

Public submission

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SUBMISSION TO INDEPENDENT FORESTRY PANEL

It is unconscionable that the people of NSW, via the NSW State Government, should be made to pay many millions of dollars to prop up a failing industry – the logging of our native public forests, carried out by the Forestry Corporation - when this industry, in addition to being physically and economically unsustainable, is having dire effects on the natural environment, is contributing to the likely extinction of threatened species and to global warming, and is unnecessary in view of adequate timber supplies from other sources (i.e. plantations).

Effects on the natural environment:

Unlogged, healthy forests provide for maximum biodiversity, are essential for efficient pollination, and locally affect climate by cooling and cleaning the air and enhancing rainfall. There are also health and social benefits to people visiting these forests, and they are of particular importance to First Nations people.

Effect on the increasing number of threatened species:

Native forest logging inevitably adversely affects the ability of ecosystems to support the many threatened species across the many habitats covered by NSW native forests. Mature forests provide food sources and old tree hollows and hollow logs which are crucial to the survival of a number of such species.

Effects on global warming:

Logging native forests reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half and is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon in NSW every year. Unlogged forests are better able to adapt to a changing climate and effects such as fire and flood.

Effects on the timber market in Australia:

By far the major part of Australia's log production (91%) is provided by plantation timber, and this could be higher if more useable timber was retained instead of being exported as woodchips. A better use of public money would be for the NSW Government to subsidise plantations on already cleared private land instead of propping up the Forestry Corporation.

Finally, our native public forests are currently being mined for all they are worth - the yield from State Forests has decreased by 40% since 2010, and theoretical protection for mature trees was removed in 2018. This is unsustainable use. The native forests are far more valuable for their environmental, climate, and social benefits than for a dwindling resource the retrieval of which is economic nonsense.

PLEASE STOP LOGGING NATIVE FORESTS IN NSW.