

25 October 2024

Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP
Member for Coogee
15/53-55B Frenchmans Road
RANDWICK NSW 2031
Via email: coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr O'Neill

I refer to your letter to the Independent Forestry Panel of 16 October 2024. In that letter, you put the following seven questions to the Panel:

1. What input are you seeking from scientists specifically? Are you giving science a separate consultation platform?
2. Are you considering climate change impacts in your assessment (see article above in terms of urgency to protect remaining forests)?
3. Are you able to take into consideration accumulative impacts on our environment, rather than just looking at issue by issue separately?
4. Will scientific reports on global biodiversity decline (CBD COP 16), be considered in your assessment on the value (environmental) of our forests?
5. How will public submissions be considered and acknowledged?
6. What is the deadline and what are the terms for publishing your findings to the public?
7. Will the panel give binding recommendations?

The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. As part of its consultation, the Panel is seeking advice from independent forestry and forest ecology experts. The Panel is also reviewing the range of recent studies, inquiries and decisions on forestry issues. The Panel's website will be periodically updated with expert advice and information received.
2. The impact of climate change is a matter that has been raised extensively in submissions to the Panel and in other materials the Panel is considering as part of its process.
3. There is no restriction on the Panel considering cumulative impacts on the environment.
4. In addition to considering submissions and presentations to the Panel, the Panel has also commissioned analysis of relevant scientific literature, including but not limited to the subject of biodiversity.
5. The Panel greatly appreciates the time and effort made by stakeholders who have made submissions. All duly made submissions will be considered by the Panel and, subject to the considerations set out in the Panel's [Transparency Statement](#), published on the Panel's website.
6. The Panel has been commissioned to report directly to the NSW Government before the end of the year. The NSW Government will determine to what extent the Panel may publish its findings.
7. No – the Panel is leading consultation as an input into the NSW Government's processes for making a Forestry Industry Action Plan and reporting to the NSW Government on the best options to achieve the balance between sustainable supplies of timber and the State's environmental commitments. The Panel has not been tasked with giving binding recommendations to the NSW Government.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Duncan AM
Chair