

## **Public submission**

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Supporting materials uploaded:	Attached overleaf		

Submission date: 10/14/2024 12:11:08 AM

## To the Forestry Industry Action Panel

## Dear Panel

I would like to make a submission to the NSW Logging Review.

For as long as I can remember I have felt a strong affinity to forests. From early childhood stories and many happy hours playing amongst trees near my home growing up to an early working life in the forestry industry and studying for a forestry science degree. My love for forests has only deepened with the passing years. Few experiences are more wonderful or satisfying to me than spending some time in a natural forest. Times I have spend in nature away from day to day urban life are amongst my most treasured memories and I always look forward to the next bush walk or hiking adventure. With knowledge and experience has come a greater understanding and appreciation for the abundant and complex expression of life that is native forest. Forests have played a crucial role to providing the conditions required to sustaining human life on earth. In recent history we humans have consumed much of the natural forest we had to satisfy our appetite for land, materials and food. We know many important benefits that are lost when native forests are cut down. We know that the native forests have taken hundreds and thousands of years to develop and are genuinely irreplaceable.

According to the Australian National University's Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster 70% of NSW's forests and woodlands have been destroyed or degraded since European colonisation. Despite being unpopular unprofitable contributing to global warming dangerous climate change habitat loss and species decline the governments in NSW Tasmania and Queensland continue to their remnant natural forest estates. (Source: iceds.anu.edu.au) The NSW government needs to follow the ACT WA and Victoria and stop all native forest logging on public land in our state (with limited exceptions for logging operations required for legitimate fire protection forest health and windstorm salvage purposes). We need to save what remaining public native forest we still have in NSW. As an economy we need to urgently transition to sustainable sources for all our supplies including wood products. What we do matters not just to the local communities not just to the wider population of NSW but to the whole global community and future generations who will inherit the earth that we leave to them. It is past time to properly address the externalities our economic activities generate and fully consider the true costs of production. I'm for growth without more irredeemable loss please! Thank you for considering my submission. Sincerely yours