

Public submission

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To all who cares sincerely about the timber industries future in this Country.

My name is Anthony Parker and I used to Pay if 4th generation timber industry worker. I say 'I used to be' as in 1998 I was forced out of the timber game due to the labor government's ridiculous stance on logging old growth forests, locking them up.

In 1991 I experienced protests where the protesters left the bush, after five months of being there, like a rubbish dump and didn't take any rubbish with them some even excreted in their own hands and threw it at the trucks when driving through the protest zone. True story!

While I found a new career in mining, which has been good to myself, wife and our extended family, my heart still lies in the timber industry and its future. It was my experience when I was in the logging game, everything was done for the future benefit of the forests and the wildlife within their bushes. Every log taken from these forests was marked by a forester worker and nothing was ever marked for taking within a specific distance of gullies and waterways. Similar practices still happen today.

As I said I'm a 4th generation timber worker and thus have grown up with timber in my blood. I am a qualified wood machinist, which is machining timber to make such products as timber flooring, stud material for walls and construction, architraves, lining boards, just to name a few products. I would hazard I guess that every person opposed to logging and the timber industry has at least one form of timber product in their houses!

I am 58 years old and have been around logging and the timber industry, pretty much all my entire life. I learned to operate equipment at a very young age with my father and learned how to work hard, because if you wanted anything in life you had to work hard for it.

I have a brother and his family who are still in the industry with a logging business who is doing his best to keep afloat with the uncertainty of the industry. To the people who oppose logging, I challenge each and every one of you to find out the actual facts about the logging and the timber industry instead of listening and watching to all the BS and untruths spread by the wider media, just because it sells a story.

In my time in forests over the years, I have never once seen a dead koala or any other animal for that matter, due to a logging operation. These animals are much smarter than the people opposing logging. They hear the noise of the chainsaws and logging equipment and move away out of the area until logging is done and then they come back to a healthy forest.

I have also witnessed and fought very severe fires in eucalypt forests and locking these forests up forever is not that solution. If left unlogged and locked up one of these days these fires in our growth forests will be so severe they won't be able to be put out and the outcome will be a horrendous loss of life of the wildlife that live within. These fires create their own firestorms within and travel at extreme speed, certainly way too fast for animals to escape. The forestry have maintained fire trails and used to be allowed to conduct regular back burning to ease risk of potential disasters.

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I know they still conduct control burns to help mitigate bad situations but are restricted to how much they can do due to red tape, it's not enough and certainly not enough to protect wildlife.

Unfortunately, the government of the last 30 plus years don't have the stones to make real decisions that will benefit the country outright instead they pander to the desires of the minority groups just to get re-elected.

They have sold off all our assets and in a lot of cases we buy them back at triple the price! Gas is just one example, we don't manufacture anything anymore, cars, steels...etc.

If we keep giving into these green groups and other self-centered organizations, this country will be broke soon.

Something needs to change very soon, this country has more wealth in it's minerals, coal, iron ore and timber than most other countries and unfortunately these minority groups don't want the country to succeed anymore.

They just want to close everything down and the governments we have, are they so blind that all this wealth we have is what is keeping the country afloat for now?

If the decision is made to shut down the timber industry, I believe we have sold out everything that has ever made this country what it is today!

Thankyou for accepting my submission and I certainly hope commonsense prevails.