

# Public submission

NAME REDACTED

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**Organisation:** *N/A*

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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# Submission template

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

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- a. As you have been informed by Dr Ken Henry in his review of the Biodiversity and Conservation Act 2016, published August 2023, ..." the principles of sustainable development is no longer fit for purpose. As has been recognised in many global forums over the past few years, the natural environment is now so damaged that we must commit to "nature positive" if we are to have any confidence that future generations will have the opportunity to be as well off as we are."...
- b. " The fact of humanities dependence upon the quality of the biosphere, in both social and economic dimensions, is as immutable as the laws of physics. The case for giving primacy to environment repair is inescapable. Our future depends on it."

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

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There has been numerous papers, investigations, land and environment court cases considered due to citizen science breaches being brought to EPA's attention. The dangers of extinctions of koalas and greater gliders etc has almost been daily news, even more so since Labor promised a Great Koala National Park, GKNP if elected. Penny Sharpe and Tara Moriarity have condoned and approved regular logging in the GKNP and continue to move political goal posts as they are enabled to do so as they have exempted themselves from any accountability under the EPBC Act for matters of National Environmental significance.( MNES) This is still the case today as Native forest logging remains exempt from National Environmental laws under Regional Forest Agreements (RFA's) that give state Governments a liscence to log without considering threatened species or MNES.

Lastly as we are in a climate crisis with existential tipping points, being foreshadowed, (yet ignored by Tanya Plibersek's recent approvals for expansion to coal mines) the need for a "Climate Trigger" in the EPBC Act to ensure new approvals will be assessed according to the climate crisis science/knowledges available is an essential reform to our current environmental laws to be Nature Positive.

Our Prime Minister, Mr Albanese was fully aware of the foreseeable dangers due to the climate crisis and tipping points since 2005 when he tabled his "Avoiding dangerous climate change (Climate Trigger) Bill". Today, 19 years later, his 2024 The Nature Positive Bill is totally inadequate without a (climate trigger) to fully assess the impact on our environment, which he foresaw was necessity nineteen years ago!

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

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To answer this question, I will refer to Professor David Lindenmayer book “Forest Wars” published 2024, which addresses all 37 myths around Native Forest Logging.

Firstly the demand for timber products, particularly as it relates to housing and construction is addressed in chapter five pages 101-102 ... “despite what industry lobbyists tell us, trees cut from Native Forests rarely make houses and furniture. Rather, the wood is used for wood chips to make paper...and pizza.”

Further, on page 103 Professor Lindenmayer explains what happens to the wood taken out of the forest.

“Approximately 40% of the biomass of a logged forest is taken off site as logs for processing (Keith et Al 2014a),29%to processing for paper and packaging, and the remaining 11% to the sawn timber stream”.....the 11% of the biomass that is in the sawn timber stream:7% is waste in the sawing process, so only 4 percent of the total biomass in the form of logs actually goes to make timber products(Keith et al2014a) This 4% divides neatly into 2% pallets such as those used to transport beer kegs, and 2% high-quality timber such as window frames, floorboards and furniture. These facts and figures highly dispute the false and misleading claims about the demand for sawn timber products particularly for housing.

Other building products such as steel, industrial hemp products, mud bricks etc need greater support and exploration due to our climate crisis and the need to reduce our carbon emissions asap. The very best way of doing so is to leave the native forests intact as they are our greatest carbon sinks.

Regarding mining transport and retail impacts I feel the general public are open to supporting new initiatives that are genuinely working toward Zero emissions. However we are hearing lots of so called safeguard mechanisms such of offsets used to gain Climate Active Certificates, which gives a false impression of industry reducing their carbon emissions when in fact they are buying Climate Active Certificates. This situation impacts consumer protection laws directly as only appears to trade in extinctions or provides a false impression of businesses being climate aware. I have read extensively Polly Hemings, The Australian Institute, paper titled “State sponsored Greenwashing,” October 2022 which details the operations used to Greenwash the public and the place of Climate Active. The paper talk about regulation failures, corporate Greenwashing by promoting offsets, resulting in false claims like Ampol being carbon neutral! Etc etc.

The paper aimed to demonstrate, “this Government support is not restricted to isolated incidents. Rather it is the result of a comprehensive policy framework under which potentially misleading net zero claims are facilitated ; they are also underwritten by the Australian Government.”page 19

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

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This is another myth used by industry lobbyists. Please refer to question 3 above s answer to show how the timber logging from Native Forests is actually in fact.

### **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**

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**Economic and social outcomes by Forestry corporation continuing Native Forest Logging was clearly discussed by Dr Ken Henry as shown above in question 1 and repeated below.**

- a. As you have been informed by Dr Ken Henry in his review of the Biodiversity and Conservation Act 2016, published August 2023, ..." the principles of sustainable development is no longer fit for purpose. As has been recognised in many global forums over the past few years, the natural environment is now so damaged that we must commit to "nature positive" if we are to have any confidence that future generations will have the opportunity to be as well off as we are."....
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As for using indigenous Forest Management models I am not aware of these being applied to any local forest operations such as cool burning practices. Also, the forests are left in such a state of disrepair and with prolific weeds and left over logging materials leaving the dried-out forests like a "tinder box", able to easily commence another firestorm catastrophe today.

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### **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**

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The opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits has been ignored for decades to our collective detriment.

The best opportunity was to end Native Forest Logging, coal and gas as recommended by IPCC in 2018, six years ago.

The Australian Institutes, “ State Sponsored Greenwashing 2022” paper unequivocally demonstrated how and by what means Australia has arrived at this existential climate crisis now with devastating tipping points and graphic false and misleading “climate active” certificates to uphold false and or misleading the net zero marketing claims.

The Henry Review 2023 shows sustainability claims have run their course and no longer can be maintained and we must put nature first and have a climate trigger to assess new applications.

The Forest Wars 2024 disputes the 37 myths used to keep marketing Native Forest Logging and closing Native Forests to the public in order to charge protectors as trespassers and define our Native Forests as a workplace, Causing incredible social unrest amongst many environmental groups and alliances as a result.

As I write this Floridas houses are being washed away into the seas and winds are intolerable. Canada has incredible firestorms as has Europe. Floods or firestorms have decimated our NSW communities on the East Coast and many constituents are still displaced 2.5 years later. Insurances for many are unaffordable and many are looking to the Government to start honouring the science and putting in effective legislation to ensure this existential climate crisis is actually attended to responsibly and in a coordinated manner.

We are seeing many community alliances come together as a result of the Governments State spinsored Greenwashing of the climate crisis and its impact on public health etc. A Coalition for Climate Ambition is one such community alliance formed in response to the climate crisis we are in now.

### **7. Summary:**

I am party to the Coalition for Climate Ambition

(<https://australiainstitute.org.au/initiative/coalition-for-climate-ambition/>) we require our governments to be aligned with the science of what is needed to restrict the very worst impacts of climate change, biodiversity extinction in Australia at a minimum this must occur:

## **Submission template**

- \*Ban all new fossil fuel development in Australia
- \*Cease all fossil fuel subsidies
- \*Preserve and restore Australia's ecosystems and
- \* stop ALL native forest logging
- \* Reject the idea that carbon credits can offset fossil fuel emissions