

# Public submission

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**Organisation:** *N/A*

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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

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## Independent Forestry Panel

12<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Submission

#### **Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage value**

As the only developed nation identified as a deforestation hotspot, it is time for NSW to join Victoria, South Australia and the ACT and transition away from native forest logging.

Native forest logging will drive extinction of vulnerable species. With multiple impacts, including habitat loss, climate change, invasive species - many native species are at critical population thresholds and continued logging will drive extinction of species found nowhere else on the planet.

The following is sourced by research from [Michelle Ward, Griffith University](#); [David Lindenmayer, Australian National University](#), and [James Watson, The University of Queensland](#)

*Ongoing logging in NSW affects the habitat of at least 150 species considered at risk of extinction, due mostly to historical deforestation and degradation.*

*Thirteen of these species are listed as critically endangered. This means there is a 20% probability of extinction in ten years (or five generations, whichever is longer) without urgent conservation action.*

*Some species' distributions had high overlaps with recent logging. They include the [floodplain rustyhood](#) (75% overlap with logging), [Orara boronia](#) (26%), [Hakea archaeoides](#) (24%), [long-footed potoroo](#) (14%), [southern mainland long-nosed potoroo](#) (12%) and [southern brown bandicoot](#) (9%). Species with the most distribution by area that overlapped with logging included [koala](#) (400,000 ha), [south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo](#) (370,000 ha) and [spot-tailed quoll](#) (southeast mainland population, 310,000 ha).*

*Our research shows the importance of a historical perspective. Almost all the forest-dependent species we assessed have suffered terribly from land clearing and fires over the past two centuries. They now survive in small parts of their natural range.*

Australian native forests are rich carbon sinks, disturbing them creates greater fire risk and risks loss of our biodiversity.

Why would we allow extinction of unique species for a short term unprofitable activity? Its time to transition to plantation timbers as many countries are now recognising for eg New Zealand.

Christine Hannan