

NAME REDACTED

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

"Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW" is a misnomer. How is the harvesting of native forests sustainable? How do we expect as a nation (esp NSW) to meet net zero targets if native forests are being logged (which absorb carbon)?

To achieve sustainable forestry in NSW, has the NSW Government considered:

Prioritize old-growth forest protection: Old-growth forests are irreplaceable ecosystems that provide critical habitat for biodiversity and play a vital role in climate regulation. They should be protected from logging.

Implement strict(er) environmental regulations: Strong regulations are necessary to prevent deforestation, minimize habitat fragmentation, and protect endangered species.

Support sustainable logging practices: Sustainable logging should focus on selective harvesting, reforestation, and minimizing environmental impacts.

Invest in alternative industries: Diversifying the economy away from reliance on timber can reduce pressure on forests and create new opportunities for sustainable development.

Engage with Indigenous communities: Forestry practices must respect the cultural and spiritual values of Indigenous communities and involve them in decision-making processes.

By adopting these measures, we can ensure that forestry operations in NSW are sustainable and contribute to the long-term health of our state's environment and economy.

Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

I am strongly opposed to the logging of Bulga Forest and urge the Independent Forestry Panel to consider the significant environmental, ecological, and social impacts of such an action. Bulga Forest is a critical habitat for numerous endangered and threatened species, including koalas and greater gliders. Its preservation is essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance in the region.

Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

I acknowledge the demand for timber products in NSW, however, I believe that there are sustainable and alternative solutions to meet this need without compromising the integrity of our forests.

Increased recycling and reuse: Promoting a circular economy by encouraging recycling and reuse of timber products can significantly reduce the demand for new timber.

Sustainable timber sourcing: Supporting sustainable forestry practices in other regions or countries can help meet demand while protecting native forests.

Alternative materials: Exploring alternative materials, such as engineered wood products and recycled plastics, can provide viable options for construction and other industries.

Reduced consumption: Encouraging responsible consumption habits and promoting energy-efficient building practices can help reduce the overall demand for timber.

Environmental Impacts of Logging: The logging of Bulga Forest has several detrimental environmental consequences:

Habitat destruction: Logging activities result in the loss of critical habitat for numerous species, including endangered and threatened wildlife.

Soil erosion: Clearing forests can lead to increased soil erosion, which can degrade water quality and contribute to sedimentation in waterways.

Climate change: Forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration. Deforestation releases stored carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

Biodiversity loss: Logging can lead to the loss of biodiversity, as species are unable to adapt to habitat destruction and fragmentation.

I strongly urge the Independent Forestry Panel to prioritize the conservation of Bulga Forest and to support sustainable alternatives to logging. By protecting this valuable ecosystem, we can ensure the long-term health and resilience of our environment for future generations.

Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

The proposed logging of Bulga Forest is a deeply concerning development that poses a significant threat to the region's biodiversity and ecological integrity. While the timber industry plays a role in the Australian economy, it is essential to balance commercial interests with environmental stewardship.

The future of the timber industry should be based on sustainable practices that prioritize the conservation of natural ecosystems. Instead of logging Bulga Forest, we urge the Independent Forestry Panel to consider the following alternatives:

Increased investment in sustainable plantation forestry: Expanding and improving plantation forestry practices can help meet timber demand while minimizing environmental impacts.

Promotion of wood recycling and reuse: Encouraging the recycling and reuse of timber products can reduce the need for new logging operations.

Support for innovative timber substitutes: Investing in research and development of sustainable timber alternatives can reduce reliance on native forests.

Prioritizing conservation and restoration: Protecting and restoring degraded forests is essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

By adopting these alternative approaches, the timber industry can continue to contribute to the Australian economy while ensuring a sustainable future for our forests and the communities that depend on them.

I strongly urge the Independent Forestry Panel to reject the proposed logging of Bulga Forest and prioritize conserving this valuable natural asset.

Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed logging of Bulga Forest. This ancient forest is a critical habitat for numerous endangered species, including koalas and greater gliders. The destruction of such a pristine ecosystem would have devastating consequences for biodiversity and the overall health of our environment.

The logging of Bulga Forest would not only result in the loss of irreplaceable habitat but would also contribute to climate change. Forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. By destroying Bulga Forest, we would be undermining our ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, the economic benefits of logging are short-term and outweighed by the long-term costs of environmental degradation. The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems can have significant negative impacts on tourism, agriculture, and other industries.

I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to consider the long-term consequences of logging Bulga Forest and to prioritize the conservation of this unique and valuable ecosystem.

Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests

While it is acknowledged that forests can play a role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation, the logging of Bulga Forest would negate these benefits.

Carbon Sequestration: Mature forests, like Bulga Forest, are highly effective carbon sinks. Logging would release stored carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

Biodiversity Loss: Logging would result in habitat destruction, leading to a significant decline in biodiversity. Endangered species, such as koalas and greater gliders, would be particularly vulnerable to habitat loss.

Mitigation of Climate Change Risks

Climate Refuges: Bulga Forest serves as a climate refuge, providing habitat for species that may struggle to adapt to climate change elsewhere. Destroying these refuges would exacerbate the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Water Security: Forests play a vital role in regulating water cycles. Logging can lead to increased soil erosion, reduced water quality, and decreased water availability.

The logging of Bulga Forest would have severe negative consequences for both the environment and local communities. I strongly urge the Independent Forestry Panel to prioritize the conservation of this valuable ecosystem and to reject any proposals for logging. Instead, I recommend exploring sustainable alternatives that support biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, such as eco-tourism and forest restoration initiatives.