

Public submission

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End Native Forest Logging 2024 Submission to NSW Independent Forestry Panel

Dear Secretary, Please accept this submission to the NSW Independent Forestry Panel into the future of forest logging operations in NSW Public Forests.

I fully support an immediate end to native forest logging and a future industry based on sustainable plantations;

- **Native forest logging is driving the endangered koala and greater glider to extinction.**
An immediate logging moratorium should be placed over core greater glider and koala habitat while the FIAP process is underway;
- **The true value of our native forests comes from their critical role in carbon storage, providing a clean and reliable water supply, providing critical habitat, recreation and spiritual connection.**

Logging cannot continue in public native forests without pushing the Koala, Greater Glider, Coastal Emu and many more forest-dependent wildlife much further towards extinction.

Illegal logging practices, endangered species habitat destruction and totally inadequate pre-logging wildlife surveys have become the norm for Forestry Corporation. Under current rules, the volume of logs taken is considered more important than endangered species. This must stop now.

I would like to refer to **comments by Independent NSW MLC Justin Field**, following the 2019/2020 catastrophic bushfires, regarding the **The Natural Resources Commission of NSW Report into native Forest Logging in NSW.**

He said that the **Natural Resources Commission of NSW** were clearly calling for the immediate and major scaling back of native forest logging in NSW.

He described the Natural Resources Commission report into post fire logging in NSW as 'shocking'. He said the report made it clear that business as usual for the native forest logging industry is simply not possible or acceptable in the aftermath of the 2019/20 fires.

"In particular the report makes clear that there will be profound medium and long-term impacts on the South Coast where even the most optimistic assessment will see timber supply dramatically cut for at least 50 years.

"There is no fair analysis of this report's findings other than that ongoing logging of native forests is environmentally and economically unsustainable and we need a plan to transition out of native forest logging in NSW.

He called for an immediate moratorium across the entire NSW South Coast, which is identified in the report as either 'extreme' and 'high' risk.

"There needs to be an honest conversation with the community about **an industry restructure to exit native forest logging and a plan to manage our state forests for ecological recovery, future fire mitigation and resilience.**

"Whilst this report will no doubt be devastating to some, it also presents an opportunity for long-term reform to reimagine our state forests as ecological and recreational reserves for the future, to unlock the economic opportunity for nature based tourism while managing the forests for their immense carbon potential as well as their intrinsic importance as critical habitat for wildlife increasingly under pressure from compounding climate threats.

We know that, in our forests lie a vital piece of the climate change puzzle, and that even at this late time forests remnants can be protected and nurtured - for our benefit, as an essential part of the **ecology and for CO2 sequestration.**

**Yours
Colin Sagar**