

Public submission

DIANE SPEED

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Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel,

This is a submission to your inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

Although I have personally had an urban life, I am passionate about the preservation of our native forests everywhere and deeply concerned about the current destructive practices that fly in the face of common sense.

I hope that the Panel will decide for the long-term good of our environment, on which we all depend, for so many reasons:

- Native forest logging is a loss-making industry that is costing the taxpayer millions of dollars every year. There are far better ways to spend public money by addressing the raft of serious needs at this time. It is not necessary when planned, well managed plantations of faster growing trees for wood products are well understood and easily achievable. In fact, even sustainably developed wood products are less widely essential to the building industry these days with increased use of steel and other materials, some developed by recycling of wood and other waste.
- Native forest logging significantly contributes to Australia's appalling international reputation as the very home of species extinction and near-extinction, as it destroys our most popular national icon, the koala, together with the greater glider and other species, by destroying their essential habitat, healthy native forests.
- Native forest logging causes more destructive bushfires, the scourge feared by our whole community. Older forests are more resistant to bushfire, and for forests to have a chance to grow old we have to stop logging them NOW, and make every effort, with the important help of Indigenous expertise, to restore what has been lost and manage all forest regions for their sustainability.
- Our current native forest logging is every bit as reprehensible on the part of a privileged society as the wide-scale destruction of forests across southeast Asia and the Amazon basin by less privileged societies and its contribution to human-induced aspects of climate change. Our fragrant native forests contribute to the wellbeing of our all land and its people.
- Traditional Owners continue to raise concerns about how logging destroys First Nations cultural heritage. This is an important opportunity for Government to manage forests in ways that recognise Traditional Owner rights and aspirations and demonstrate the sincerity of Government claims to support those rights and aspirations.

Protected forests provide greater benefit to more people, and we need NSW forests to be managed for the benefit of the community and the planet, not just a handful of vested interests looking to short-term gain.

PLEASE recommend that native forest logging be brought to an end in NSW.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to hearing from you in regard to this submission and the outcomes of the review.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Emerita Diane Speed AM