

Public submission

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Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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Dear Independent Forestry Panel,

My wife and I have been residents of Darwin for over 10 years. We have a primary school aged child who was born here. Originally, we were attracted to Darwin for a number of reasons, including its more manageable size and easy access to some of Australia's and the world's most intact wilderness areas, nature reserves, ancient cultural heritage sites, and lack of heavy traffic and heavy industries.

We have however travelled extensively throughout Australia to visit other unique National Parks, nature reserves, and isolated pockets of nature. For this reason, and family ties, NSW has also been a regular holiday destination.

We are deeply concerned about the logging of the Kiwarrak and Bulga Forests. These forests provide an important, unique and therefore irreplaceable habitat for Australian native Flora and Fauna.

Among other disturbing facts around the deterioration of environments throughout Australia, this continent has the 5th highest extinction rate of plants and animals in the world:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-20/fact-check-does-australia-have-one-of-the-highest-extinction/6691026>

Australia also 1.5 billion native mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs, and 1.1 billion invertebrates each year to feral cats:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia/feral-cats#:~:text=Feral%20cats%20in%20Australia%20kill,1.1%20billion%20invertebrates%20each%20year.>

For these reasons, it is vital that Australia's unique natural habitats, no matter how small, are preserved and protected going forward.

Like many people in Australia, we have family and friends overseas. On many occasions we have received visitors from Germany, all of whom were fascinated by the unique flora and fauna. However, they were also appalled by the by the careless destruction of the environment through industry, permitted and at times promoted by State, Territory, and Federal Government Departments.

It is a well established fact that the tourism industry is worth billions of dollars to Australia. The destruction of the Kiwarrak and Bulga Forests and other habitats is not.

Throughout our travels we have noticed the disappearance of seemingly small habitats and ecosystems, which may seem insignificant if considered in isolation. However, at the rate at which Australia is going as a whole, our home is dying by a thousand cuts.

All over Australia there are so many relatively small projects which involve the destruction of ecosystems which take decades to establish and grow. We urge the Panel to consider not just the cost to the immediate environment and community of destroying these forests but the damage to NSW and Australia as a whole.

Thank you for considering this submission.