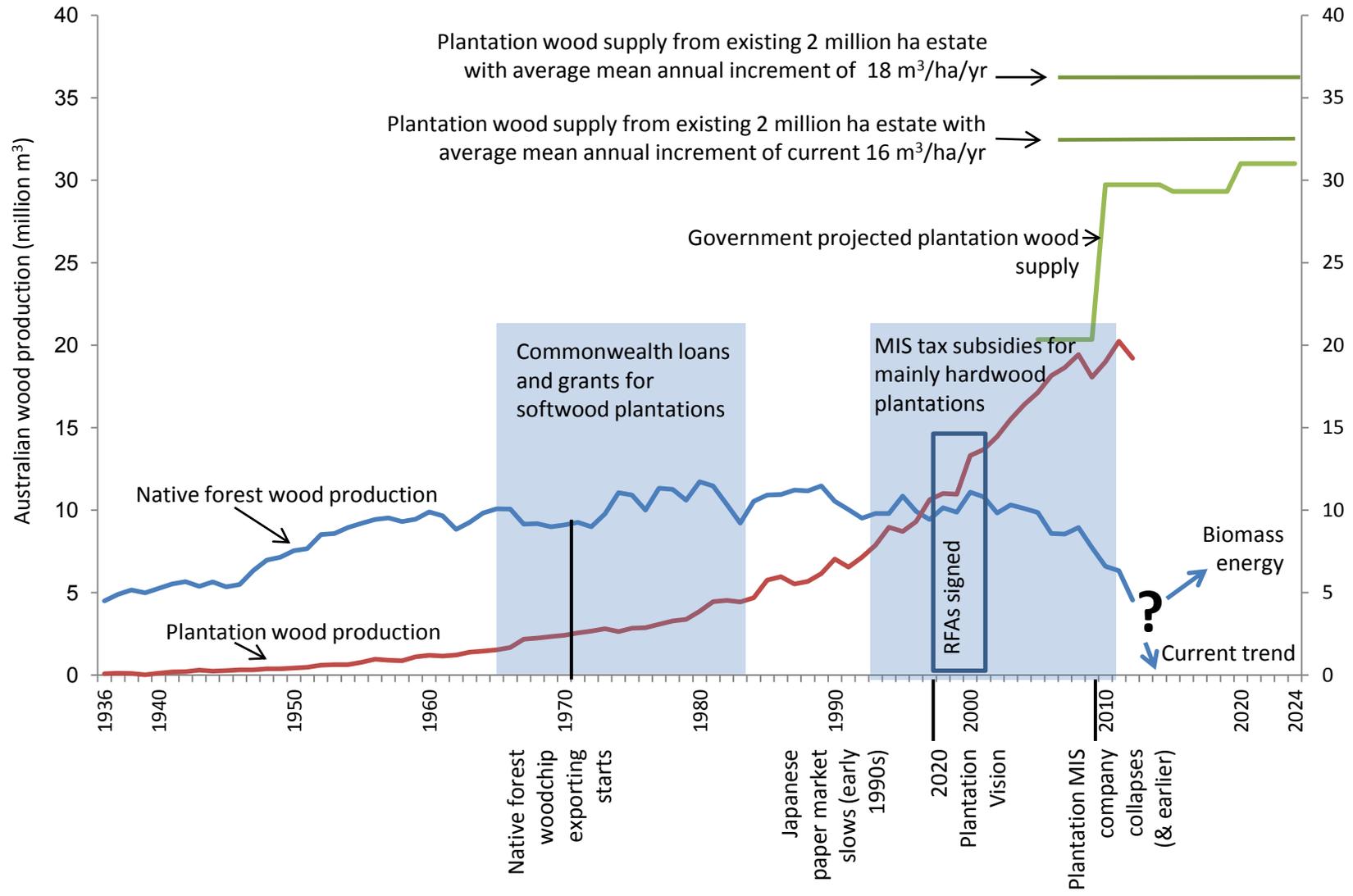


Only new and big markets like biomass energy can return native forest logging to historic levels



Prepared by Judith Ajani, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University July 2013. Data sources: Forestry and Timber Bureau 1969, *Compendium of Australian Forest Products Statistics 1935/36 to 1966/67*; ABARES *Australian Forest and Wood Products Statistics & Australian Commodity Statistics*; Bureau of Rural Sciences 2007, *Australia's Plantation Log Supply 2005 – 2049*; Ajani 2007, *The Forest Wars*, MUP.

Quantification of trends in Australian forestry since 2000

1. Over the period 2000 to 2012, plantation wood production increased by 44%. Native forest wood production declined by 59%.
2. In 2012, plantations supplied 81% of the industry's wood (19.2 million m³), its highest market share ever.
3. In 2012, native forests supplied 19% of the industry's wood (4.5 million m³), its lowest level of production since 1936.
4. Despite the collapse in native forest wood production and its main wood products markets (chip exports and domestic sawn timber), Australia's wood products industry has certainly not collapsed. Rather, it has taken advantage of the growing plantation wood resource and shifted Australia's sawn timber, wood panels, paper and chip exports to a more competitive plantation base. This is very good for industry.
5. Given current industry realities, wood production from native forests for sawn timber and chip exports will continue to contract.
6. According to ABARES data, in 2012 Australia's plantations supplied as much wood (19 million m³) as was used to make all the wood products we consumed irrespective of whether they were made domestically or imported. For those concerned about a wood deficit, Australia has none. Plantations alone are doing the job.
7. Productivity in Australia's plantation wood industry (m³/ha) has considerable room for improvement. Even without productivity improvements, Australia's plantation wood supply will continue to increase. If the industry lifts its productivity (even mildly) it can further increase wood supply to processors whilst avoiding the high cost of land acquisition for plantation expansion.