

# 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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The cessation of logging in state forests in Australia is a topic of significant environmental and economic importance. This submission explores the reasons for stopping logging and suggests alternative occupations for forestry workers.

One of the primary reasons to halt logging is the loss of biodiversity. Logging destroys habitats for many species, with at least 150 species in New South Wales at risk of extinction due to ongoing logging activities (Copilot, 2024). Additionally, native forests play a crucial role in carbon storage, which is vital for combating climate change. Old-growth forests, in particular, store significantly more carbon than younger forests (Copilot, 2024).

- [In New South Wales \(NSW\), up to 62% of the koala population has been lost since 2001<sup>1</sup>.](#)
- [Species affected include native rats and mice, possums, gliders, antechinuses, dunnarts, bettongs, bandicoots, quokkas, potoroos, kangaroos, wallabies, bats, wombats, echidnas, quolls, Tasmanian devils, and dingoes<sup>3</sup>.](#)

Moreover, the economic viability of native forestry is increasingly questioned. Many countries, including New Zealand, have successfully transitioned to plantation-based forestry, highlighting the potential for similar shifts in Australia (Copilot, 2024).

[More than half of NSW's forests and woodlands are gone as ongoing logging increases extinction risks, study shows \(theconversation.com\)](#)

## Opportunities

Forestry workers can transition to various alternative occupations. For instance, they can engage in sustainable forestry practices, which focus on maintaining biodiversity and ecological processes (Copilot, 2024). Another viable option is ecotourism, where workers or First Nations people can guide tours and manage recreational facilities in forested areas. Additionally, roles in wildlife management and conservation offer opportunities to protect and manage wildlife habitats (Copilot, 2024). Ecotourism and conservation that are well managed can be highly economically viable in the long term compared to short term logging. People are becoming more aware of the benefits of being in nature for their health and wellbeing.

Stopping logging in state forests is essential for preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, and ensuring economic sustainability in the long term.