

Public submission

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Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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I, David Rowe take this opportunity to urge you to advise the government to end native forest logging in NSW.

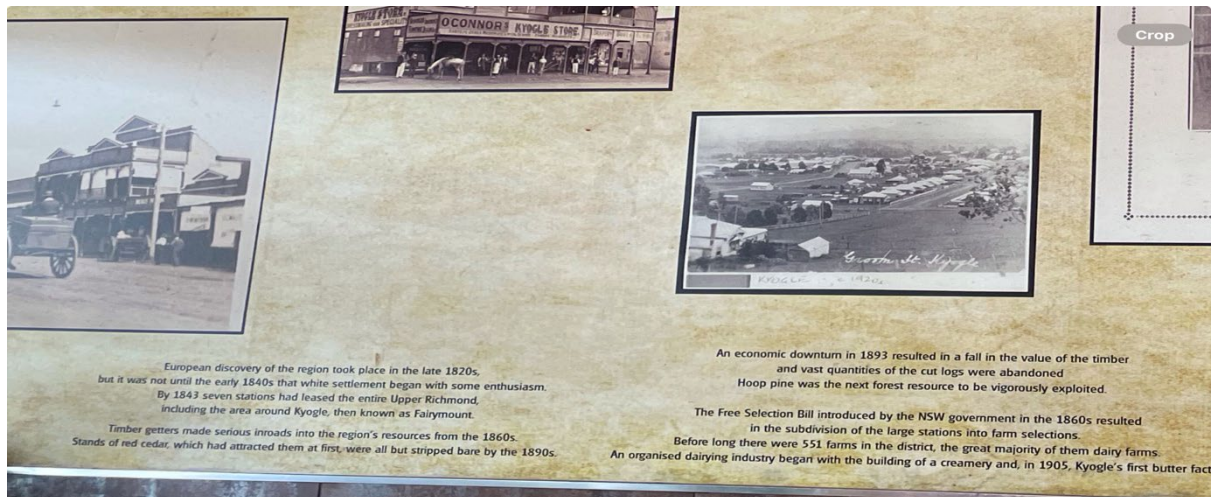
1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

- a. As a resident of numerous rural communities from Eden to Tweed and from the Snowy to NewEngland throughout my 70 + years of life I have witnessed the senseless waste and destruction of our environment by irresponsible governance and failed regulatory practices including by Forestry Corp in their various forms.

Our Native Forest Logging is not sustainable, some background to back this up:

- b. In or about 1860 timber cutters arrived in the Northern Rivers NSW , drawn by the large stands of Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) which attracted them. By about 1890 the forest of Red Cedar had been stripped bare, and basically remain so to this day. The next to suffer was Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*). They, along euthanized other Big Scrub and Koala Habitat trees Tallowood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus teriticornis*) to name but a few iconic species that were seen by Immigrants and Governments as resource to be exploited vigorously. (see photo from Kyogle Bakery NSW

c.



- d. In addition: “ It is estimated that by 1750 the distribution of sub tropical rainforest had contracted to 200,000 ha in northeast New South Wales and in southeast Queensland. The largest continuous area of the rainforest was the big scrub, which covered 75,000 ha on the southern flank of the Mount Wollumbin from the foothills of nightcap range in the north to Byron Bay, Ballina , Meerschaum Vale, and Lismore in the south.

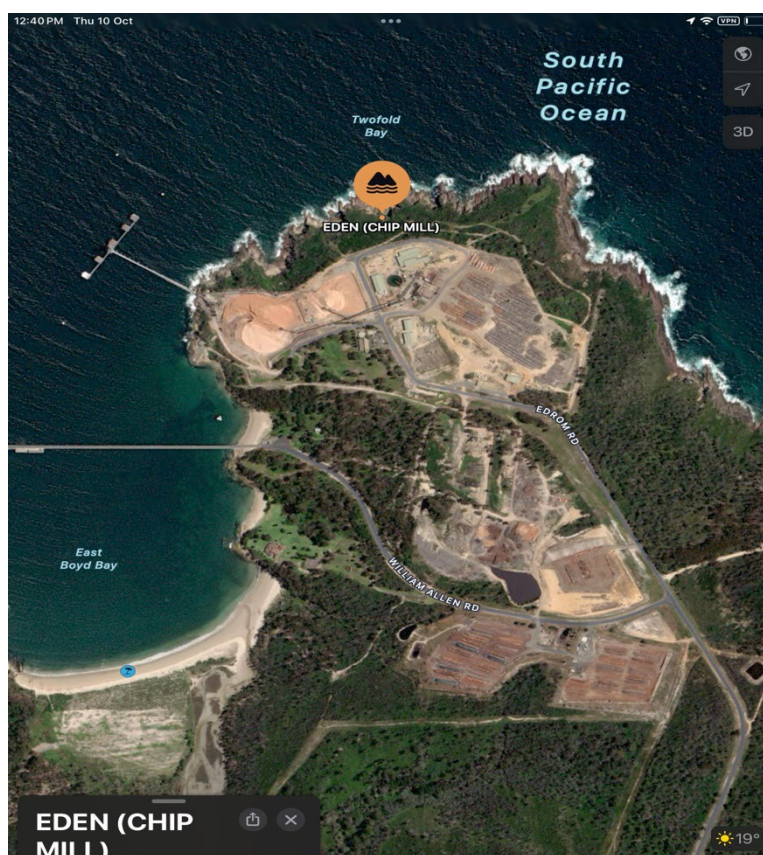
- e. For thousands of years before European settlement, local aboriginals lived in and used the big scrub and coast rainforests. The forest provided them with an abundance of food including macadamia, nuts, figs, wild grapes, yams, Cunjevoi roots, the hearts of Bangalow and Cabbage tree palms, black bean seeds, brush, turkeys, bandicoots, pademelons, and small wallabies. The big scrub was also a place of spiritual significance for aboriginal people. For example, ceremonial corroborees were held at Bora rings in grass clearings, the remains of which are still visible today.
- f. In the 30 years following European settlement, 99% of the big scrub is cleared, primarily for agriculture. All that remain with 80 mainly small patches of remnant rainforest with a total area of less than 750 ha. Only two remnants, both in what is now NightCap National Park , exceed 50 ha in area. The rest of the lowlands of tropical rainforest in New South Wales and Queensland suffered a similar plight with 90% being cleared”. Source page 4 Subtropical Rainforest Restoration Third Edition 2019. Published by Big Scrub Landcare.
 - i. <https://bigscrubrainforest.org/>
- g. Koala habitats and corridors suffered the same exploitation.
- h. Despite this 164 year of time for regrowth we see no evidence of the trees, habitat and wildlife that was destroyed.
- i. The adjective “Sustainable “ equates to:
 - a. **Capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment**
- j. This is just one example of what we should have more of if Forestry was sustainable:



Impact of Woodchipping .

- k. In or about November 1967, the then Premier of NSW Askin allowed Harris-Daishowa Japanese company to destroy our forests near Eden for wood chip despite the NPWS Scientific Committee recommendations to set aside a 220000 ha National Park.
- l. Contracts for exporting woodchip were signed off without effective evaluation and began the forest wars. Forest can produce around 55000x 106 metric tone of oxygen per year or about 17 tones per hectare.
 - a. Source: <https://npansw.org.au/2019/11/27/a-chipmill-and-the-beginning-of-the-forest-wars/>
 - b. I refer you to the book by Professor David Lindenmayer, the Forest Wars 2024, which every NSW politician has a copy of.
 - i. Chapter 8 specifically addresses the myth of sustainability
 - ii. <https://books.apple.com/au/book/the-forest-wars/id6474153600>
- m. Forestry corporation conceded this so called “resource” is unsustainable in February 2019. ““The changing timber resource is largely due to the effects of substantial wildfires in the 1980’s. The forests that regenerated following these fires have smaller more uniform diameter trees than the large mixed-size trees harvested from the forests over the last 20 years. New equipment is needed to process this new resource.”
 - a. Source: <https://aboutregional.com.au/eden-timber-jobs-in-limbo-as-change-takes-hold/287424/>
 - b. Clearly some timber workers are more valuable than others.
- n. In or about 2013 Forestry Corporation, a taxpayer liability and serial offender and Forest destroyer was protected in legislation by section 69ZA Forestry Act from being exposed before the courts by the community:
 - a. <http://portsea.austlii.edu.au/cgi-pit/renderFrag.py?frag=%2Fhome%2Fwww%2Fpit%2Fxml%2Fns%2Fact%2F18f9e3o1tafj8.xml&year=2013&month=10&day=30>
 - b. Anti protest laws were implemented to obstruct the community speaking out/ taking action against the subsidized forest destruction industries and fossil fuel companies.
 - c. This occurred without consulting the taxpayers by our tax payer funded politicians in contempt of the public interest and section 5 of the NSW constitution.

- o. “During 2020, 96% of trees felled in the NSW region of Eden were turned into woodchips, with 1.5% for firewood. **Elizabeth Minter** and **Harriet Swift** report on the potentially illegal activity and the huge amount of taxpayers’ money being handed out to the timber industry.” Source:
 - a. <https://michaelwest.com.au/logging-eden-nsw-south-coast-forestry-dominated-by-potentially-illegal-wood-chipping/>
 - b. The devastation of forests for woodchip and elsewhere is unsustainable and devastating for our biodiversity and attempt’s to carbon capture.
Eden:



- c. I also rely on, and request you consider the following submission to NSW LC in 2022 in response to Forest Viability:
- d. Submission 5, April 2021 INQUIRY INTO LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OF THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY
 - i. Page 108: “The biggest failure of forestry is the lack of any return to the community for the use of public land. The community have paid private sawmillers to run-down biomass, water yields, nectar, tree hollows and wildlife populations, while spreading weeds, dieback and fire risks, and degrading soils and streams.....

- ii. There needs to be a fundamental shift in the management and support for forestry. It needs to be recognised that logging of public forests is not in the community's best economic, social or environmental interests as far greater benefits can be generated by protecting forests and allowing them to mature: increasing carbon capture and storage, increasing water yields to streams and providing increased recreation benefits and tourism opportunities....” Link:

- 1. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/71491/0005%20North%20East%20Forest%20Alliance%20Inc.pdf>

- e. Following this LC inquiry the ‘Loss-making’ native forest logging on the NSW North Coast was extended by government” 2022

- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-17/north-coast-wood-supply-contract-extension-negotiations/100915142>

- f. From my experience Forestry Corp & their contract Loggers have little to no respect for: the environment, our biodiversity, threatened species, the essential urgency to carbon capture (which trees do for free) or many members of the community, especially those protecting forest for future generations and our species survival. Photo :Myrtle Stare Forest 4th October 2024.



- g. **This is not just my view but the Courts too:**

- h. Justice Pepper found:

- i. **“...FCNSW’s offending conduct was not trivial and occasioned substantial actual and potential environmental harm. FCNSW will continue to undertake forestry harvesting activities and has not sufficiently demonstrated genuine contrition and remorse for its commission of the offences**

- j. https://www.nature.org.au/court_fines_forestry_corporation_360_000

- k. these media reports also demonstrate and expose FC and ors public officials Government condoned behaviors:

- l.

being gutted and debris is everywhere . Other critical habitat also, including the promised Koala National Park.

- o. It is axiomatic Native Forestry Logging is unsustainable as it can only exist by subsidy. We, the tax payer are paying their fines for being repeat offenders.
- p. Adding to this trauma, our Community members are not being protected for standing up for forest. They are being persecuted by Government and government agencies.
- q. **Bulga Forest (9th October 2024) continues to be guarded by Forest Protections against Forestry Corp destruction. 12 Have been arrested due to their care for biodiversity and compliance with the recommendations of:**

- i. DR Ken Henry August 2023 “.. the principles of sustainable development. Those principles are no longer fit for purpose. As has been recognized in many global forums over the past few years, the natural environment is now so damage that we must commit to “nature positive” if we are to have any confidence that future generations will have the opportunity to be as well off, as we are... The fact, humanities dependent upon the quality of the biosphere, entire social and economic dimensions, this is immutable as the laws of physics. The case for giving primacy turn via mental repair is inescapable. Our future depends upon it.” Forward

ii.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/tp/files/186428/Independent%20Review%20of%20the%20Biodiversity%20Conservation%20Act%202016-Final.pdf>

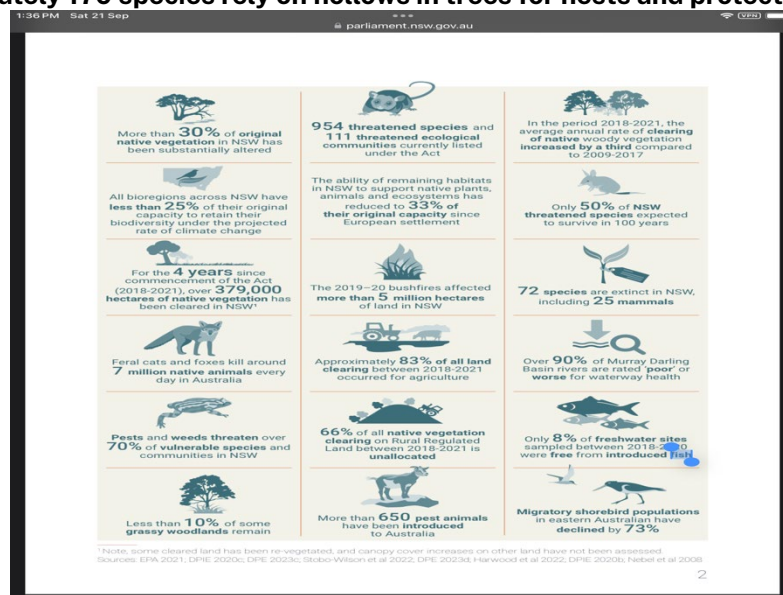
2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Native Forests have significant cultural and environmental value for threatened species and us all!

Governments to date have ensured We can have no confidence or trust in any government leadership; ALP, LNP or anyone linked to forestry corp, Forest destruction, habitat loss or fossil fuel interests!

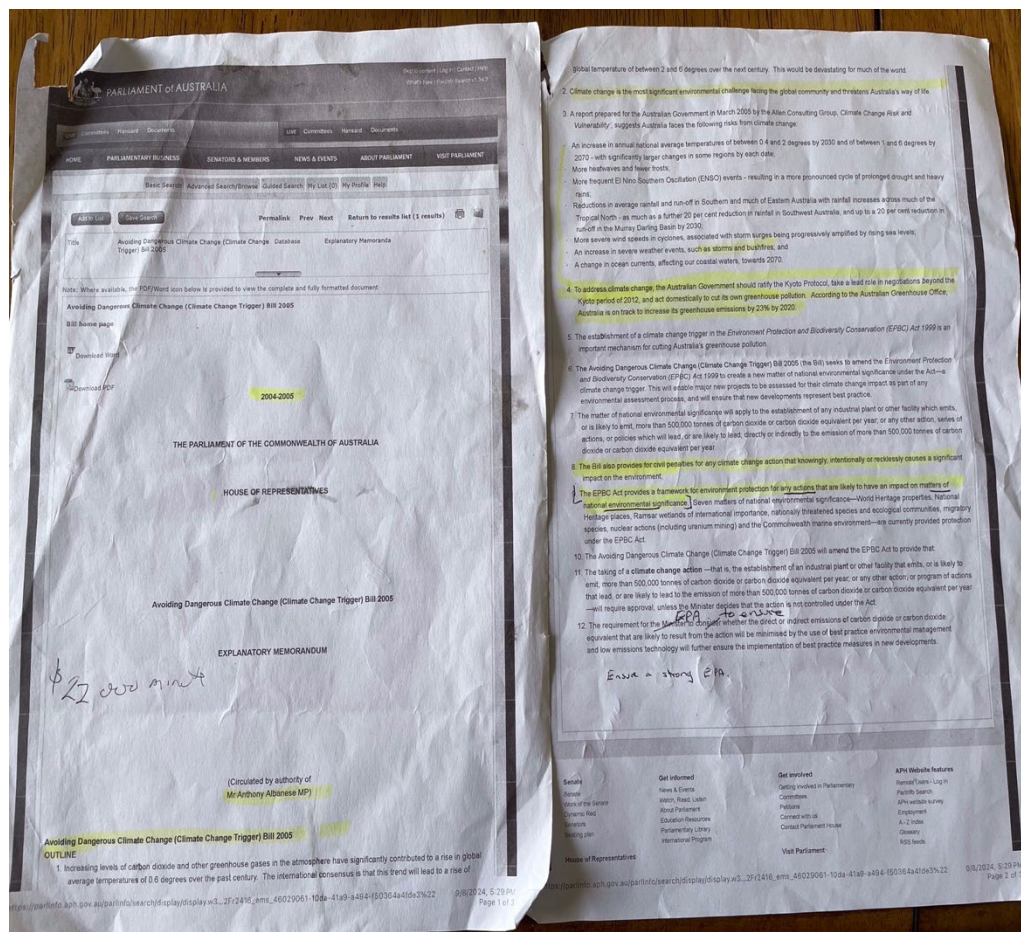
The promise of a koala National park and taking action on climate change has been met with more environmental destruction:

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-01/great-koala-national-park-going-ahead-nsw-labor-election-win/102153496>
2. Our youth are concerned and worried for their future if they will have one.
3. Here is a petition by [REDACTED], one of our regions 12-year-old forest protectors. with thousand of signature:
 - a. [REDACTED] updated in just months ago: [REDACTED]
4. Michael West media calls out the governments failures to protect forest, habitat and species 12 months ago: <https://youtu.be/D--BY9jAVMk?si=-CsdfePzWBiVVJf8>
5. Indigenous Australians speak out however government will not hear their calls to protect country! the Australian Institute: https://youtu.be/WQu-8Y05bWk?si=e4k8mnHPF64fq_Ly
6. I refer you to the assessment from 2023 to this government. Our ancient forests are dying due to exploitation and human induced climate cataclysmic drivers like Native Forest Destruction!
 - a. Approximately 170 species rely on hollows in trees for nests and protection.



Forestry Corp has reduced so much of our habitat trees, trees that take over 100 years to develop a hollow.

7. I've witnessed the remnant of a Tasmanian Huon Pine the dated back before Cleopatra, over 65 BCA. It had been healthy, now gone forever. Indigenous Australians had and have strong links to country, Mother Earth trees and species. Tasmanian Indigenous Australians suffered severely under colonialism as has forests and species. Sadly What Capitalism (not commerce) has done across Australia is unforgivable in just over 200 years.
8. Reports of over 260 threatened species and this Minns government and Albanese's Federal Government are driving our forests and wildlife to extinction. Above Photo from DR Ken Henry report into Biodiversity Act August 2023.
9. In 2005, 19 years ago Anthony Albanese proposed a bill to prevent the foreseeable consequences of climate change, habitat destruction etc. At point 2, he stated: " climate change is the most significant environmental challenge, facing the global community and threatens Australia's way of life"



3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

- a. Native Forest timber is being exploited for wood chip, pallets and other products like tomato stakes etc. See previous comments and links.

- b. Plantation timber is the main source of framing and construction. Vast amounts of the demand for timber comes from plantations. Plantations can also be easily managed, harvested in a manner to reduce fire risk. The obtuse logging of our Native Forests has left us prone to horrendous bush fires as we've seen in Australia in 2019/20 and in the norther hemisphere in the past 12 months.
- c. At the same time as Forest Destruction is being condoned the alternatives to timber products , which are sustainable like Industrial Hemp were, and are still not being supported.
 - a. <https://cfah.org/hemp-products-list/>
 - b. <https://hempblockaustralia.com/>
 - c. <https://hempc0.net.au/hemp-cars-benefits-and-examples/blog>
 - d. <https://captain-planet.net/worlds-first-plane-made-powered-by-hemp-is-10-times-stronger-than-steel/>
- e. These circular economy crops can be placed where they do not destroy habitat and will allow our forest to carbon capture, repair over the life of the planet and our unique species to continue to exist.



Just down the road from the Giant Water Gum (1j) above is the abandoned railway line that runs from Casino to Murwillumbah. The solar train uses part of it now, and could be used the whole distance. The train line was repaired using valuable hardwood timbers from our Native Forests. It wasn't treated and it sits idle,. Disintegrated by politicians failing to act responsibly.

Video History to support what I just said:

<https://youtu.be/iGdt7-i2P3Q?si=VHdlx88zN0PYjfx>

This section talks of timber for construction & Transport. Here's an example of how our governments can and have wasted our precious forest. We could have brought back the train, with a bike track along side however the timber will waste away if not repaired rapidly.



4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

Clearly the only future for the forestry / timber industry is in plantation. As I understand from my research it is more profitable, employees far less people and reduces carbon's emissions compared to its destructive Native Forest cousins. Strategic planning and planting would reduce our risks to fire.

Additionally, as Native Forests would be replanted with a diversity of species to rebuild the indigenous plant stocks, weed managed and allowed to regrow into perpetuity.

Prioritize:

Stop the wood-chip industry. 87% of hardwood forest timber were used as wood-chip. See sustainability comments and background above.

Broadwater NSW Sugar Cane Mill. Healthy logs wasted, this capitalism of exploitation of the environment started in around 1450 on the Island of Madeira (which means timber in Portuguese)



There was, as far as we can determine the creation of capitalism (not to be confused with commerce)

It revolved around sugar cane, forest destruction and cheap labor (slaves).

Ballina to Tweed coast, just like Madeira have a sugar cane industry. A power plant! It relies on heavily sourced timber.

Today they continue to see native Timber as a 'resource to be vigorously exploited' .

In Madeira they used 60 kg of wood to refine a kilogram of sugar. Labor was cheap (slavery) however they destroyed the timber.

Boom, bust, quit. They moved on to Brazil, Caribbean and Australia .

Broadwater Mill uses masses of timber.

Source: George Monbiot (Neo Liberalism) nature negative consequences: Link:

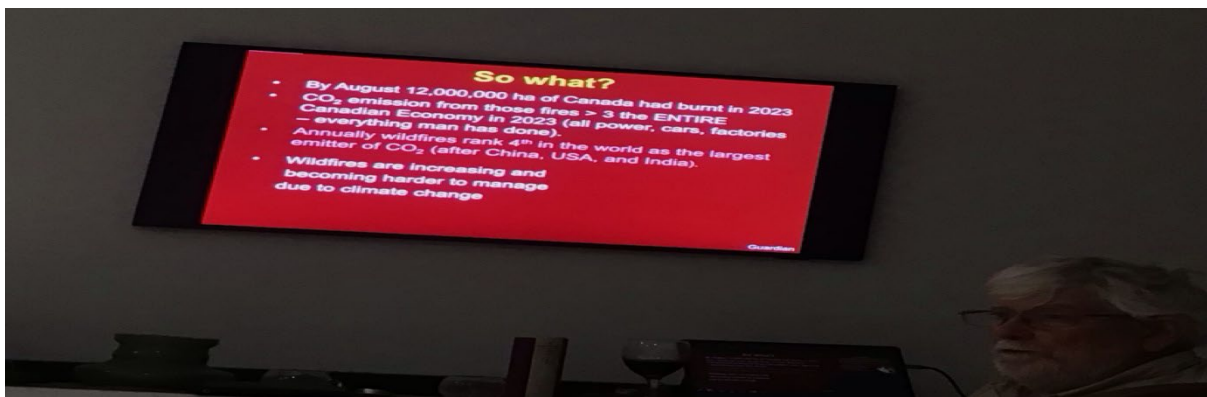
https://youtu.be/zZbFXjclmO4?si=_TBpFlccMqgZY3xL

We've learnt little since 1450 about protecting our environment, something indigenous Australians knew how to do and did.

5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models

- 1) **This proposition fails to address the so called elephant in the room:**
- 2) **The predominant role of our native forests, what little we have left is not to be ' vigorously exploited' as they have been and are being today.**
- 3) **They need to be preserved into perpetuity, help to regrow, carbon capture, providing habitat for threatened species, cultural heritage utilization and be managed to reduce the impact of climate catastrophes like fire and flood.**
- 4) **The Blue Print Institute <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2023-04/apo-nid322479.pdf> did a report covering the alternative benefits to the forest destruction:**
 - a. "Using cost-benefit analysis modelling we find that ending native forest logging in 2023–24 instead of 2039-40 (the date that the North East Regional Forestry Agreement is currently scheduled to expire), and instead utilising the land for carbon sequestration and tourism will deliver a net benefit valued at \$45 million in present-day dollars. This includes the estimated cost of providing transitional packages to the industry as it shuts down, as well as the cost of breaking wood supply agreements that extend to 2028.....
 - b. The next government-led five yearly review of the logging industry will commence in 2024, making now an ideal time for impactful analysis. We encourage the New South Wales Government and Opposition to enact the following recommendations
 - c. Immediately cease all government subsidies to FCNSW.
 - d. . Create a 'natural capital' weighting that increases the Benefit Cost Ratio of native forests when Expenditure Review Committee decisions affecting them are made.
 - e. . Legislate the end of native forest logging in New South Wales.
 - f. Expand land valuation methodologies to include carbon storage, tourism and water.
 - g. Expand hardwood timber plantations to meet hardwood demand.
 - h. Incentivise private investment in timber plantations.
 - i. Expand formal policy mechanisms aimed at conserving native forests.
- 5) Native forestry in Australia is on the decline. This is a result of a combination of factors, including [unsustainable harvesting practices](#), [conservation concerns](#), [market pressures](#), [bushfires](#), and [a decline in public support](#). Between 2008 and 2019 harvest levels from Australian native forests fell by over [50%](#). The native forestry industry has also been affected by the shift toward plantationbased forestry, which is significantly more productive—commercial plantations comprise only [1.5%](#) of Australian forests, yet they generate [88%](#) of Australia's wood supply."
- 6) **In 2019/20 as you well know, We were subjected to the worst bushfires on record.**
 - a. The cost to our health and safety was enormous, one estimate is \$1.9 Billion dollars:
 - i. <https://www.unsw.edu.au/newsroom/news/2020/09/smoke-related-health-costs-of-2019-20-bushfires-estimated-at--1->
 - b. Eden forests are predominantly reforestation with silver top ash that will burn at high temperature and fast (Professor Lindenmayer 2024).
 - c. "Professor David Lindenmayer from ANU said reducing native forest logging would not only be good for emissions reductions but also help reduce the risk of "catastrophic bushfires". He also writes that elevated fire risks occur as a direct result of thinning operations used by FC.
 - d. "Stopping native forest logging is essential to decreasing fire risk," Professor Lindenmayer said.

- e. "Forests are more flammable for up to 70 years after they are logged and regenerated, with the increased fire risk adding further to carbon emissions.
- f. "Stopping logging in our native forests will help address elevated fire severity problems created by logging which greatly endanger people's lives and property."
 - iii. Source: <https://iced.s.anu.edu.au/research/research-stories/stopping-native-forest-logging-key-getting-net-zero>
- r. We don't need another's fire bomb like 2019 because of forest destruction and Climate inaction



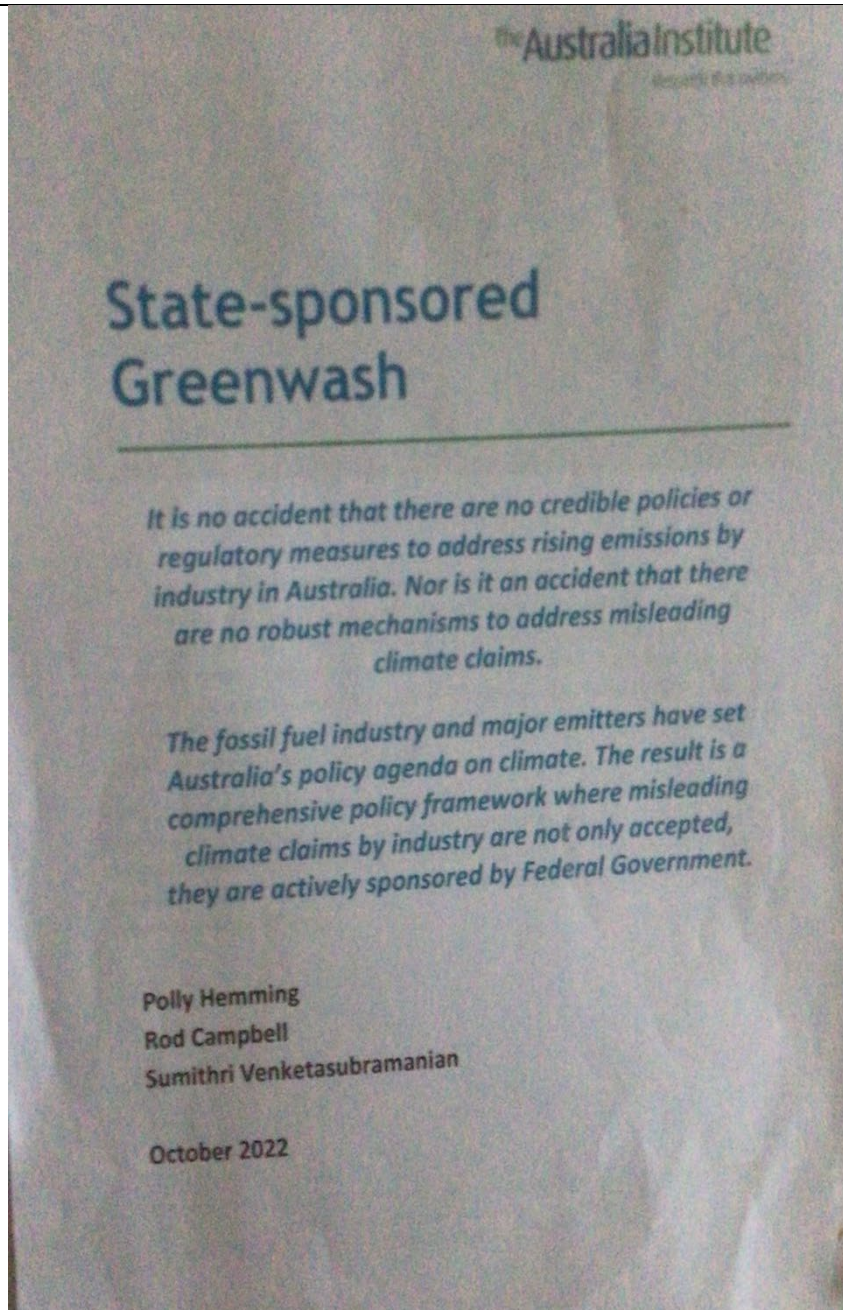
- s. Climate impacts: https://youtu.be/-l28KQ8dJDM?si=qE6dLRY4JEXoS_PV
- t. Photo of fire bomb awaiting in Braemer state forest near Rappville NSW 2024. Myrtle state forest as shown previously is just as bad. It's being logged as I type. Many in the community of Rappville were close to being incinerated.



Government knows they are putting at risk. Stop native forest logging now!

- b. In 2022 "In Budget Estimates this week, Agriculture Minister Dugald Saunders admitted he had not read a [Natural Resources Commission report leaked last year](#) which found native forests were at risk of "serious and irreversible harm ... from the cumulative impacts of fire and harvesting"

6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests



There is no place for climate offsets .

State sponsored Greenwashing! <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/australias-state-sponsored-greenwashing/>

California, this year lost substantial forest offset forests.

We need urgent action by Government at all levels, State, Federal and Local.

Hundreds of thousands of voters are now party to the Coalition for Climate Ambition.

Citizens that are not supporting the State Capture of our governments. What is required is for the governments to be aligned with the science of what is needed to restrict the very worst impacts of climate change, biodiversity extinction in Australia at a minimum this must occur:

- * stop all native forest logging
- * Preserve and restore Australia's ecosystems
- * Ban all new fossil fuel development in Australia
- * Cease all fossil fuel subsidies
- * and
- * Reject the idea that carbon credits can offset fossil fuel emissions

Native Forests are vital to our and other species survival as detailed in this research:

“Forests are important terrestrial carbon sinks and help in mitigating the emissions of CO₂, and other greenhouse gases (GHGs). Besides, it provides multiple ecosystem goods and services including livelihood security, socio-economic development, ecosystem functioning, biodiversity maintenance, carbon dynamics, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.

Population explosion, land-use change for agriculture, industry, urbanization, and **improper forest management** are considered as the major reasons responsible for the acceleration of forest degradation. ?....

Deforestation and forest degradation set off a series of environmental changes that significantly reduce the valuable provisioning services and also affect locally to global biodiversity. It is responsible for ca. 15% of all GHGs emissions contribute to rising global temperatures, changes in weather patterns, and an increased frequency of extreme weather events. Climate changes can alter wildlife habitats and decrease the availability of food and water. Besides, it is responsible for increased soil erosion, disruption of nutrients and water cycle, disrupted livelihood.

Investment in natural ecosystems, through reduced carbon emissions from deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), and reducing emissions from

deforestation, forest degradation, and other forest-related activities (REDD +) related strategies, contributes significantly to GHGs emissions reduction and forest carbon stocks enhancement.”

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-95542-7_2