

Public submission

FIONA BENNETT

Submission ID: 204627

Organisation: *N/A*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/12/2024 10:10:38 PM

Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel,

Please accept my submission regarding the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. My childhood was spent enjoying the natural wonders of NSW particularly the South Coast. I was able to experience the beauty of our forests through camping and bushwalking and have been fortunate to see the unique species which inhabit these areas.

I am now in my 40s and have witnessed the decline of our natural environment which continues unabated. I am concerned for the future generations that may not get to experience the wonder of these ancient forests as well as the loss of species which inhabit these areas. The loss of hollow bearing trees cannot be replaced as the time required for these hollows to form is greater than 100 years.

The Black Summer fires burnt through vast areas of forests which resulted in the loss of countless animals and habitats.

I would like to see an end to logging of native forests in NSW. It is economically and ecologically unviable. I would like to see taxpayers money being used to protect the environment as well as being used to provide alternate training / opportunities for the workers in forestry. It is important that these workers are assisted to transition to other economically and environmentally sustainable employment.

My main objections to native forestry are the following;

- (1) Old-growth forests are irreplaceable. Their value is far greater standing than logged. These forests act as carbon sink and reduce the threat of climate
- (2) The practice contributes to loss of biodiversity and is a threat to our unique wildlife who inhabit them
- (3) The industry is not financially viable notwithstanding the environmental impacts and relies on taxpayers to continue operations
- (4) The forests that grow back in logged areas are more flammable and result in bushfires of higher intensity / severity

I believe we have a responsibility to care for these ancient forests as Indigenous people have done for millenia previously. We owe nothing less to the generations that will follow us.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bennett