

Public submission

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Giovanna Hounsell

Dear Independent Forestry Panel

I live in the [REDACTED] on the NSW South Coast. I strongly support an end to native forest logging and a rapid transition to 100% plantation timber.

I believe Native Forest Logging is unsustainable for several reasons:

. It can only operate with government subsidies. This places a major burden on taxpayers (Frontier Economics 2023) Rather than chop down and chip our old growth forests and export them as low value wood chips we could be employing our timber workers in softwood plantation forestry. This would generate many more jobs than native forest logging as it involves planting, local milling, processing into wood and paper.

. From an environmental point of view, it has been estimated that native forest logging pushes 950 000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum into our atmosphere from South East NSW alone. (Frontier Economics and Macintosh A, 2021) In 2021 the Commonwealth Climate Solutions Fund carbon price was \$17.00 per tonne. Surely that carbon would be better used earning NSW \$16 million pa from carbon credits instead of polluting the air? (Clean Energy Regulator Reduction Auction 2021)

. Logged forests are more flammable than intact ones, contributing significantly to fire risk (Lindenmayer and Zylstra 2024)

Many of our communities in South east NSW are close to State Forests which have been continuously logged, even ten months after the Summer Fires destroyed five and a half million hectares of forest in NSW. During the Black Summer Fires the forests were dry, full of logging debris and went up like a tinder box, putting many individuals and communities at risk. Smoke and particles generated by the Black Summer fires bushfires impacted the health of humans and animals not just locally, but in communities and cities over 300km away such as Canberra and Sydney.

This puts a huge strain on a health system already stretched to the limit.

The more extreme weather events we are experiencing due to climate change will only exacerbate this problem in the future.

. Native Forest Logging affects the future viability of our threatened species. 43 species we know of have been significantly impacted by historical deforestation and degradation (Murray et al 2024) Koala populations are under threat around the Sydney region with logging continuing in high value Koala forest in the proposed Great Koala National park. In South East NSW, endangered species such as Greater Gliders

and Gang-gang cockatoos are losing their battle for survival while their habitat is being logged. Logging removes breeding hollows, feed trees and dries out the forest making it a greater fire risk.

Subsidising native forest logging is akin to subsidising climate change, species loss and more extreme bushfire events. We need our intact, old growth forests for cooling, precipitation, habitat, soil stability, outdoor recreation, health and wellbeing.

I believe the NSW government should transition rapidly out of native forest logging into plantation only (without destroying any more forested areas to do so) as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Giovanna Hounsell