

# Public submission

SARAH TURNER

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**Organisation:** *4 Pines Brewing Co*

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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## **Submission: End Native Forest Logging in NSW**

On behalf of our team at 4 Pines Beer, a proud B Corp Certified business, 1% for the Planet member, and partner of Landcare Australia, I am writing to support the end of native forest logging in NSW. As a company committed to planting 44,444 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers annually, we believe in the urgent need to protect biodiversity hotspots and promote sustainable practices. Protecting our native forests is essential to fulfilling this commitment and safeguarding the ecosystems that are critical to our environment, communities, and wildlife.

The NSW Government is currently reviewing the forestry industry through the Forestry Industry Action Panel (FIAP), and this is our chance to be a voice for change. We urge the government to prioritize conservation, climate action, and community well-being by ending native forest logging.

### **Unsustainable Logging Practices**

Native forest logging in NSW is not sustainable. The practice removes critical habitats for wildlife such as older trees, which are vital for threatened wildlife such as the Koala and the Greater Glider. By continuing logging operations at current levels, we risk further damaging key habitats, threatening species extinction, and exacerbating the crisis caused by the devastating 2019/20 fires.

- Forestry contributes heavily to [climate change](#)
- Forestry is a major cause of [species decline](#).
- Native forest logging continues to occur in critical habitat which is home to endangered species. [See here](#).

### **Protecting Environmental and Cultural Values**

NSW's native forests are essential for both environmental and cultural reasons. They provide critical habitats for numerous threatened species, support water table quality and flow, and hold significant recreational and cultural value, particularly for Aboriginal heritage. Preserving these forests enhances biodiversity, maintains water quality, and promotes the well-being of local communities while supporting tourism and outdoor activities. Protecting native forests is crucial for safeguarding the environment, supporting communities, and preserving the cultural heritage of First Nations. Additionally, these forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

### **Sustainable Timber Solutions**

There is no longer any need to log native forests for timber products. Plantations are fully capable of supplying high-quality and composite timber, meeting our timber demands for housing, construction, and industry while safeguarding biodiversity. Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 90% of Australia's timber, and investing in plantations on cleared

land will further reduce pressure on native forests. By shifting entirely to plantation timber, we can create sustainable industry practices that protect our native forests for future generations.

- The construction industry prefers timber that comes from plantations. [See here.](#)
- Already 90% of Australia's timber comes from plantations - there's no need to continue destroying native forest. [See here.](#)
- The majority of logged native forest timber is made into low value products like wood chips and tomato stakes. [See here.](#)

### **Economic and Social Benefits of Protecting Forests**

Investing in forest conservation will bring significant economic, environmental, and social returns. Protecting State Forests will enhance their economic value through carbon markets, and provide valuable resources for tourism, recreation and job creation. We support diverse forest management models, including Aboriginal-led management, to ensure forests are preserved for future generations. The Forestry Corporation's financial reliance on government subsidies is unsustainable, and shifting focus to sustainable timber production and plantation management will benefit both the economy and the environment.

- [Click link to supporting paper | UON Great Koala National Park | Economic impact analysis \\* environmental benefit assessment](#)

### **Climate Mitigation and Carbon Benefits**

Logging in native forests contributes to climate change by releasing stored carbon. Ending logging will allow forests to recover, capture more carbon, and help NSW meet its climate goals. Healthy native forests are crucial for carbon storage, climate resilience, and water resources. Protecting forests also reduces the risk of wildfires and droughts, strengthening climate resilience and unlocking opportunities in carbon markets.

### **Not commercially viable, loss-making industry**

The FCNSW's native hardwood division is not commercially viable. Even with the subsidies, the state-based forestry corporations are losing millions each year. A report released in '23 finds the taxpayer-owned logging business received \$246.9 million worth of grants since 2019/20 financial year, while the hardwood division (which is responsible for native forest logging) made a loss of \$28.2 million over the same period.

NSW's taxpayers are continuously footing the bill to cover Forestry Corporation's massive deficit. *It is a loss-making industry that is logging threatened species habitat in a biodiversity crisis.*

\$20 million loss in 2020-21

\$9 million loss in 2021-22

\$15 million 2022- 23

**\$44 million loss since 2020**

- Click link to supporting paper | [Frontier Economics Paper : Public native forest logging: a large and growing taxpayer burden](#)

### **Forestry Corp Breaches of Environmental Laws**

Forestry Corp have an extensive history of breaching environmental regulations in native forests across the state, the few times they're held accountable when they're found to break the law through illegal logging practices (often thanks to research undertaken by volunteer local community scientists), it is the taxpayers that pay the fine.

- Forestry Corp NSW have been found to be acting criminally on several occasions for not carrying out adequate surveillance for threatened species. [See here.](#)

### **Native Forest Logging is Unpopular**

There is significant community opposition. A [recent survey by Australia Institute](#) found that 7 in 10 Australians support native forest logging bans in NSW and Tasmania. The Australia Institute surveyed voters about their views on banning native forest logging. Key Findings were that seven in 10 Australians (69%) support extending native forest logging bans to New South Wales (and Tasmania). And a majority of voters for each political party support an end to native forest logging in New South Wales (and Tasmania).

- Click link to supporting paper | [Australian Institute research, Ending Native Forest Logging](#)

### **Key Stats for further consideration |**

- Australia has the [highest mammal extinction rates](#) in the world
- A staggering 130 species were added to Australia's Threatened Species list in 2023.
- Thirty-three species were uplisted to a higher threat category.
- There are now over two thousand plant, animal and ecological communities listed as threatened under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act '99

Click link for supporting paper | [ANU, Australians Environment | 2023 Report](#)

- Australia has the [highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions of all OECD](#) member countries.
- We are also the only developed nation identified as a [deforestation hotspot](#).

This is a pivotal moment. The FIAP is setting the course for the future of NSW forestry, and now is the time to take decisive action to protect our forests. At 4 Pines, we believe that the protection of NSW's native forests is vital to safeguarding biodiversity, supporting local communities, and ensuring the future health of our environment. An easy win for all these interests is within our reach. Shifting from native forest logging to sustainable plantations will help protect these essential forests while still meeting wood demands. Urgent action is required to protect threatened wildlife & wild places, and a robust plan devised to chart a course of recovery, rehabilitation, regeneration & support those people within the forestry industry with sufficient transitional training, education & jobs. The reasons are clear on why we should end native forest logging.

We urge the government to commit to ending native forest logging and focus on sustainable alternatives that protect our planet and our people.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sarah Turner**

Environmental & Social Impact Advisor, 4 Pines Beer