

Public submission

MARGARET BRACE

Submission ID: 204357

Organisation: *N/A*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/12/2024 10:11:52 AM

I am a 72 year old woman with a background in agriculture, science and education. I have lived on the North Coast for 44 years. During my life I have watched governments come and go. I have watched poorly managed plantation forests fill productive land around me and then be abandoned for tax and carbon offsets. I have watched families dislocated and fire fighters deal with the damage caused by these poor decisions that have been promoted by governments of the time. I watch our rivers and streams become increasingly degraded and polluted as vegetation at the source of these rivers is damaged. I watch this imbalance promote pests and diseases that we can't manage now.

I watch in my later years the destruction of forests once again for the perceived gains of short term politics. I watch public native forests plundered for woodchip to fulfil international economic agreements and big business interests at the expense of future generations, our native wildlife and the long term ecological well-being of our country.

I read that we the tax payers are propping up this unsustainable industry to the tune of \$31 million dollars and I see that the Forestry Corporation lost \$15 million dollars in their hardwood operations. I can only guess that this is to protect employment of the small number of people employed in the industry. Surely a transition plan to provide employment in tourism, forest protection and well planned plantation forestry should be in place and supported.

I see in the news native animals like koalas popping up in train stations and shopping centres and I read the headlines which say they are just on an adventure, having a look around. Well no! They are displaced as their homes and habitats are destroyed by our actions and decisions. They die as a result of what we do. They have no voice other than the voices of people who care.

May you be some of the people who care and can stop the plundering and destruction of our public native forests. Our planet and future generations need your help.

Margaret Brace

