

# Public submission

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

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To whom it may concern

I left the Timber Industry in Dorrigo in the early 90's at a time when the Forestry Commission were being taken over by National Parks and large areas of bush was being locked up into new parks. I was from a 5<sup>th</sup> generation timber family and had done an apprenticeship as a Saw Doctor straight out of school. Lots of people could see the writing on the wall back then with regard to the result of the changes at this time would no doubt lead to disaster. Well, wind the clock forward 25 years and you can have the country burning like it did in 2019.

This changing of power in the 90's took the management of huge areas of rural NSW, both forested and open country, from the people that had successfully managed it for generations and handed it to National Parks. No longer were farmers allowed to manage the fuel loads on their properties, no longer were Fire Trails maintained during Harvesting Operations, giving access to remote areas for controlled remediation. Cherries were starting to line up. My entire life growing up in Dorrigo I remember there was always fuel reduction burning annually in Cascade, Chaelundi and Moonpar State Forests. At this changing of the guards is when the clock of 2019 bushfires started ticking. Believe it or not, worse is yet to come. We have had 4 very good growing seasons since 2019, and of the 360,000 hectares to be control burned by National Parks in 2024, they have achieved less than 10,000 hectares. You don't need science to understand where we are headed.

What I am trying to say is a sustainable Timber Industry not only feeds local families and contributes to local, state and national economies, but it actually maintains lot of balance in the environment when it comes to the safety of people and animals alike. Locking up more land and forests is not helping anymore as our parks are nothing more than zoos for feral species of animals, weeds and fuel storage for the next catastrophic bushfires. Native Forests are not being managed anymore as National Parks can't cope with their existing workloads. Why would you put more in front of them. Why isn't logging used across the state to establish fire control perimeters. Perimeters would not need to be as big as the corridor being cleared from Armidale to Bayswater for Green Powerlines without question, but they could be very effective when needed.

Logging is a well proven sustainable industry that has been practised for more than a century in NSW and is more of a **requirement** than an option moving forward the way I see it.

Regards

Jamie Parker  
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