

# Public submission

**ROB HERBERT**

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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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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW and to contribute to the NSW Government Forestry Industry Action Plan.

I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to recommend immediate and complete cessation of native forest logging in NSW.

I understand there are arguments both for the cessation and continuation of native forest logging. In my opinion, the people of NSW are better served by the cessation of native forest logging.

I am particularly concerned by the threat to biodiversity incurred by logging of native forests. According to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (<https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/>) 72 species have already become extinct in NSW. That is a loss that can never be recovered. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage identifies clearing of native vegetation as a Key Threatening Process for threatened species (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Topics/Animals-and-plants/Threatened-species/NSW-Threatened-Species-Scientific-Committee/Determinations/Final-determinations/2000-2003/Clearing-of-native-vegetation-key-threatening-process-listing>). Continued logging of native forests is likely to hasten species loss.

We should care about species loss for many reasons, including economic, social and spiritual reasons. Here I restrict my comments to economic arguments. In my opinion, the cessation of native forest logging in NSW is likely to be the most economically rational course of action. The economic positives of native forest logging (provision of employment in rural communities, provision of timber and other forest products for domestic and industrial use, etc.) are outweighed by the negatives (overt and hidden infrastructure costs, government subsidies and environmental costs). The most significant environmental costs include the loss of amenity and tourism potential, and species loss. Species loss incurs economic losses for all future generations.

***I urge the Independent Forestry Panel to conduct a rigorous economic analysis of the economic consequences of continued logging of native forests. Such an analysis should include consideration of all costs, including hidden infrastructure costs, subsidies and opportunity costs, and it should properly consider appropriately discounted costs associated with perpetual loss of species that might occur with continued logging of native forests in NSW.*** I expect that such an analysis would strongly favour immediate cessation of native forest logging.

Sincerely,

Professor Rob Herbert