

## THE SENATE

## RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

21 May 2024

Ms Olga Harriton Chair Freight and Trade Alliance

Via email: info@FTAlliance.com.au

Dear Ms Harriton

## Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Strengthening Measures to Prevent Illegal Timber Trade) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

On 16 May 2024, the Senate referred the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Strengthening Measures to Prevent Illegal Timber Trade) Bill 2024 [Provisions]* to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by **20 June 2024**.

The bill amends the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 to:

- enable testing of timber products at the Australian border and beyond to ensure non-compliant, illegally logged timber is not imported;
- introduce a requirement for importers and processors to give notice before importing or processing regulated timber products;
- add strict liability offences, injunctions and enforceable undertakings to enforcement powers; enable audits to be carried out to determine compliance with the due diligence requirements;
- extend the time frame for issuing infringement notices to 24 months and enable the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to publish details of contraventions on their website.

More information about the bill can be found via this <u>link</u>.

The committee invites you to make a submission addressing some or all of the bill's provisions by **Friday, 31 May 2024.** Should you be unable to meet this deadline, please get in touch with the committee secretariat as soon as possible. Extensions may not be possible due to the tight reporting timeframe.

The committee encourages the lodgement of submissions via the <u>Online Submission System here</u>. If this is not possible, submissions should be sent via email to <u>rrat.sen@aph.gov.au</u> or by post to this address: PO Box 6100 Parliament House, ACT, 2600.

Please note that submissions become committee documents and are published online unless the committee decides otherwise. You should also be aware that submitters must not release their submissions publicly without the committee's prior approval. This is because although the contents of submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege, their unauthorised release is not.

If you would like the committee to consider receiving your evidence as confidential, please provide a covering letter to your submission that outlines the reasons for your request. However, the committee will sympathetically consider any request.

If you have any further questions, please contact the secretariat on 02 6277 3511.

Yours sincerely,

(sent electronically)

Mr Tas Larnach Committee Secretary