

# Public submission

NANCY PALLIN

Submission ID: 204118

---

**Organisation:** *N/A*

---

**Location:** *New South Wales*

---

**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

---

Submission date: 10/11/2024 3:21:35 PM

Submission to the NSW Independent Forestry Panel

October 2024

I appreciate the opportunity to present my opinions on the logging of native forests by NSW Forests.

### **Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW**

I urge the panel to consider the operating losses of this industry and its unacceptable costs to the taxpayer.

Publicly available information was assessed by the Australia Institute for the years between Financial Year 2009 and 2014. It was found that the Softwood Plantations Division of NSW State Forests cross-subsidised loss-making native forestry logging to the order of \$79m.

I urge the Panel to make recent data available because I believe that it is likely to show that that it is time to end the logging of native forests in NSW State Forests immediately just on economic grounds.

<https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/money-doesnt-grow-on-trees/>

### **Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values**

#### **Ecological Concerns - Impacts on Threatened Species**

I am deeply concerned about the impacts native forest logging in State Forests is having on a range of native species including many which are threatened by habitat loss. These include forest owls, greater gliders, sugar gliders, squirrel gliders, flying-foxes, birds and many species of microbats. Removal of mature eucalypt trees destroys nesting hollows for many species. Each coup that is felled removes habitat for the animals which lived in it. They cannot move 'next door' because those forest habitats are already occupied.

The grey-headed flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*, a threatened species listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, plays a crucial role in seed dispersal and pollination for many indigenous tree species. This species requires a mosaic of flowering trees for food which include native tree species such as blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis* and spotted gum *Corymbia maculata*. The incremental removal of these resources due to native forest logging has put severe pressure on the grey-headed flying-fox population. Grey-headed flying-foxes are panmictic, that is, genetically they are one population. Loss of habitat in any part of their range impacts the whole population.

Trees in a forestry coup takes many decades to grow to maturity and therefore cannot provide the nectar and pollen resources that the original forest provided.

Threatened birds such as the swift parrot *Lathamus discolor* and the regent honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* are nomads, which are nectar feeders and move about the forests to feed on blossoming trees. Their populations have already severely declined and continued logging will further endanger these populations, leading to irreversible biodiversity losses in NSW State Forests.

Native forest logging cannot be considered a sustainable harvest and therefore should be terminated.

### **Cultural values**

I consider that logging of native forests no longer has the social licence it once had, therefore, it is time to end this destructive practice. From my experience people are concerned by the damage it is doing to native forest ecosystems, and that it is an uneconomic industry.

Polling research on “Ending native forest logging across Australia” was undertaken on April 9, 2024 by the Australia Institute which showed that there is strong support for this proposition.

- Seven in 10 Australians (69%) support an end to native forest logging on public land across Australia, including 37% who strongly support an end.

The polling found that in NSW there is majority support, 70%, for ending native forest logging.

<https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/polling-research-ending-native-forest-logging-across-australia/>

### **Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail**

I support the harvesting of timber both hardwood and softwood from plantations.

A reassessment of the quantities and types of timber required needs to be undertaken in view of changes in technology eg. mining methods are changing; coal mining will be phased out so timber supports will not be needed. Electricity poles are being made of composite materials not timber. Building construction methods and materials are also changing.

## **The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

The existing softwood plantations, such as radiata pine, for construction timber production. These plantations provide a sustainable source of timber without the adverse impacts on biodiversity associated with native forest logging.

I support the responsible harvesting of hardwood timber from private land, provided that the trees are planted on already cleared farmland. No further native vegetation should be cleared for timber production on private land.

Ending native forest logging will enable native tree plantations on private land to be more profitable by ending this subsidised competition in the market.

## **The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

I recommend that NSW State Forests containing native vegetation be transferred to conservation management. Such areas should be managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

By discontinuing native forest logging, the existing grants and avoided losses could provide funding for ongoing management by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Furthermore, the impact on jobs is likely to be minimal, as approximately 600 people are directly employed in the native forestry industry in NSW, less than 0.1% of the total workforce.

When state forests were previously transferred to national parks management, people employed in the logging industry gained employment with the National Parks and Wildlife Service or in regional tourism industries.

Although NSW State Forests have provided some social benefits such as camping sites, walking tracks and some signage about ecology, these social benefits would be more effectively provided by the National Park and Wildlife Service.

## **Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests.**

I consider that the native forests currently under NSW State Forest management would be better managed for their biodiversity benefits and to store carbon.

Harvested coups are currently burned to stimulate regeneration of a narrow range of plant species. This results in the release of greenhouse gases and degradation of biodiversity values. Instead, ending native forest logging can enable recovery of these forests.

Research has shown that undisturbed forests store more carbon, protect water catchments and are resilient to fires.

### **Conclusion**

Therefore, ending native forest logging will have economic, social and biodiversity benefits.