



Tasman KB Pty Ltd

May 28th, 2024

### **Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment**

We refer to the above proposed amendment and wish to provide informed comments regarding suggested content of the proposal.

By way of background, we are a successful Timber wholesaling business which has been operating in the Australian market for almost 40 years. Tasman KB is committed to sustainable forestry practices and guarantees top quality products which are ethically sourced from domestic and international suppliers. Tasman KB has robust sourcing standards complemented by extensive audit processes from a financial, regulatory (FSC & PEFC) and safety perspective.

The key points that we wish to contribute to the discussion are as follows:

- Australia is in a housing crisis. There is insufficient timber supply to meet domestic requirements and imports are required to fill the void. Additional “red tape” will add to cost of living pressure and increase construction costs.
- The current Act aims to reduce the risk that illegally logged timber may be imported or processed in Australia. This is in line with Tasman KB’s internal procedures. Considering the length of the supply chains for some products, the complete elimination of risk is virtually impossible.
- Tasman KB has undertaken extensive compliance work in recent years. FSC & PEFC is becoming increasingly onerous and further compliance work will place a significant cost on business and result in supply disruptions.
- In our view, a large component of the regulations will need to be rewritten as they are almost impossible to meet.
- The introduction of strict liability or criminal processes is completely un-necessary in our view.

In summary, it is the view of Tasman KB that there is already significant regulation in place and that further extensive compliance processes are unnecessary.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.

**Noel Hopper**  
**Chief Financial Officer**