

Public submission

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My name is Martin Mansfield. I care deeply about nature and biodiversity. I have recently become a grandfather for the first time and I am determined to do everything I can to ensure that my granddaughter and everyone else will be able to experience the natural world and Australia's iconic species that I love into the future.

This is why I am writing to urge you as the Independent Forestry Panel to recommend that the logging of public native forests in NSW cease NOW. This will bring us into line with Victoria and Western Australia which have already done this.

There are various reasons why I believe there is an urgent need to end native forest logging in NSW:

- Logging is putting at risk the survival of a number of threatened species including the Koala and the Greater Glider. These species rely on mature, intact forests which provide the habitat they need including older trees which contain hollows for them to nest and roost in. New and young trees cannot provide the habitat that animals need. Native forests are also important because they provide habitat connectivity which supports biodiversity and boosts the health of ecosystems.
- Native forests provide essential water resources and boost water quality and flow management. This is becoming increasingly important as we see the contrasting effects of climate change (droughts and floods) worsen.
- Native forests also hold significant cultural and spiritual values especially for Indigenous communities. The logging of forests destroys these values.
- Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere which exacerbates climate change. Conversely healthy forests store carbon, and also reduce the likelihood of impacts of climate change such as bushfires and drought.

There is no longer a need to log public native forests for timber. Plantations can supply the required quantity and quality of timber. Indeed they already provide 91% of Australia's log production. And plantations yield more timber compared to native forests.

Leaving native forests intact can in fact create more economic value than logging them does. As has been demonstrated in many places in Australia and overseas, forests provide enormous opportunities for tourism and recreation, and many more jobs than logging involves. Forests also provide opportunities for participation in carbon and biodiversity markets.

The NSW Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable. It only survives on government financial support which is absurd considering the problems associated with native forest logging that I have outlined in this submission and also the fact that plantations provide a better alternative.

NSW is a world deforestation hotspot and native forest logging is a substantial cause of this. It is both tragic and embarrassing, and it must stop NOW!