

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205284

Organisation: *N/A*

Location: *Australian Capital Territory*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:56:16 PM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat

Please accept my submission into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

I fully support an end to native forest logging and a future based on sustainable plantations.

I am a 15 year old high school student that attends [REDACTED] High School. I regularly enjoy bush walks with my family in native forests and grasslands of the ACT and Southern NSW. I am keen on the protection of native forests and grasslands because this is my home and where I may spend my free time in life in the future.

Logging native forests will remove the older trees, and subsequently the hollows and other habitats for forest wildlife, including the Koala and the Great Glider. The current levels of logging being done in these areas are no sustainable and will result in a removal of protections for key habitats. Continued logging will very likely have a contribution to the extinction of highly forest dependent species of wildlife. The fires in the Summer of 2019/20 have advanced the situation, making it more serious and more urgent.

Forests are vital sanctuaries for many threatened or endangered species that rely on forests that are mature and intact. Forests provide crucial services for the environment and rural communities, such as: Regulation of quality and flow in water, which is important for fishing and tourism. Recreational values for the local people and visitors. Cultural significance and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities. Habitat connectivity, which supports biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Plantations are a more sustainable way to produce timber. They allow you to create artificial forests with the sole purpose of being grown then cut down and regrown again. This allows the production of high quality and composite timber products. Moving away from native forest logging and towards plantation logging will allow us to reduce pressure on native forests and prevent the removal of habitats. Plantations are not only more sustainable but also more economically viable, they can supply Australia's timber requirements and also provide a range of economic benefits including jobs for rural areas.

Logging within native forests releases mass amounts of Carbon, this largely contributes to climate change. Stopping logging within these forests would allow the forests to recover, this would also allow them to store more carbon and would support the climate goals of the country. Healthy forests are fundamental to reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought. By stopping logging, forests can play a crucial role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in Carbon markets.

Sincerely,