

Public submission

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7 October 2024

Dear NSW Independent Forestry Panel,

Submission into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

I write to you as a resident of NSW, and to express my opposition of any logging of native forests in NSW. Instead in the future we should source wood supplied only from sustainably planted trees. I am very concerned at the rate of extinction of our unique and irreplaceable Australian species, especially of animal species that need old trees. There are animal species that now compete with each other for breeding/shelter hollows in old large trees. Only last weekend I visited the Tallawarra wetlands, (not a native forest), and there was a single large old dead tree standing, standing out alone in the depleted landscape, and different bird pairs were fighting fiercely for one of the hollows in that tree. Hollows are just not available anywhere!

Destroying our native forest is not sustainable at all:

- From an environmental perspective, logging native forests destroys ecosystems directly, damages forests, and as well, removes habitat for endangered species at a time when climate change also threatens and in 2019/2020 we have already seen just how widespread bushfire can be. Forests and native forests especially, are also massively important for storing carbon and providing water ecoservices.
- From an economic perspective, logging native forests is also not sustainable given the millions of dollars subsidization that has been required by NSW taxpayers! Instead government should stop the subsidies and this would encourage sustainable timber production on private properties. Moreover, native forests are an attraction for visitors – and some such visitors contribute to local economies as tourists.
- From a social/cultural perspective, logging native forests is also not sustainable given the connection of people to forests – especially First Nations Australians, but also many others who find respite and comfort and connection with nature in native forests.

Our native forests become only more precious as time passes. Please, recommend they be protected and logging be banned outright and urgently in NSW.

Thank you for an opportunity to make a submission into this topic.

Sincerely,

Deidre Stuart
NSW, [REDACTED]