

Public submission

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Forestry IAP Mailbox](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Bulga Forest
Date: Monday, 14 October 2024 6:51:29 PM

Dear Independent Forestry Panel,

I am writing to submit my concerns regarding the ongoing logging in Bulga State Forest and to highlight the unsustainability of native forest logging in New South Wales.

Sustainability of Current and Future Forestry Operations

Native forest logging in NSW is fundamentally unsustainable. Estimates by the Forestry Corporation of harvestable timber are consistently overestimated, and the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Following the removal of protections for mature trees in 2018, logging has intensified, further jeopardizing our forests. Logging not only reduces biomass and carbon storage but also removes vital food sources and hollow-bearing trees. With 174 species in NSW relying on hollows for nesting, the consequences of logging are dire.

Moreover, native forest logging increases fire threats, erosion, waterway pollution, and the spread of invasive species, ultimately compromising the health of our waterways, including streams and rivers.

Environmental and Cultural Values

Healthy, unlogged forests are critical to both the environment and cultural identity—both for First Nations and non-First Nations communities. Mature forests generate rainfall, cool the landscape, and clean the air. In NSW, 150 threatened species are directly impacted by logging. Furthermore, these forests are essential for pollinators, recreation, and community pride. The cultural and spiritual significance of native forests for First Nations people cannot be overstated, as they maintain a deep, ongoing connection to these landscapes.

Demand for Timber Products

In 2023, logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of Australia's total log production, with a significant portion being exported as wood chips. The demand for hardwood sourced from native forests is rapidly declining, as alternatives like sawn and treated softwood can effectively substitute for current uses. The recent shift by Essential Energy away from native forest-sourced power poles exemplifies this decline.

The Future of Plantations and Private Native Forestry

Plantations currently provide 91% of Australia's log production, and prioritizing harvested logs from plantations as saw and veneer logs would be far more beneficial than exporting them as wood chips. Subsidizing public native forest logging distorts the market, diverting focus from the more sustainable softwood plantation industry.

State Forests and Diverse Management Options

Unlogged native forests offer tangible benefits to the ecology and economy of NSW, affecting everything from water quality to tourism opportunities. It is unacceptable that the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss, funded by public money, while destroying biodiversity and critical habitats.

Carbon and Biodiversity Benefits

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually, equivalent to removing 840,000 cars from the roads each year. Ending native forest logging would allow previously logged areas to recover, significantly contributing to our emissions targets. As climate change intensifies, unlogged forests are proving to be more resilient, further emphasizing the need to halt logging.

In conclusion, I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to take decisive action to protect Bulga Forest and reconsider the practices surrounding native forest logging. The ecological, cultural, and economic implications of these decisions are profound and must prioritize the long-term health of our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

[Your Address]

[City, State, Post Code]

Sent from my iPhone