

# Public submission

PETER SOBEY

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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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Dr. Peter Sobey

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat,

With regards to the inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW, please accept my submission and consider my concerns.

The area that I live in, on the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales, is a special place. The area around my home is proposed for the Great Koala National Park because of its biological diversity and its fragility in the face of increased logging, particularly after the 2019-2020 fires.

To cut to the chase, I would like to make the following points:

1. I would like to see a rapid end to native forest logging. There are currently several logging operations underway within 5km of my house, in Little Newry and Viewmont, and it is traumatic to watch the preparations for industrial clear-felling in these forests that I walk in regularly. Even though Viewmont is classed as a plantation it is in steep country and includes the water catchment area that feeds into Deep Creek, which runs through my property. Very shortly I will have logging trucks driving past my front door and the summer rain will fill Deep Creek with silt and debris.
2. Walking through these forests it is clear to see the evidence of koalas. The clear-felling operations of Forestry Corporation, in such large areas, is leading to the extinction of species, such as the Greater Glider and the Koala. It is not sustainable and should cease.
3. The hardwood division of Forestry Corporation is running at a loss. They often commit breaches which result in fines by the Environmental Protection Agency. We, the tax payers of NSW, are paying to destroy our forests and drive unique plants and animals to extinction. This should cease promptly.
4. Our forests should be cared for, not treated as a never ending supply of wood chips and palettes. We should explore hemp for fibre and recycled plastic for palettes. The forests should be allowed to grow old, to perform their vital role in the carbon cycle and the water cycle. These forests are vital for rainfall on the west of the Divide. We need to keep these forests healthy, not only for the survival of the flora and fauna of the area, but for our own well being. Older forests are more fire resistant than young forests. Plantations are a much greater fire risk.

Regards,

Peter Sobey