Independent Forestry Panel

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

Organisation:	*Wilderness society*
Location:	*New South Wales*
Supporting materials uploaded:	*Attached overleaf*

Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel,

I would like to make a submission to the NSW forestry review.

I live in Chatswood, NSW, and have called this region home for the past seven years. As someone who regularly visits the stunning forests and nature reserves surrounding Sydney, I've witnessed firsthand the beauty and fragility of these ecosystems. With a Masters in Environmental engineering and my current role as Head of Data at ██████████████, I've spent much of my career working with large data sets, and it's alarming what the numbers tell us about the state of our environment.

One of the key issues that drives my concern is the escalating deforestation in NSW. Since moving here, I've watched as native forests, including those I frequently visit, have been gradually diminished. According to data I've analyzed, we've already lost around 54% of the forests and woodlands that once existed prior to colonization, and further logging risks pushing many species into what can only be described as an extinction vortex. This includes not just koalas but also other vulnerable native species whose habitats are being rapidly destroyed.

Recently, while hiking in one of my favorite areas near the Blue Mountains, I encountered an old forest ranger who shared stories of the dwindling local wildlife populations. He recalled how the area used to teem with koalas and other native creatures, but now, after years of deforestation, sightings are rare. The recent bushfires have only exacerbated the problem, accelerating habitat loss at an alarming rate. It's a stark reminder of the urgency needed to protect these environments.

I believe we must transition away from native forest logging in NSW if we are to avoid catastrophic losses to biodiversity. I expect this review to result in decisive action that will preserve what remains of our precious forests.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Regards
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