

Public submission

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Dear Members of the Independent Forestry Panel

Subject: Protecting Our Public Native Forests: A Call for Sustainable Forestry Practices

Please accept my submission into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. I am writing to you today as a concerned member of the community deeply invested in the future of our natural environment.

The natural beauty and ecological significance of New South Wales' public native forest cannot be overstated. These forests are not only a vital part of our heritage but also play an essential role in maintaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and providing recreational opportunities for all Australians.

- I fully support an end to native forest logging and a future based on sustainable plantations. The continuation of logging in public native forests is incompatible with our commitment to sustainability. The detrimental effects on flora and fauna, soil health, and water quality are well-documented. To ensure the long-term health of our environment, it is imperative that logging in public native forests is ceased within this term of Government.

- Logging of native forests is leading to the extinction of species, such as the Greater Glider and Koala and so cannot be described as sustainable. Sustainability should be at the heart of all forestry practices. Logging in public native forests poses a significant threat to the delicate ecosystems that these forests support. The current methods of logging often result in habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity, and increased carbon emissions. By ending logging in public native forests, we can preserve these invaluable ecosystems for future generations.

- Logging public native forests is costing the taxpayer millions and leading to permanent damage to our forests.

- We need healthy forests for holding carbon, cleaning our water, providing habitat, improving fire management, providing recreation, spiritual connection and logging native forests damages all these values.

The Future Role of Plantations and Private Forestry: To meet the demand for timber and other forest products, we must shift our focus towards plantation forestry. These sectors offer a more sustainable solution, as they can be managed in ways that minimise environmental impact while providing economic benefits. By investing in plantation forestry, we can ensure a steady supply of timber without compromising the integrity of our native forests.

Conclusion: The decision to end logging in public native forests is a crucial step towards a sustainable future. It reflects our collective responsibility to protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of New South Wales. I urge the NSW Independent Forestry Panel to take bold and decisive action to safeguard our public native forests and promote sustainable forestry practices.

Thank you for considering my submission. Together, we can ensure that our forests remain a thriving and integral part of our ecosystem.

Yours sincerely

Brian Mason

