

# Public submission

THOMAS DRIFTWOOD

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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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# Forest Submission Oct 2024

<https://nswdpi.eforms.net/f/IFP-MakeAnOnlineSubmission>

I strongly advocate ending native forest logging and transitioning to well managed plantation timber as swiftly as possible to meet our wood needs, protect our biodiversity, keep huge amounts of carbon locked up and keep our water clean.

Australia has the highest rate of mammal extinctions in the world - clearly not sustainable. I work as an ecotour guide and the most popular tour is the wildlife safari where people get to see our iconic mammals such as koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, pademelons and flying foxes. Three of the mammal species I show tourists are under threat of extinction. If we cause their extinction, that will be three less species to attract tourists to Australia and less work for myself and other tour operators.

In the bigger picture, the 9 planetary boundaries that enable our continuing survival on planet earth must become hard limits that we never exceed – all other considerations should be secondary to this. Biodiversity is one of the 6 out of 9 planetary boundaries we have already crossed – threatening our survival on planet earth. We have to turn this around with zero tolerance for species extinctions.

Habitat loss due to tree felling is the biggest cause of extinctions, exacerbated by global warming. Some facts and analysis from the Threatened Species 2021 report (NSW)

<https://www.soe.epa.nsw.gov.au/all-themes/biodiversity/threatened-species-2021>:

**"1,043 species are listed as threatened in NSW** as at December 2020 (18 more species than in the last report)."

"However, modelling in the assessment of the NSW Biodiversity Indicator Program (BIP) predicts that **only 496 or 50% of the 991** terrestrial species listed as threatened **are predicted to survive** in 100 years' time (DPIE 2020). **Management and conservation efforts will not be enough to save many species without addressing key threats such as habitat removal and climate change.**" (Bold emphasis added).

Protecting, regenerating and expanding our native forests (especially wildlife corridors) is key to both protecting our threatened species and locking up carbon rather than releasing carbon through tree felling.

Therefore, I strongly advocate ending native forest logging and transitioning to well managed plantation timber as swiftly as possible to meet our wood needs.

In addition, it is highly perverse that NSW Forestry operates at a loss while destroying our biodiversity.

Regards,

Tom Driftwood