

19 September 2024

Open invitation to MPs and MLCs  
NSW Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Independent Forestry Panel, which has been appointed to lead consultation on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations ahead of the NSW Government developing its Forestry Industry Action Plan. Professor Mary O’Kane AC and the Hon. Mick Veitch also sit on the Panel. The Panel will consult with stakeholders and report to the NSW Government on the best options to achieve the balance between sustainable supplies of timber and NSW’s environmental commitments. The Government’s Forestry Industry Action Plan will address:

- Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW
- Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species
- Community demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail
- The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs
- The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes
- Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks
- Greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests.

The Panel appreciates that members of Parliament will have an interest in these topics and may wish to provide information to assist the Panel. Accordingly, an information session will be held on **16 October 2024** at NSW Parliament House (Room 814), during which the Panel will provide an overview of its approach (12:00pm-12:20pm) and hold 20 minute meetings with any interested members of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council (12:20pm-4:40pm).

If you would like to take the opportunity to meet with the Panel, please send an email to [forestryiap@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:forestryiap@ipcn.nsw.gov.au) with your full availability for the afternoon of 16 October 2024 and you will receive a calendar invitation for a specific time. The Panel is also offering to meet with groups of up to five members of Parliament at the same time provided the themes and issues to be raised are similar. For transparency, the meetings with the Panel are intended to be transcribed and published on the Panel’s webpage.

The Panel is also seeking written submissions, which close on **13 October 2024 (11:59pm)**, please see here for more detail: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases/2024/08/independent-forestry-panel>.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Duncan AM  
Chair, Independent Forestry Panel