

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

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Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat,

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

1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

Currently the operation of native logging in NSW is not very sustainable and forestry has shown they do not intend to create sustainability in their operations. As of right now majority of our native forests that are being logged is being used for woodchips and sawdust, and actual timber is being used from plantations, I see no reason as to why we cannot phase out native logging and solely rely on the numerous plantations we have across Australia.

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

In logging native forests, we are removing key protective areas for endangered and vulnerable wildlife, such as greater gliders, koalas, multiple bird species that require hollows to survive and raise their young, therefore providing a new generation for the species. It takes decades for trees to grow large enough for hollows to form, and by removing these old growth forests via logging, we are removing key habitat structures that Australian native species have evolved to use.

3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail & the future of softwood, hardwood and private forestry

There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses as plantations already meet the demands for this and composite timber products. Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production, and by investing into land that is already cleared (something we have a lot of across Australia) to create new plantations, that would close the 9% gap and Australia would be able to provide itself with all the timber it needs. By focusing on using solely plantations and moving away from native forest logging we will find that the supply still meets the demand for housing, construction, mining, transport and retail and that in turn will foster sustainable practices and give our forests a chance to recover from the logging that's already occurred.

4. 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 & opportunities to support greatly Australia's carbon and climate change goals

The benefits of State forestry delivering a range of environmental options for diverse management are numerous. Firstly, having healthy native forests provides us with water resources, which are essential especially in more rural areas. Protecting areas can boost tourism, creating revenue for

state forests, increase the carbon storage which will help the efforts being led against climate change, create jobs as we will need people to manage and work in these beautiful state forests and create recreational opportunities, aiding in local tourism in Australia. The opportunity to support Australia's carbon and biodiversity markets by solely stopping or phasing out native logging is an opportunity we should be jumping on, as many Australian communities are already feeling the effects of climate change starting to occur, and with our state forests standing where they are and allowing them to recover, we can contribute massively to Australia's carbon and climate goals.

In summary, I fully support the end to native logging, and a future based on using plantations as a sustainable and viable source for Australia's timber needs. By ending the native logging in NSW, we can create healthy forests that hold carbon, clean our water, provide vital habitat for threatened species, improve fire management, and provide spiritual and recreational connections to our forests.

Signed

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