

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

ABN 48 083 197 586



Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne
Australia 3000

6 October 2010

Dear Premier Brumby,

Demonstrating the Economic, Social and Environmental implications of new National Parks

Dear Premier Brumby

The Institute of Foresters of Australia represents some 1350 professional foresters and forest managers. We are following up on recent land management decisions and whether they have contributed to the economic, social and environmental well-being of our rural landscape and people.

In particular, we require specific information as to the economic, environmental and social consequences of the Otways, and the River Red Gum land management decisions.

Otways National Park

- a) Please outline the change in tourism numbers associated with the creation of the expanded Otway National Park. Please provide this as the tourism numbers prior to the creation of the park and the tourism numbers since its creation.
- b) Please outline the cost of compensation for the dependent industries in this region and loss of annual regional income for the region.
- c) Please outline where the replacement timber resource, for what was being harvested in the Otways, is now being sourced.

River Red Gum National Park

- d) Please outline how tourist numbers will be measured following the creation of the new river red gum parks. We note with great regret that one of the major festivals being the River Redgum showcase has been forced to close due to loss of the dependent industry and people employed in that industry..
- e) Please outline the change in State forest employees and National park employees directly employed in these forests and new parks prior to and after the introduction of these parks.
- f) Please outline what the transition strategy is for production of alternative timber supplies.
- g) Please outline how environmental condition will be monitored.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia would also seek to be included in the stakeholder list for major land management decisions. The exclusion of the Institute of Foresters of Australia from the community engagement panel following the VEAC recommendations was concerning given the direct impact on our members of the decisions.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia welcomes genuine improvements in environmental sustainability of the rural landscape. We are supportive of multiple use forest for the reliant rural communities and production of sustainable timber and other forest products required by society. We are also supportive of a comprehensive reserve system. We do however strongly object to decisions being based on preference deals during elections that lead to devastating consequences for rural economies and the dependent communities.

We look forward to your response

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and the last name "Ryan" clearly legible.

Michael Ryan
Victorian Chair
Institute of Foresters of Australia