

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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**Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW**

Any native forest logging is no longer sustainable. Bushfires have already increased damage to our forests. Forests are precious habitat, particularly the older trees which provide necessary hollows for animals that depend on them. Forest connectivity is also vital to some of our precious species, so that damage to our forests is no longer an incremental thing, but of exponential threat. Continued logging within native forests needs to urgently stop.

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

the colonialist idea that we can just take whatever we want, is not sustaining us. On the other side, Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as:

- Water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism.
- Recreational values for locals and visitors.
- Cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.
- Habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Mature forests, with hollows intact, are vital for some species that are dependant on them.

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**Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail**

Plantation timbers can supply all of these needs. New products are being explored and fabricated (such as 3D printing)

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**Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

Ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

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**Topic 5. 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**

Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities.

Forest management needs to include indigenous knowledge and guidance front and centre.

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**Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests**

Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change.

- Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals.

## Public submission

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- Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.
  - By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat,

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

I fully support an urgent end to native forest logging and a future based on sustainable plantations. Plantations are currently providing more than 90% of our hard and soft wood timbers. Logging of native forests is unsustainable on many levels including financially, and environmentally. To me it seems like a no-brainer.

Logging of native forests is leading to the extinction of species, such as the Greater Glider and Koala and cannot be described as sustainable. In a time of mass extinction, of which NSW Australia has one of the highest rates in the world, logging of native forest habitat is unacceptable. Logging of native forests makes a mockery of the Environmental Protection Act and other safeguards for our precious species. It is time to start to protect our remaining biodiversity. Current species loss is unprecedented and I have heard ecologists acknowledge that we actually don't know what the greater impact to human and planetary survival will be when we lose too much. We are, after all, just another species interdependent on other species for survival.

Logging public native forests is costing the taxpayer millions and leading to permanent damage to our forests. There is no viable reason to prop this archaic practise up.

We need healthy forests for holding carbon, cleaning our water, providing habitat, improving fire management, providing recreation and spiritual connection.

Logging native forests damages all these values. Looking to a sustained future it is vital that my children and childrens children have access to 'wild' green places and forest as we know them. Anything else feels dystopian.

Our native forests are precious and need to be fully and legally recognised as such.

What is Australia without the koala? What is Australia without its 'bush'? It is time we stepped up to stop logging native forests. I kindly ask the forestry panel to use this opportunity to ensure best practise. Let's protect our native forests as a matter of urgency and switch to 100percent plantation timbers as required.

Thanking you for your considerations,

(Name withheld)