

# Public submission

LES INWOOD

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**Organisation:** *N/A*

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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

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Forest Industry Action Panel

From Les Inwood [REDACTED]

Dear Panel,

Thankyou for the opportunity to express my views on this important issue

Four years ago, I retired and moved from South Australia to Northern NSW where I have been volunteering with local conservation groups undertaking citizen science activities in State Forest compartments about to be logged as well as post logging audits. What I have learned about NSW Forest Corp practices has appalled me. While they claim to be practicing ecologically sustainable forest management in my recent experience nothing could be further from the truth.

I arrived in NSW immediately following the 2019 wildfires and was devastated to see the loss of wildlife across much of the North Coast. I assisted with citizen science surveys in burnt forests where a few surviving koalas were found. Only a couple of years after this Forest Corps was back logging their habitat and claiming all was ok as they were following the rules. We then surveyed an unburned State Forest about to be logged. This forest provided a refuge for animals that had survived the fires in surrounding forests. Rather than being given the extra levels of protection they required to reproduce and recolonize surrounding recovering forests, Forest Corp carried on with business as usual as if the massive devastation of surrounding forests had not happened.

We regularly find Threatened species in coups proposed for logging including Endangered Greater Gliders and den trees which forestry professionals have failed to identify. We regular find and report breaches to regulations and only occasionally does this result in prosecution.

I have learned that since the State Government agreed to establish the Great Koala National Park Forest Corp have targeted much of the proposed area including important koala habitat to remove as much timber as possible before it is 'locked up'.

I understand that Forest Corp has greatly over estimated available timber volumes and that contracts cannot be met without weakening already ineffective logging rules.

I have two young grandchildren and would like them to have the same experiences that I have enjoyed seeing koalas and other animals thriving in healthy public native forests. In this current climate and biodiversity crisis it beggars' belief that unsustainable public forest logging is allowed to continue.

South Australia has no public forest logging and makes a good profit from its plantation estate. Victoria and Western Australia have ended public native forest logging with Queensland soon to follow so why can't NSW make a rapid transition out of public native forests and rely solely on plantation timber to meet its needs.

I fully support the more detailed submissions provided by the NSW Nature Conservation Council and the North East Forest Alliance

Yours Sincerely

Les Inwood.