

Public submission

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October 3rd, 2024

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat,

Please accept my submission into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

I urge that we transition to a truly sustainable forestry industry that relies solely on plantations, ceasing all logging in public native forests to protect their rich biodiversity. Most of our current wood products can be sourced from plantations, and the alternatives for hardwood and boutique timber products already exist through recycling and sustainable practices. The loss of our native forests is simply unjustified, especially when there are effective options available.

Our public native forests should serve as havens for biodiversity conservation and providers of vital ecosystem services, not as sites for commercial logging. We should make a strong commitment to using plantations for timber supply, ideally focusing on establishing these plantations on degraded land instead of clearing more native vegetation.

By halting logging in native forests, we can prioritize conservation, expand our protected reserves, and even bring these forests under Aboriginal joint management - a move that acknowledges the deep cultural connection and stewardship role that Indigenous communities have with these lands. These intact natural systems are invaluable for carbon sequestration, providing climate regulation services we cannot afford to lose. Including public native forests in carbon trading schemes risks undermining their integrity and could inadvertently lead to further environmental degradation.

I ask that we take bold, evidence-based steps to reshape forestry in NSW to focus on ecological health and sustainability - prioritizing plantations while conserving and protecting the irreplaceable natural landscapes that support our unique biodiversity.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

