

Public submission

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Organisation: *Wilderness Society*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel,

I currently live in [REDACTED], southwest of Sydney, New South Wales. I returned to Sydney after living in Canberra for just over five years, and before that, I lived in Lithgow for a little over another five years as well.

Throughout these journeys of life, I have worked in hospitality and retail and experienced the diverse cultures of Australia, as well as our fantastic landscape and wildlife, for which I have grown to appreciate and learn more every day of not only its beauty but the importance of its preservation.

In the past seven years, I have been working on a personal project, which started as a hobby because I love to create art. Due to the fantastic opportunity to live in Lithgow, part of the incredible Blue Mountains, I began researching different resources for information about Australian endangered species.

As I researched individual states and territories, I became increasingly overwhelmed by the growing number of endangered species we are losing year after year. Not only that, but we are also losing our essential flora and fauna rapidly, which is crucial to our ecosystem. Through my research, I came across many reasons for the increased loss of our flora and fauna. For example, widespread logging is one of the primary and most concerning reasons.

Throughout this research, I continued to work as a single mom and create art. My awareness of Australia's flora and fauna is no longer just a hobby for me; it has become a mission to inform others about the need to be aware of the consequences if we do not stop this loss.

I recently became a volunteer for the Wilderness Society, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity. I finally found the courage to speak up and express my concerns while being part of a group that understands the importance of the cause. Many other societies around Australia are also fighting for the exact reason: To stop widespread deforestation. "Without our forests, there is a ripple effect of devastation."

Each species of flora and fauna has its duties in the ecosystem. As humans, we must contribute to assisting the ecosystem, not destroy, abuse, or violate it. There are ways to work with Mother Nature, starting by not stripping the heart of the decline of all life sources—our forest.

I hope to see changes in 'nature laws' by making them stronger.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Sincerely

Rosa Fatone

R.Fatone Illustrations