

Public submission

ANNIE MCGOVERN OAM

Submission ID: e9

Organisation: N/A

Location:

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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Public submission

To Whom it may concern

Please find enclosed my submission to the Independent Forestry Panel.

I am currently in a Remote Area with-out access to Internet.

Thank you for the opportunity for my Submission to be included in the deliberation on the Forest Industry Assessment Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Annie McGovern OAM.

11.10.24

Public submission

Submission to the Independent Forestry Panel deliberating on the Forest Industry Assessment Plan.

1. The Old Growth Forests that remain in N.S.W. are more precious as standing Forests than anything that can be achieved through human intervention. They represent the last remnants of the once vital Forests of N.S.W. There should be no consideration of any plans to continue harvesting these age-old stable and self-sustaining Forests. They are the vital hubs, seedbanks and stabilizers of winds and weathers. They are homes to our unique and endangered wildlife.

The re-growth occurring in areas already logged are only just beginning to recover from past exploitation and need to be left to regenerate. There is no value in any way to continue to harvest the very small sized trees that they are. Forestry Corporation should remove itself from our Native Forests, where they have displayed totally inadequate understanding of these vital ecosystems.

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2. The native Forests of N.S.W. predate all of our small 200 years in this country. They have been stable ecosystems providing habitat for the diverse range of wildlife for whom the Forests are home.

Aboriginal People have lived and thrived in these environments for thousands of years and retain living connection within all the various regions of N.S.W.

Forests retain moisture in the ground and atmosphere, absorb excess carbon, control wind-flow and are critically relevant to all aspects of stable ecological cycles in N.S.W.

In this time where the Federal govt. has declared a clear focus on repair and regeneration of our Ecosystems, continued and accelerated over-industrialization of the natural environment is inconsistent with this national strategy.

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3. Excessive removal of Forests with little consideration for the needs of the future, has left N.S.W. in a state of diminished supply. Wasteful practices, particularly the provision of timbers that have been absorbed by the Woodchip Industry, are a disgrace to the management capability of the timber industry. Where the “resource” is now so depleted, the Forest Corporation cannot presume to ‘continue it’s plundering of the Forests.

The notion of “perpetual growth” in a finite ecosystem is human folly that requires a re-think of our whole way of operating, where responsibility to ensure provision of sustainable practices that will support future needs is a necessity.

The Forests cannot continue providing what Forestry Corporation has so wantonly destroyed.

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4. Private Native Forestry is shifting the focus from local landholders who preserve the Forests as a responsible aspect of land management, to where certain economic venturers are now buying up land purely to exploit the timber reserves on these properties.

Hardwood Plantations are few and far between despite “Forestry Agreements” to reduce the need for logging Old growth Forests. Those “Agreements” at many levels are a farce.

Softwood Plantations are mostly Pinus Radiata known to be completely alien to the Australian Environment, very degenerative to soil and unsuitable to any habitation by our Native Wildlife. Softwood Plantations are seen to be invading most of our cleared State Forests. This Public hand is primarily being given over to a form of privatised industry where the Public has no access to these areas. These are highly flammable forests in hot summers.

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5. It may surprise people to think that the “State Forests” are not obliged to play any “role” in the maintenance of our social options. They existed long before the current set of circumstances arose, and to assume that these Forests are there primarily to fulfill our human needs is the attitude that has led to the very poor state of the Forests today.

Vast areas of regenerating Woodlands (and some Pine Plantations) are smothered by invasive weed species that are out of control and rendering the land inaccessible. Forestry Corporation is accountable for its mismanagement. There is much repair work that needs to be done, but, must be approached in a far more environmentally conscious way.

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6. Carbon trading provides another back door scheme to avoid taking full responsibility for hazardous human action. The Land and our Forests need time to repair and regenerate.

Harvesting from these areas has been non-viable for a considerable period of time. It is now time to END NATIVE Forest hogging.

It is time to take responsible for our actions, malpractices and presumptions and ownership.

The Forests are first and foremost an age-old system evolved over eons of time that have been completely suited to the ecology of the Ancient Continent.

Removal of the complex ecosystems is a huge part of what is forcing extremes of weather and the changing and unpredictable trends towards the future.