

Listening to multiple views and evidence

In addition to inviting public submissions from stakeholders, the Independent Forestry Panel:

- is meeting with targeted stakeholder, industry and advocacy groups
- is receiving briefings from relevant government agencies
- is seeking advice from independent forestry and forest ecology experts
- is reviewing the range of recent studies, inquiries and decisions on forestry issues
- has invited targeted stakeholders to participate in qualitative research.

Qualitative research

Research company Stollznaw Research was commissioned by the NSW Government to conduct three focus group meetings and up to 20 individual interviews with targeted stakeholders that represent key industry, environmental and recreation groups.

Stollznaw were also engaged to conduct a further eight regional community focus groups covering the North and Far North coast, the South coast, the Riverina and the Far North West with a spectrum of views on the role of forests, native forestry and the goods and services provided by forests.

Stollznaw will deliver a report with its findings to the Independent Forestry Panel, which will be deidentified so that it does not disclose the views of the individual organisations that participated. This research will assist the Panel in considering a diverse range of opinions, feedback, evidence and lived experience, in addition to the information provided to the Panel in written submissions and at its own stakeholder meetings. As the research was commissioned by the NSW Government, any publication of Stollznaw's report would be a matter for the Government to determine.

The list of stakeholders invited to take part in the qualitative research was informed by relevant government departments. The research company has conducted the focus group meetings and will complete interviews between 17 September and 18 October 2024.

When invited to participate, all invitees were given the option of having their involvement in the research included on the public record or not identified.

Focus group participants include:

- Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Workers' Union
- Bushwalking NSW
- Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union
- Forest Alliance NSW
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Outdoors NSW
- Timber NSW
- Another five organisations that opted not to be identified

Interview participants include:

- Environmental Defenders Office
- Forestry Australia
- Jamax Forest Solutions
- Wilderness Australia
- North East Forest Alliance
- North East NSW Forestry Hub
- Responsible Wood
- Softwoods Working Group
- South East Forest Rescue
- South East Region Conservation Alliance
- South East Timber Association
- The Hunters Campfire
- Another five organisations that opted not to be identified

The Panel greatly appreciates the time and effort made by all these stakeholders to take part in this qualitative research, which will inform the Panel's report to the NSW Government on stakeholder views.