

JEUDI CROKER

Submission ID: 204789

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** Queensland

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** Attached overleaf

Submission date: 10/13/2024 12:00:58 PM

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**Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW****Sustainability of Current and Future Forestry Operations**

Native forest logging in NSW is fundamentally unsustainable. Estimates by the Forestry Corporation of harvestable timber are consistently overestimated, and the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Following the removal of protections for mature trees in 2018, logging has intensified, further jeopardizing our forests. Logging not only reduces biomass and carbon storage but also removes vital food sources and hollow-bearing trees. With 174 species in NSW relying on hollows for nesting, the consequences of logging are dire. Moreover, native forest logging increases fire threats, erosion, waterway pollution, and the spread of invasive species, ultimately compromising the health of our waterways, including streams and rivers.

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**Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values****Environmental and Cultural Values**

Healthy, unlogged forests are critical to both the environment and cultural identity, both for First Nations and non-First Nations communities. Mature forests generate rainfall, cool the landscape, and clean the air. In NSW, 150 threatened species are directly impacted by logging. Furthermore, these forests are essential for pollinators, recreation, and community pride. The cultural and spiritual significance of native forests for First Nations people cannot be overstated, as they maintain a deep, ongoing connection to these landscapes.

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

In 2023, logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of Australia's total log production, with a significant portion being exported as wood chips. The demand for hardwood sourced from native forests is rapidly declining, as alternatives like sawn and treated softwood can effectively substitute for current uses. The recent shift by Essential Energy away from native forest-sourced power poles exemplifies this decline.

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

Plantations currently provide 91% of Australia's log production, and prioritizing harvested logs from plantations as saw and veneer logs would be far more beneficial than exporting them as wood chips. Subsidizing public native forest logging distorts the market, diverting focus from the more sustainable softwood plantation industry.

**Topic 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**

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**State Forests and Diverse Management Options**

Unlogged native forests offer tangible benefits to the ecology and economy of NSW, affecting everything from water quality to tourism opportunities. It is unacceptable that the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss, funded by public money, while destroying biodiversity and critical habitats.

**Topic 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**

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**Carbon and Biodiversity Benefits**

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually, equivalent to removing 840,000 cars from the roads each year. Ending native forest logging would allow previously logged areas to recover, significantly contributing to our emissions targets. As climate change intensifies, unlogged forests are proving to be more resilient, further emphasizing the need to halt logging.

In conclusion, I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to take decisive action to protect Bulga Forest and reconsider the practices surrounding native forest logging. The ecological, cultural, and economic implications of these decisions are profound and must prioritize the long-term health of our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

## EMAIL TO NSW ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Penny Sharpe  
NSW Environment Minister

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CC:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Minister Sharpe,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing logging in Bulga State Forest and to urge you to review and support our submission to the federal Independent Forestry Panel. The deadline for submissions is rapidly approaching—this Sunday, October 13—and we encourage you to take immediate action; to ensure our voice is heard.

The forests of New South Wales, including Bulga, are invaluable to our environment and future. They provide critical habitats for endangered threatened species such as MNES endangered koalas and greater gliders, both of which are known to inhabit the areas currently under threat from logging. Unfortunately, the protections in place are inadequate, and we risk losing these species forever if we continue on this path. We need to ensure the federal environmental ministers promise to no new extinctions.

We collectively call for an immediate moratorium on logging in Bulga State Forest. The ecological and economic value of these forests far surpasses any short-term gains from logging. Standing forests sequester carbon, retain vital water resources, support diverse wildlife, and serve as a base for tourism activities that benefit local communities and the economy.

Moreover, it is imperative that we transition away from logging native forests. This transition must begin immediately, with a commitment to support forest workers in finding sustainable employment alternatives. It is also unacceptable

that the people of NSW are currently subsidizing the State Forest Corporation to degrade our public forests.

If the government is genuinely committed to achieving net-zero emissions, it must recognize that further deforestation contradicts this goal. Forests play a vital role in sequestering carbon, maintaining biodiversity, and mitigating climate change.

Ending logging in native forests is essential to support these aims. Protecting existing forests not only helps combat climate change but also preserves habitats for endangered species and supports local ecosystems.

If we truly want to address the climate crisis, we must prioritize the protection of our forests and transition away from practices that contribute to their destruction. This commitment should be reflected in our policies and actions.

I urge you to take a stand for Bulga Forest, not just for the sake of the environment, but for the well-being of our communities and future generations. It is essential to consider the principle of intergenerational equity: we have a responsibility to ensure that our actions today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By protecting Bulga Forest, we are investing in a healthier, more sustainable world for those who will come after us.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. Together, we can protect our precious forests.

Sincerely,

Miss Jeudi Croker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We stand in solidarity with Wingham Forest Action

[REDACTED]

We stand in solidarity with Save Bulga Forest on Biripi Country [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **EMAIL TO FEDERAL INDEPENDENT FORESTRY PANEL**

**SUBJECT:** Submission to the **Federal Independent Forestry Panel:** Protecting Bulga Forest

**To:** [REDACTED]

**CC:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Independent Forestry Panel,

I am writing to submit my concerns regarding the ongoing logging in Bulga State Forest and to highlight the unsustainability of native forest logging in New South Wales.

### **Sustainability of Current and Future Forestry Operations**

Native forest logging in NSW is fundamentally unsustainable. Estimates by the Forestry Corporation of harvestable timber are consistently overestimated, and the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Following the removal of protections for mature trees in 2018, logging has intensified, further jeopardizing our forests. Logging not only reduces biomass and carbon storage but also removes vital food sources and hollow-bearing trees. With 174 species in NSW relying on hollows for nesting, the consequences of logging are dire.

Moreover, native forest logging increases fire threats, erosion, waterway pollution, and the spread of invasive species, ultimately compromising the health of our waterways, including streams and rivers.

### **Environmental and Cultural Values**

Healthy, unlogged forests are critical to both the environment and cultural identity—both for First Nations and non-First Nations communities. Mature forests generate rainfall, cool the landscape, and clean the air. In NSW, 150 threatened species are directly impacted by logging. Furthermore, these forests are essential for pollinators, recreation, and community pride. The

cultural and spiritual significance of native forests for First Nations people cannot be overstated, as they maintain a deep, ongoing connection to these landscapes.

### **Demand for Timber Products**

In 2023, logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of Australia's total log production, with a significant portion being exported as wood chips. The demand for hardwood sourced from native forests is rapidly declining, as alternatives like sawn and treated softwood can effectively substitute for current uses. The recent shift by Essential Energy away from native forest-sourced power poles exemplifies this decline.

### **The Future of Plantations and Private Native Forestry**

Plantations currently provide 91% of Australia's log production, and prioritizing harvested logs from plantations as saw and veneer logs would be far more beneficial than exporting them as wood chips. Subsidizing public native forest logging distorts the market, diverting focus from the more sustainable softwood plantation industry.

### **State Forests and Diverse Management Options**

Unlogged native forests offer tangible benefits to the ecology and economy of NSW, affecting everything from water quality to tourism opportunities. It is unacceptable that the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss, funded by public money, while destroying biodiversity and critical habitats.

### **Carbon and Biodiversity Benefits**

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually, equivalent to removing 840,000 cars from the roads each year. Ending native forest logging would allow previously logged areas to recover, significantly contributing to our emissions targets. As climate change intensifies, unlogged forests are proving to be more resilient, further emphasizing the need to halt logging.

In conclusion, I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to take decisive action to protect Bulga Forest and reconsider the practices surrounding native forest logging. The ecological, cultural, and economic implications of these decisions are profound and must prioritize the long-term health of our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

**From:** Jeudi Croker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**EMAIL TO NSW PREMIER**

**Subject:** Submission to the Federal Independent Forestry Panel: Protecting Bulga Forest

**To:** Chris Minns, MP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**CC:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Minns,

I am writing to submit my concerns regarding the ongoing logging in Bulga State Forest, which I believe must be addressed urgently.

As the government commits to achieving net-zero emissions, it is critical to recognize that further deforestation undermines this goal. Forests are vital carbon sinks, essential for sequestering carbon and mitigating climate change. Therefore, I urge an immediate moratorium on logging in Bulga State Forest.

The ecological value of Bulga Forest cannot be overstated. It serves as habitat for MNES endangered threatened species such as koalas and greater gliders, which are currently at risk due to inadequate protections. Protecting these forests is not only essential for biodiversity but also aligns with our responsibility to future generations—a principle of intergenerational equity. Our actions today must not compromise the ability of future generations to thrive in a healthy environment.

Moreover, ending logging in native forests is necessary for the long-term sustainability of our ecosystems and communities. Forests provide numerous benefits, including water retention, habitat for wildlife, and support for tourism. Instead of subsidizing the degradation of public forests, we should invest in transitioning forest workers to sustainable employment opportunities that honour the environment.

I strongly urge you to review our submissions to the Independent Forestry Panel and take a decisive stance on this matter. Protecting Bulga Forest is essential for our ecological health, economic resilience, and moral obligation to future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Jeudi Croker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]