

341 Yungarra Drive
QUEDJINUP WA 6281

Mr Lyndon Rowe
Chairman, Economic Regulation Authority

10 December 2013

Dear Mr Rowe

Submission - Inquiry into micro economic reform in WA

I write as a member of the Australian Forestry Growers, a national organisation representing private forestry.

I am a professional forester. For more than 30 years I worked as a forester with WA Government departments. For most of that time I worked in farm forestry, managing extension and education programs for landowners interested in using trees to bring about positive changes in rural landscapes, including clean water, protected soil, wildlife habitat, improved aesthetics, stored carbon, bio-energy and commercial timber. These days I work for myself doing similar work; supporting landowners to use trees to make their properties and businesses work better.

I am making this submission because I consider private forestry in WA needs micro-economic reform. Private forestry can provide substantial economic and environmental benefits both to the State and to individual landowners but the current settings are discouraging private investment.

In my view aspects that need reform in this sound and sustainable industry include:

- the influence of Government on price of timber,
- the anti-competitive nature of the current model of timber supply,
- uncertainty about where and how the private grower fits in the forest industry,
- the lack of an overall vision and plan (strategy) for the forest industry in WA; and,
- the cost to Government of their (the Government's) participation in the industry.

I suggest that what is required is a separate and independent inquiry into the forest industry in WA, including private forestry.

Yours sincerely

Richard Moore
Member, Australian Forest Growers