

# Public submission

BRENDAN GLEESON

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**Organisation:** *N/A*

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**Location:** *Victoria*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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## Submission

### Shut down NSW native forestry and Victorian businesses close

Our company is Riverina Redgum Firewood Supplies and we have been operating for 34 years based out of [REDACTED] Victoria.

It is a family business that retails firewood for quality heating.

We employ 3 full time and 4 part time staff members who live locally in [REDACTED] with their families.

Our supplies come from the sustainable river redgum harvesting in NSW based around [REDACTED]. Since the closure of the native forest operations in Victoria we are totally reliant on sourcing from NSW.

We are a vital part of the supply chain that provides firewood from the residues of forest operations in NSW to the wood heater market which is very strong in Victoria.

As part of giving back to our community we provide sponsorships such as the local football club to encourage young players.

Our customers want a sustainable supply of timber and there are no redgum plantations that provide this resource. Redgum is a highly prized firewood because of its inherent properties.

I would recommend that you watch the short video made by Pivot Stove and Heating in Geelong on how to prevent emissions from the wood stoves and heaters which educates customers on the type of wood and how it must be prepared as well as heater maintenance. We take these issues very seriously.  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/yqgZzdTR5dbAURkK/>

If the NSW government determined to follow the same policy as Victoria, then the business would have to close and the staff would lose their jobs. Victoria has already been hard hit with difficult economic conditions and this would be another blow to my region where jobs are hard to find and a family business would close.

## **Submission**

**We would support the retention of the NSW native forest industry as it is well regulated and sustainable and provides vital heating for many in Victoria who are battling the high cost of living particularly electricity prices.**

**The closure of the Victorian industry did not make sense and the government is now paying millions of dollars to provide firefighting services and forest maintenance services that were all provided within the industry structure previously.**