

JENNIE MINIFIE

Submission ID: 205339

---

**Organisation:** Ryde Community Alliance

---

**Location:** New South Wales

---

**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

---

Submission date: 10/14/2024 12:46:57 AM

---

## Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

---

Dear Independent Forestry Panel Secretariat

This is a submission by Ryde Community Alliance into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. The submissions to the Inquiry made by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and by Professor David Lindenmayer are reflected in this submission as they each represent a thorough analysis of the forestry industry in NSW and the expert knowledge of their respective authors.

### 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

Forestry Corporation's estimates of sustained yields have been proven time and time again to be gross over-estimates. Since 2010 the yields from state forests have declined by 40% from 1.3 million

tonnes down to 0.8 million tonnes in 2023, and are currently only 61% of estimated sustained yields,

with the massive loss of resources in the 2019/20 fires yet to be factored in. It is a tree mining operation that has only been able to be maintained by removing protections for most mature trees

and increasing logging intensity in 2018.

Logging of native forests is not sustainable:

It reduces biomass and carbon storage, depletes mature trees and their abundance of nectar and habitat for many species. It destroys old growth trees and the hollows that they contain, that 174 of

NSW's species depend upon for dens and nests.

It also increases fire threat and intensity, reduces stream flows, promotes weeds and dieback, and increases erosion and reduces water quality in streams. The damaging impacts of land clearing for access roads for use by logging and transport vehicles and the disturbance of significant ecological systems must also be taken into account in any genuine assessment of the sustainability of the forestry industry.

---

## Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

---

### 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Forests generate rainfall, clean the air of pollutants, cool the land, and also filter and slow groundwater runoff into streams. These beneficial services are provided on an ongoing basis provided that there is no disturbance to the environmental balance within the forest.

Forests are immensely important for human recreation and improved health across many different countries, from skiing to birdwatching, hiking, camping and orienteering.

---

Forests also provide homes for the majority of threatened species. If we want to save our many endangered species, including the Koala and the Greater Glider, and many, many more, it is essential that we stop logging their forest homes.

### **Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail**

---

3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

There is no longer a need to log public native forests to build houses as we can satisfy our hardwood needs with sawn timber and composite timber products from plantations. Native hardwoods comprised 2.4 million (9%) of Australia's log production of 25 million cubic metres in 2023, with half this exported as woodchips. Saw and veneer logs comprised just 8% of the 8.5 million cubic metres of logs obtained from hardwood plantations, with 87% exported as woodchips.

### **Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

---

4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. The proportion of saw and veneer logs obtained from hardwood plantations needs to be increased, rather than being exported as woodchips.

Private native forestry must also be phased out as a contributing influence to the extinction of endangered species, and replaced as a source of firewood for wood burning stoves for heating and cooking by renewable energy.

### **Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

---

5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models

There are 2 million hectares of State Forests in NSW that provide water for numerous town reservoirs, have the potential to contribute to increased tourism, and take-up and store carbon. All of these real economic values will improve when logging native forests is stopped. In 2023 forestry Corporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for each hectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining millions in regular equity injections. It is in public interest to bring the uneconomic logging of public native forests to an end.

### **Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests**

---

6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests

Native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 cars. The volume of carbon stored in logged forests has been halved. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our climate targets. As shown by the 2019/20 wildfires, increasing droughts and fires due to climate heating are already having a significant impact on trees, forest species and rainforests – it is essential that logging is stopped to allow forests to reduce the impacts of climate heating by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and recover their integrity to better withstand future disasters.

Intact native forests store significantly more carbon than logged and regenerated native forests (Keith et al. 2014). Native forest logging generates large amounts of emissions. Indeed, a key way to reach Australia's 2030 GHG reduction targets will be to stop native forest logging (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8740433/ending-native-forest-logging-key-to-emissions-reduction-experts/>).

In fact, a significant reduction in native forest logging in Tasmania had major positive benefits on the carbon accounts in that State (Mackey et al. 2022). Increased carbon storage in intact native forests can be included in State and National carbon accounts.

Carbon does not have to be traded to show benefits – and this will avoid the gaming that has characterized substantial parts of the carbon trading industry in Australia (e.g. Macintosh et al. 2024).

The biodiversity benefits of intact native forests have been well documented (Mackey et al. 2015, Watson et al. 2018). The best way to maintain the biodiversity values of native forests is to stop logging them, including in NSW (Ward et al. 2024).