

# Public submission

MAL FISHER

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

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Dear Panel,

CONTINUING TO LOG OUR NATIVE FORESTS IS JUST PURE MADNESS ON SO MANY LEVELS.

What an embarrassment (and public shame) that Australia now leads the world in deforestation and land clearing- especially having signed up to global agreements to protect biodiversity and combat climate change. The international community looked on in horror as koalas were consumed by flames in the Black Summer bushfires...but just a couple of years later it's "business as usual" as koala habitats that survived are targeted by industrial logging! Whilst other states have sensibly curtailed logging activities the NSW government seems intent on continuing to prop up a failed business at the expense of the greater good.

I believe that everyone on this panel is already intimately aware of the facts...our native forestry sector is a loss-making concern, subsidised by tax payers. A just transition to plantation wood should have been finalised decades ago. Preserving forests is of global importance because of the role they play in combatting climate change.

We are already in an extinction crisis...logging the last strongholds of species such as Greater Gliders and Koalas is criminal. Conserving our forests would actually be profitable in regards to tourism and carbon off setting - so continuing to prop up a failed business model makes nil sense and betrays the broader community. The fact that forests operations are not covered by the EPBC act is also senseless and wrong. It means that our threatened species and unique wildlife rather than being coveted and conserved are allowed to be obliterated.

When there isn't even a flimsy economic reason for allowing this to continue...why on earth do it?

Oh yes and just a reminder to the panel as to what is happening to our wondrous majestic tall hard wood trees...many of them hundreds of years old? They are predominantly wood chipped and sent off to China at a loss. What stupidity. Do we really need another protracted investigation to look into such a foolhardy practice?

There are so few jobs left in the highly mechanised logging industry that we could literally give every worker a million dollars each to transition and we would come out ahead.

And just a reminder that our forests, if left intact, are a true wonder of the world...the wildlife they harbour is astounding. To see them bulldozed, degraded and set aflame is an affront to us all - it's a sad example of how warped our state's values have become. Many examples of illegal activities by NSW Forestry Corp have been documented but perversely, it's the people who are trying to conserve these incredible national assets from craven destruction who are vilified and arrested. How warped is that?

Time and time again surveys have shown strong support for stronger conservation laws and the need to protect trees- yet action on this continues to be "kicked down the road" to allow more loss-making exploitation of public lands. And yes, it is noted that even on this panel there are members who represent the logging sector.

The NSW government, prior to the recent election, promised to create a "Great Koala National Park" inland from Coffs Harbour. Cynically, they have now opened up this area to logging at 4 times the previous rate and whilst this panel is obfuscating ...much of the forest earmarked for inclusion in the park will be erased.

Logging on an industrial scale by pushing new roads through fragile areas and despoiling water catchments degrades huge areas long term and opens up sensitive ecology to invasive weeds and feral animals. It is pure loss making, institutional vandalism.

Ironically the government is quick to publicly promote the need to plant trees but the truth is that so many irreplaceable trees are ending up in the wood chippers on a huge scale. We should have stop logging native forest logging a long time ago. Please panel let's do it quickly now before more of our landscapes and wildlife are lost forever.

Malcolm Fisher  
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