

# Public submission

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Submission ID: n.a

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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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Submission date: 10/4/2024 7:59:00 AM

Mr Peter Duncan, Chair  
Independent Forestry Panel , NSW

### **Submission into the sustainability of current and Future Forestry Operations in NSW**

I live in inner west Sydney but have travelled widely in NSW and have observed with increasing alarm the impacts of logging on our public native forests. All of us are living in an increasingly warming climate with devastating effects in NSW - floods, drought and fire - exacerbated by the logging of precious and threatened forests. The concomitant loss of biodiversity is equally alarming – not only native animals and birds (eg koalas, gliders and cockatoos) but complex webs of insects that thrive in and support native forests.

In the context of the effects of rapidly increasing human-induced global warming, my views are:

- No logging should be allowed to occur in native forests (anywhere in Australia) and of course in NSW. Instead, the focus and funding must go towards plantations for timber supply. Wherever possible, existing native vegetation should not be cleared for such plantations.
- Moreover, public native forests should focus on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions.

It is well known by now that current “carbon credit schemes” lack integrity, honesty and effectiveness. They should not include public native forests which could enable further environmental degradation.

A relatively small number of people are directly employed in this sector so it cannot be claimed that ceasing native forest logging would be a major employment loss.

#### **In summary:**

With so much scientific evidence available that native forests are themselves major contributors to carbon sequestration, it is alarming that logging continues in these forests. I sincerely hope the Panel will seek the most up-to-date evidence from acknowledged forest experts – independent of any government influence – to inform you. And then release such independent, expert advice to the general public in a timely manner, that is, by no later than end of February 2025.

#### **Recommendations:**

In any case, I believe logging public native forests must end as a matter of urgency and should cease within the next two years - to (attempt to) increase carbon sequestration within them and protect remaining biodiversity. A sustainable forestry industry must rely solely on plantations.

I strongly suggest that areas with established timber plantations should remain under the Department of Primary Industries, while native forest areas should be designated as *protected reserves*. Ideally there should be joint management with Aboriginal groups.

Native forest logging has recently ceased in Victoria and Western Australia. How many more inquiries must be held in NSW to stop the senseless destruction of already compromised public native forests?

**Adrienne Shilling**



2 October 2024