

Public submission

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Ana Vidal Madrid



13th October 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

NSW Government

Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat

[Office Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat,

I am writing to you as a passionate trail runner and an advocate for our unique Australian environment. The breathtaking beauty and biodiversity of our native forests are essential not only for ecological balance but also for the health and well-being of individuals and communities who engage in outdoor activities like trail running.

Preserving Biodiversity: A Call to Action

Our native forests are home to countless species of flora and fauna, many of which are endangered and at risk due to habitat destruction. Logging activities not only threaten these species but also compromise the ecosystems that support them. The loss of biodiversity can lead to irreversible damage, impacting not just wildlife but also the landscapes that trail runners cherish.

As someone who spends countless hours exploring these trails, I have witnessed firsthand the vibrant life that thrives within these ecosystems. From the calls of native birds to the elusive movements of endangered mammals, each run through these forests is a reminder of the beauty and fragility of our natural heritage. The thought of losing this connection due to logging is deeply concerning.

The Importance of Nature for Physical and Mental Health

Engaging with nature through activities like trail running has profound benefits for physical and mental health. Studies consistently show that access to natural environments reduces stress, improves mood, and fosters overall well-being. As communities increasingly seek outdoor recreational opportunities, preserving our native forests becomes paramount—not just for the sake of wildlife, but for the health of our citizens.

Sustainable Alternatives

I urge the NSW Government to consider sustainable alternatives to logging that prioritize conservation and responsible management of our forests. By investing in eco-

tourism and conservation initiatives, we can create economic opportunities that do not compromise our natural heritage. Supporting native forest preservation can lead to increased visitation, bolstering local economies while protecting the very landscapes that attract visitors.

Conclusion

I respectfully request that the NSW Government take immediate action to halt native forest logging, thereby protecting our endangered flora and fauna. By safeguarding these vital ecosystems, we not only preserve biodiversity but also ensure that future generations of trail runners—and all Australians—can enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our native forests.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter. I look forward to seeing positive changes that reflect our shared commitment to protecting Australia's unique environment.

Sincerely,

Ana Vidal Madrid

