

**Veon**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am emailing you to say that I am in support to the amendments to the Agricultural Appeals Act. The industry at the moment is going through a very hard time and there are so many people I know of who have left the industry either by being let go by a forestry company or people who were working for themselves and just could not make a living due to the delay in licences being issued by the department. The main reasons I want the Act amended is as follows:

- There are long delays to licences caused by the FAC
- The FAC cannot cope with the workload
- This is hindering forestry activity and damaging the industry
- It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose
- People livelihoods are at stake

Anything that will bring our industry application process more into line with other planning processes in the country should be encouraged.

The department need to be able tell an applicant that their file will be processed within a certain amount of time, anything that will help with industry get to this stage is to be supported.

A situation where anyone can object or delay a forestry application even though it has no bearing on them is wrong and needs to change, peoples livelihoods are at stake, it is affecting the foresters and contractors working in the forest but also the forest owner who is trying to earn a living from the land he placed in good faith in to forestry. To allow a third party to abuse the appeals process and have the potential to bring down the entire sector needs to stop **before it is too late.**

Kind regards,

Veon Ltd