

Public submission

ANDREY GODFREY

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Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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To whom this may concern,

Hi my name is Andrew Godfrey.

I work in the timber industry (Red Gum) for Gelletly Red Gum Firewood in [REDACTED] NSW. I have been employed in this position for 8 years and in this time have seen the benefits of the forest being harvested properly.

The industry of harvesting Red Gum sustainably means that there will always be a forest for future generations to enjoy. When harvesting is completed in an area the regrowth of the forest is speed up as a result of selective harvesting of trees, thus being able to be re-harvested in the future.

As an employee of the industry, it means that I can live, work, play and enjoy my life with family within the town we live.

If the industry was to close this would change and local businesses would suffer, schools would lose numbers of children, sporting bodies would also suffer as a result of not being in the town because lack of job opportunities are not here.

The industry employees 130+ workers in the town, this would have a major impact on the town and surrounding community as stated earlier (jobs, schools, sports, businesses).

As a result, the town community would slowly die from the vibrant place that it is to possibly a ghost town.

If the industry was to close, who would actively maintain the forest for the event of fire? There simply isn't enough manpower in the community to do so. If the industry does close, we can expect fires to the capacity of Ash Wednesday, Black Saturday fires and we know how they turned out, catastrophic failures, we never want to see this happen again. Maintaining the forest by being harvested sustainably is the best form of early defense to not have a major fire.

In closing I urge you to come and see firsthand how this is done. Locals looking after local forests in the best way.