

NAME REDACTED

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Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

To the forest industry panel, I would like to make a submission to the inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

My name is [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] in Sydney. I have a connection to the forest in New South Wales having spent holidays as a child camping in New South Wales, including near Port Macquarie, where we had family. I believe these forests and their wildlife are more valuable protected, than as their simple value as providers of timber.

I would like the panel to decide to end native forest logging in New South Wales, as has been done in Victoria and Western Australia.

If native logging continues as it has been, then future generations will not be able to enjoy our forests as they are now. Australia is famous worldwide for its wildlife, including iconic species such as the koala, but also has lesser known, but no less unique species, such as the greater glider.

I believe the social licence for native timber logging is now finished. There was a time where NSW forests and the wildlife that live in them were abundant enough that logging could take place without restriction. Then, to balance the needs of the timber industry and wildlife, for several decades now logging has continued with regulatory restrictions. However the dramatic falls in the abundance of wildlife in these forests that has occurred in the past 10 years, indicate clearly that these restrictions are no longer sufficient to allow wildlife to persist into the future. Business as usual will result in extinction for numerous globally unique species, including the iconic koala. Just as in our NSW cities and towns, initially period homes were allowed to be knocked down without restriction. But eventually over time it became clear as the numbers reduced, that the point had been reached where there was a need to protect what was left. Similarly, the numbers of our wildlife surviving in our forests that are currently open to logging, are falling, and will become extinct in these areas without protection from logging.

I appreciate that stopping native forest logging will affect jobs on these areas, but this risk can be managed with support for affected workers, as is being done in Western Australia and Victoria. Future generations rely on regulators to make decisions now to protect what we value, including our unique wildlife, so it can persist into the future.

Thank you for allowing comments and feedback as you weigh your decision. I look forward to hearing feedback.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]