

Public submission

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Independent Forestry Panel
Submission by Richard Miller
5 October 2024

Dear Forestry Industry Actional Panel,

I write to make a submission to your inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

My name is Richard Miller; I live and work in [REDACTED], NSW. Regional NSW is a beautiful and iconic part of the world; home to forests not seen anywhere else in the world. From my childhood, I've loved camping, hiking and exploring in NSW forests and I want my two young daughters to have the opportunity for the same kind of experiences.

That's why I'm writing in the hope that the panel will recommend that native forest logging be brought to an end in NSW. I believe this is the only right outcome.

Our forests belong to us.

Forests belong to all Australians and we all have a responsibility to protect them, as well as a right to enjoy them. How can we explain to our children that they will not have the same opportunity to enjoy hiking in the forests that we did as children, because we cleared the trees for money? It's not morally right.

Native forestry makes a loss and is costing taxpayers.

Speaking of money, apart from any environmental concerns, I have deep concerns about the economics about this industry. It defies logic that taxpayers are paying millions of dollars each year toward a destructive industry, especially when you consider that the end products are so often low-grade woodchips, pulp for cardboard, and other low-value products. Where is the value for the taxpayer?

Logging is pushing iconic species like the koala to extinction.

I'm sure you know that, without significant change, koalas are forecast to be extinct in the wild before 2050. That's a tragedy, not just for this species but for the many others in the same boat. The flow-on effects of these extinctions on the biosphere are immeasurable. Koalas and other Australian natives deserve to be protected and nurtured, not destroyed.

Logging is contributing to even worse climate change impacts.

Bushfires are made worse by clearing and logging. In a time when global warming is making fires worse and recovery harder, it is not right to keep adding to the problem by logging native forest. Logging degrades nature's ability to recover from fire and makes the fires worse, leading to greater destruction and potentially even the loss of human life and property.

Traditional Owners have valid concerns about logging impacts on their cultural heritage.

First Nations people are consistently protesting at the way that logging intrudes on spaces of cultural significance. It's important to recognise their rights and aspiration to protect these sites and pass on their culture to future generations unhindered.

There are many more points to be made and no doubt you will hear from many other people—much more qualified and articulate than myself.

I hope that you will accept these submissions and they will guide your decision to stop logging in NSW forests as you consider the moral, ethical, environmental and economic reasons for such a decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Miller