The Institute of Foresters of Australia

ABN 48 083 197 586

24 May 2010

The Hon. Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 36, 1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

The Institute of Foresters Australia (IFA) was established in 1935 and is the peak professional body for forest scientists, forest educators and forested land managers in Australia. We are a non-profit organisation with 1,285 members who are committed to the principles of sustainable forest management and the processes and practices which translate these principles into outcomes.

The Institute has recently become aware that Forests NSW is in the process of closing access to its library and is seeking to disburse the collection of material that is contained within it.

This is of deep concern to the profession because this library collection is both the oldest and possibly the most extensive collection of forestry related literature and items in Australia. I am advised that it contains many unique items, including an extensive wood sample collection and historical photos that are not replicated in other archives and which are unable to be replaced.

The collection represents a long heritage of forest management, research and knowledge in NSW that dates from the late 19th Century. The Institute is concerned that if the collection is disbursed, its value for future research and understanding the historical perspectives of forest management within NSW will be lost.

While I acknowledge that some of our members are assisting Forests NSW with the review of the library collection, it is the strong view of the IFA that the core collection of unique forestry items should remain together as a single collection, and be available to members of the profession and the community as required.

The Institute would be pleased to discuss possible options to facilitate the retention of the core collection with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter Volker FIFA RPF
President