustain the small towns and rural communities of NSW as it has for over 150 years.

TCA calls on the Iemma Government to extend the public exhibition period from 28 days to 3 months, to allow the community to participate in the development of this code and to not enact the code until after the necessary social, economic and environmental impact assessments are undertaken.

Ends

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