



NTCA Submission

Inquiry into the Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011

SENATE RURAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

1. To provide the Senate Committee with the opinion of the National Timber Councils Association (NTCA) on the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011*.

BACKGROUND

The organisation

2. The NTCA is the peak body for municipal councils impacted by the timber industry in Australia. The purpose of the NTCA is to provide local government a voice at the national level on issues affecting local communities, industry, the environment and government in timber regions.
3. The NTCA President is Councillor Malcolm Hole, Wellington Shire Council, Victoria.
4. The NTCA is supportive of clear, long-term policy directions for the Australian forestry industry. The Association welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with State, Territory and Australian Governments to develop clear and positive outcomes for all three tiers of government, the forestry industry and rural and regional communities.

NTCA POSITION

The NTCA supports the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* for several reasons based on its prospective positive socio-economic implications, which are further outlined below.

5. The *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* provides further security for the domestic timber market and reduces unfair international competition.
6. It also promotes and reinforces the continued sustainability of the Australian timber industry.
7. The Bill recognises that illegal logging from overseas damages the domestic market and undermines Australian certification regulations within the native forestry industry.
8. Finally, the NTCA supports this Bill because it requires international logging imports to be held to the same standard as the domestic industry is required to meet.

RECOMMENDATION

9. That the Senate Committee supports the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011*.