

Public submission

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Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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Submission template

The Independent Forestry Panel has been appointed to lead consultation on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW, ahead of the NSW Government developing its Forestry Industry Action Plan. The Panel is tasked with consulting and reporting to Government on the best options to achieve the balance between sustainable supplies of timber and NSW's environmental commitments.

The Panel is seeking your views on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. This includes forest conservation, public and private native forestry, softwood and hardwood plantations, different land tenure and management regimes, timber supply, and non-timber forest uses such as recreation, apiculture and others.

The Panel invites written submissions from individuals and organisations on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. The Panel would like to hear from a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from the timber industry, forest growers, environment groups, unions, Aboriginal communities, local government, business, related industries, tourism and scientific experts.

Please structure your submission to address any or all of the topic areas below, including if and how you think current practices can improve. Please indicate the timeframe for any suggested changes, and the implications for both industry and the environment over the next 30 years.

Topic areas to address (overleaf):

- Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW
- Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values
- Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail
- The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs
- 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
- 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.

Following this structure will help the Panel respond to some of the issues the Government has identified for inclusion in its Forestry Industry Action Plan. However, a submission that doesn't follow this structure can be uploaded to the submission portal and will also be accepted and considered by the Panel.

If your submission includes citations of evidence from published reports, please include full references for those materials.

Submission template

Your submission

1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

I support an immediate end to native forest logging in NSW. Current forestry practices are unsustainable – they are causing irreparable damage to remaining native forests and operating at a large loss. It is unsustainable and immoral for taxpayers' money to be spent on propping up a financially untenable model while funding the destruction of our own forests – the remaining forests that belong to us, the people of NSW.

Logging native forest removes the precious remaining old-growth trees that support animals at great risk of extinction, as hollows in old-growth trees provide habitats for koalas, gilders, cockatoos and other key species.

This situation is critical and must be acted on promptly, not in decades to come.

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

Old-growth forests represent one of the most valuable environmental and cultural assets possible in this time of unchecked climate change and the plight of many threatened species, both fauna and flora. They provide connections between fragmented ecosystems for many species and support water quality which is also important for tourism and fishing. Their cultural significance to indigenous communities is clear. Forests are also of vital importance to recreational users, both locally in regional areas and through tourism. Many international tourists visit Australia on the strength of our natural heritage and would be horrified at our treatment of the critical habitats required to support our unique species such as the koala, platypus and regent honeyeater, along with the many thousands of less high-profile reptiles, insects and birds. The extinction rate of Australian fauna and flora is deplorable and an international embarrassment. What has happened to the Great Koala Park promise?

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

Plantation timber can and should supply all timber products for housing, construction and other industries. There is no need to log high-value old-growth forests for these industries, nor for selling them overseas as woodchips.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already supply a large percentage of timber needs, and this can be strengthened with further investment in truly sustainable plantations that utilise existing cleared land. Ending public subsidies to forestry practices that clear fell old-growth forests would allow more investment in sustainable timber production.

Time is critical in protecting remaining native forests, so work on alternative employment in plantations or other relevant areas must begin immediately.

Submission template

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

State Forests are important natural and cultural resources that already play a role in recreation and tourism in some areas. These can be expanded with restoration and protection of State Forest resources, as well as boosting carbon storage and providing job opportunities for forestry workers. Aboriginal forest management programs should be expanded to improve both these ecosystems and indigenous management of natural resources.

The Forestry Corporation is financially unsustainable, relying on government support and providing less timber than well-managed plantations.

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

Logging native forests releases vast amounts of stored carbon, contributing to climate change and working against our mitigation efforts. Reducing logging will help forests recover and store more carbon. Diverse and healthy forest ecosystems can reduce fire risk, the effects of floods and droughts, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Forest biodiversity benefits fauna and flora, human well-being, climate change mitigation efforts, and makes economic sense.

After filling in this submission template, please upload the completed submission to our online submission portal, linked [here](#). When you upload your submission successfully, you will receive a confirmation email from us. If you don't receive a confirmation email, please check your Junk Email folder. If you have further issues, please email forestryiap@ipcn.nsw.gov.au for assistance.