

Public submission

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Forestry Submission

I would like to make a submission to the Independent Forestry Panel regarding the ending of the logging of native forest in NSW.

I am a lifetime resident of NSW, where I have camped and bushwalked since my childhood. Now I have introduced my own family to the joys of camping and walking in the wilderness of New South Wales.

However with the ongoing climate crisis and accelerating loss of wildlife numbers due to this and forest clearing, I have doubts my young family will be able to introduce their families to the joys of the NSW bush like I could. The pressure to exploit what nature we have left is driving many animal species to the brink. This is a world-wide phenomenon but it's particularly acute here, in Australia. We're running out of native flora and fauna numbers at a rapid clip and for what?

What needs does society have that are well served by native forest logging that can't be served equally well by plantation logging? None that I can see. Plantation logging could support all our quality timber and composite wood needs in a more sustainable manner.

Re-directing the current support given to native loggers to more sustainable practices would be positive and practical and save critical habitat for our unique flora and fauna. This will help save endangered populations of flora and fauna. It will help maintain and promote the health of these major carbon sinks and help support climate goals. It will help with water quality. It will make it easier to promote these forests' value as cultural and societal treasures - through tourism, recreation, and also job opportunities stemming from this. Anyone who has travelled regionally in the last few years can see how regional tourism can have huge value to those communities. Protected and conserved native forests could have far more value in this role than as a one-off source of wood products.

We are laggards in this regard. Victoria and Western Australia have led the way here. New South Wales should follow.

I hope the panel will recommend that native forest logging be brought to an end in New South Wales and as expeditiously as possible. We owe it to subsequent generations to conserve our native forest heritage.

Many thanks.

Paul Jones