

Public submission

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SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

I have been fighting for the native forests of NSW since the 1960s, initially through the campaign of the Colong Committee (now Wilderness Australia) to stop the clear felling on the montane eucalypt forest to make way for pine plantations, located on the Boyd Plateau, now part of the Kanangra Boyd Wilderness in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed National Park. My involvement sparked a desire to go to university and become qualified to enable me to speak with authority on all the issues associated with the protection of the natural environment. I qualified with a degree in Earth Sciences, majoring in Geomorphology and Land Management for which I thank the Whitlam Government which gave me a chance to educate myself.

I also played a role in the successful campaign to save the Terania Creek Rainforest from logging in the 1970s and 1980s in my capacity as Project Officer for the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. We still pay tribute to Premier Neville Wran who ordered a stop to the logging of ancient brush box trees at Terania Creek and extended this ban to all the sub-tropical rainforests of NSW. He is now a hero of the broader conservation movement.

My contribution to these, and other conservation campaigns has been recognised through the award of Life Membership of Wilderness Australia, along with Bob Debus (former NSW Labor MP) who took over the Chairmanship of the organisation following my resignation. I have also been a member of the ALP for over 30 years.

At 83 years of age, I was hoping that Labor State and Federal Governments would have recognised that the logging of native forests, in the least forested country in the world would have ceased, especially at a time when the world's climate is warming at an accelerating rate. In recent years we have lost huge areas of native forests and associated native animals to cataclysmic wild fires, including on the South Coast and beyond. Yet I am advised that the NSW Government is about to approve logging in the Great Koala National Park! And by a Labor Government!

However, here I am again, typing up yet another plea to you as the responsible Minister to ensure the continued existence of this, and other native forests, to ensure that its endangered wildlife, including Koalas and Greater Gliders can continue to live in their natural habitats.

Please hear my plea.

Elizabeth Elenius BA Earth Sciences, Macq Univ, 1979