



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

Mr Chris Toyne
A/g Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
One National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Toyne

**“Reforming Australia’s Illegal Logging Regulations” Regulation Impact Statement
for second pass final assessment (OBPR Reference ID: 20673)**

I am writing to provide you with a copy of the “*Reforming Australia’s Illegal Logging Regulations*” Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for your second pass final assessment.

The RIS describes proposals developed by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to minimise the cost to business and individuals of complying with the due diligence obligations established in the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

The recommended option will establish a new ‘deemed to comply’ arrangement for timber products certified under the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes. This option is expected to provide a regulatory saving of approximately \$4.2 million.

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the issues identified in your letter of 10 August 2017. Specifically, additional text has been added to the ‘Recommended option’ section of the one page summary that clarifies that the recommended option represents the highest likely net benefit, while the data included in the charts in Appendix D of the RIS has also been updated.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS now meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.

I submit the RIS to OBPR for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Williamson', written over a white background.

David Williamson
Deputy Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

15 August 2017