

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

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[Name provided in online form]

13 October 2024

Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel

This is a submission to the inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

I am an Australian citizen who has lived in New South Wales for several decades and mainly in metropolitan areas. I am a regular bushwalker.

I am seriously concerned with the ongoing destruction of native forests in NSW. Given the climate emergency the UN has identified and the well-established science behind it, it is now critical that native forests are preserved and their logging end. Further delay is no longer viable, with it imperative that healthy forests be maintained for future generations.

In addition to the above, I submit the following:

- a) I urge the government to reconsider the ongoing practice of native forest logging, which is not only financially draining but also devastating to our environment and cultural heritage;
- b) taxpayers are funding an industry that consistently loses millions, money that could be better spent on public services and sustainable initiatives;
- c) even more troubling is the impact on our wildlife. Iconic species like the koala and the greater glider are being driven towards extinction due to habitat destruction. These animals depend on healthy and mature forests, which are being systematically logged, preventing the growth of older forests. Further, such forests can also help resist the destructive effects of bushfires;
- d) Traditional Owners have raised concerns about how logging threatens First Nations cultural heritage. To me this raises serious human rights concerns. Now is the time for the government to listen and manage forests in a way that respects their rights and aspirations; and
- e) protected forests provide lasting benefits to the wider community, not just a small group of vested interests. I urge the government to prioritise sustainable forest management that supports both biodiversity and cultural preservation for the sake of future generations.

I appreciate the chance to provide feedback. I look forward to your response regarding this submission and the results of the review.

Yours faithfully

[Name provided in online form]