

Pro forma

**INQUIRY INTO THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OF
THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**

Name: Pro forma – concerning the decline of the swift parrot and
spotted gum forests

Number received: 236

The Committee received 236 pro forma submissions for the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry. These responses were based on a common template, with some additions made by individual contributors. The standard text and individual variations received can be found over the page.

Standard Text

Dear Committee,

Please see below my submission into the Inquiry into Long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry.

I am writing as a NSW resident, voter and bird lover who is deeply concerned about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and its Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast.

ADD YOUR STORY AND WHY YOU CARE HERE.

Swift Parrots are one of Australia's most endangered birds. They breed only in the forests of Tasmania in summer before migrating to the Australian mainland in autumn where they seek out mature forests to spend the winter, feeding on abundant blossom and lerp.

The forests of New South Wales are critical feeding habitat for these birds. In particular, the Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast are well-documented as one of the most important mainland foraging areas for Swift Parrots.

But, the majority of Swift Parrot foraging sites in NSW occur outside of conservation reserves, including within state forests managed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW and open for logging under the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Agreement (CIFOA).

Unless decisive action is taken to protect the remaining forest habitat across their range and improve and fund management actions, Swift Parrots could be extinct within the next two decades.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the most important – and interdependent – human induced environmental challenges that society faces today, threatening people's lives and well-being. Nature-based solutions are key to tackling both these challenges. Nature-based solutions such as protecting native forests are key to meeting the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change; Globally, they can provide over 30% of the climate mitigation action needed by 2030 to prevent global temperature rise above 1.5°C, above which the IPCC warns we would see damaging and irreversible impacts to all life on earth.

Intact, biodiverse ecosystems, such as forests, are particularly efficient and cost - effective nature-based solutions, as they sequester and store significantly more carbon when compared to monoculture tree plantations, agriculture and grazed lands, in addition to conserving biodiversity and providing a range of other ecosystem services. They are also more resilient, functional and able to adapt to a warming climate.

This inquiry has the opportunity to recommend critical actions that can save this species and secure a more environmentally sustainable future for the timber industry. In considering the future of the timber industry in NSW, I urge you to consider the following recommendations.

Recommendation(s):

- Immediately and permanently suspend all current and planned forestry operations within fire impacted Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Amend the CIOFA to exclude all known and potential Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Amend the CIOFA to address the effects of climate change, including increased bush fires and droughts.
- Conserve remaining intact native forests and facilitate the expansion and connectivity of old growth native forests.
- Develop a forest industry transition plan with a focus on wood production from sustainable and appropriately placed plantations.
- Invest in sustainable tourism infrastructure and opportunities for local communities, tapping into the economic value and services of natural areas in NSW.
- Explore nature-based solution incentives, such as carbon markets, to finance forest conservation.

Variations

G'day g'day,

My name is Toby Davidson. I grew up in the bush, and am passionate about its conservation. I treat wombats for mange, and am starting up a community program that will allow landholders to do the same. Rural communities care a whole lot about our native animals and natural places.

I firmly believe that Australia's attitude to logging is painting us on the wrong side of history. Future generations will look back on all of us - even the people in this very room - and question "why?". Why did we neglect the basic needs of our threatened species? Why did we do nothing as they slipped away into the etern abyss of extinction.

Every end-of-the-world movie starts with those in control ignoring scientists. How this movie ends is entirely up to you.

Toby Davidson, No. 4

You will note that my submission is the same as many other submissions based on the guidance from Birdlife Australia. I have reviewed their information and concur 100%. I cannot put it better in my own words.

My partner and I own 200 acres of conservation land in Tasmania, adjoining Narawntapu National Park, and I have witnessed first hand the demise Tasmanian Devils and wombats over the past 10 years. I have also noticed a significant decline in quolls and wallabies. Animal populations are extremely fragile at best with the significant loss of habitat that is occurring over widespread parts of Australia. We, humans, have a moral responsibility to protect species who are seriously impacted by human activities and do everything possible to ensure they do not become extinct!

Ian McKenzie, No. 6

As a scientist I have analysed why we have such a devastating record of sustainable harvesting in Australia.

The answer is that clearing of forests have continued without there being replacement.

I have written to many the Federal Government, state governments and Forestry departments about annually increasing plantations instead of just harvesting.

Mathematically it is unavoidable that as population increases occur we will run out of wood if plantation holdings are not increased.

This strategy has so many positive offshoots for our country, it's wildlife and sustainability.

In terms of the swift parrot plantation wood will avoid another extinction.

Anthony Shadie, No. 7

Our colourful birds are an important part of our landscape and bring joy to residents & tourists alike, as well as, of course, being an integral part of our unique ecosystem.

As it is, we have lost much wildlife due to fires and loss of habitat, so we need to ensure we act to protect against future loss.

Alyson Walker, No. 9

Habitat protection is vital for threatened species.

Kate Meares, No. 14

I am passionate about the survival of all our animals and birds. A few years ago I bought some land near Grafton and put it under a conservation agreement so that the land can't be logged or developed. My intention, and that of my neighbors, is to create a wildlife corridor and sanctuary for our animals. But to achieve this, you have to stop logging in our forests immediately.

Vicki Cullen, No. 18

Human beings have destroyed so much of this beautiful land, and driven many species to extinction. Let's do all we can to prevent the loss of any more, in particular the Swift Parrot.

Wendy Bowring, No. 23

Having both my children now living in Tasmania I am very aware of the plight of the Swift Parrot and the need for states and the federal government to work together to ensure their survival. As a long time member of ACF I am committed to working to ensure that we protect wildlife and look always ahead to the future of this planet.

Rowena Turner, No. 24

Having just been through the worst bushfires in living history with the loss of animals birds and habitats many already endangered by the impacts of global warming the loss of even more habitat to the timber industry would be criminal.

Janet Zanki, No. 29

It isn't only the Swift Parrots that are being threatened, it is the native forests too. Imagine what it was like 100 years ago and what has vanished now. Just imagine no Kangaroos and no Magpies..and of course there used to be Tasmanian Tigers..

Lowana Chapman, No. 33

These beautiful creatures need to be around when our kids and grandkids grow up. How do we explain to them that we were responsible for their demise? Action needs to be taken to control the logging of their habitat. Now. Please.

Tracy Barnett, No. 34

I live in an area of what was extensive spotted gum forest until the summer fires of 2019/20.

Barry Virtue, No. 40

The survival of these birds depends on actions taken or not taken now.

Peter Beck, No. 41

I was so concerned about the Swift Parrot that when the opportunity arose I purchased a property within it's range to provide some small offset from the over harvesting of our native forest and the habitat of many of our endangered species. We need to change "our" focus from the mighty dollar for a narrow few to retraining the Forestry workforce into a less destructive industry.

Phil Murphy, No. 44

As someone who loves bushwalking and enjoying the natural beauty of our country I am keen that we maintain all the species of flora and fauna that we can. One species that is on the brink, yet we can act to save is the Swift Parrot.

Sarah Browne, No. 45

Don't let future generations curse us for our short-sighted greed that only succeeded in destroying the environment around us.

Chris Eastwood, No. 46

The NSW government is leading the country in conservation issues at present under the excellent leadership of Matt Kean, and have shown that the environment is non-partisan. I realise we need a forestry industry, but I'd love to see biodiversity prioritised so that timber harvesting occurs from plantations or via agroforestry.

Matt Hayward, No. 48

These birds need all the assistance we can give at this time.

Rodney Ivison, No. 49

I live in the Cessnock Council area of the Hunter Valley - where nature lovers like myself can enjoy the biodiversity of the largest block of remnant Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest on the floor of the Valley. The area is rich in woodland bird species and is prime habitat for the critically-endangered Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters.

Irene Richardson, No. 50

I have a 12 year old that is a wildlife enthusiast and also enjoys birdwatching, I hope he can see the recovery of these special parrots one day.

Tiphonie Boyd, No. 53

Humans could potentially live on earth for a few more million years. Are we going to destroy all our ecosystems in less than 1000 yrs? That's not the way forward. We have environmental innovations & crops that could replace logging, that's got to be forward thinking.

Alwyn Hunter, No. 54

We cannot afford to lose anymore species to extinction.

Elizabeth Faulkner, No. 55

In recent years my family has experienced two major bushfires on and near our property, the 2018 Yankees Gap fire and the 2019 Werri Berri fire. Not only did these fires destroy our property but also the surrounding forests. During 2020 we noticed that all species of small birds have disappeared from our area as we did the annual bird count. In fact the whole Region suffered massive loss of habitat during the fires limiting food and shelter sources for birds and wildlife. We need to cease all native forest logging to allow regeneration, which will take many decades.

Rob Whymark, No. 56

I find joy in our our native wildlife, particularly our beautiful parrots. I love all parrots but am particularly interested in saving our Swift Parrots. They are magnificent.

Katrina Daly, No. 57

I've been aware of Swift Parrots since I began being interested in birds in NSW in the 1980s, but I didn't see one til I went to Tasmania one summer. Since then I've been fortunate to see a few one year near where I live in the Illawarra and have seen others near Campbelltown and in the ACT.

It would be tragic if they decreased and disappeared because of something NSW could do, and any future without them being there for people in NSW or elsewhere in Australia is seriously diminished and not worth having.

Graham Barwell, No. 59

The habitat of the Swift Parrot must be protected so this critically endangered bird can breed and thrive.

Susan Hely, No. 61

I was privileged to see the Swift Parrot with my sister and brother-in-law more than 30 years ago. We still talk about that experience. What a tragedy if we don't save them!

Gina Pronesti , No. 67

I am a mother of 2 children who love and try to live alongside our native bird life, & we've seen the impact of many issues on their survival. Drought & extreme summers have seen birds literally drop out of the sky in recent years here. Water is often scarce. We are responsible cat & dog owners, but many are allowed to roam free & feast on bird life, not to mention the foxes. Bushfire seasons have decimated wildlife like never before.

Belle O'Rourke, No. 68

We need to stop logging all native forests

If you don't care about the environment

Consider the fact that we the community do and we will vote you out !!!

Alan Pike, No. 72

I am a volunteer in a local bush regeneration group and have seen the effects of the local land clearing and habitat destruction. The changes in the species that inhabit our forests is alarming! The Swift Parrot is an important part of our Spotted Gum Eucalypt forest biodiversity, these areas should not be cleared, where will the birds go! Why are you allowing the clearing of land in places that are the only place for the Swift Parrot to live. Have we not learned anything from the loss of so many other species due to land clearing.

J Veltrop, No. 73

Having had a lifelong keen interest in Australian wildlife, it is apparent that the need to monitor and care for our declining species numbers and to ensure these unique to our Continent species and their habitats are retained for their future and ours.

I cannot sit quietly and allow yet another Australian bird and its life supporting environment to painfully pass from our own Country without writing to our Parliament for your vital help and support in preventing this natural disaster. Once gone, forever gone. Please, don't leave it too late for the Swift Parrot and the Spotted Gums.

Jennifer Labone, No. 74

Our forests are essential for our survival on this planet. They sequester CO2 for us and improve rainfall for us. They contain untold numbers of species of plant and animal life; we need to maintain this biodiversity, which is a marker of the health of our precious forests.

Richard Stanford, No. 76

I am a retired resident of Berowra and I love our beautiful bushland. We are all custodians of this ancient and fragile ecosystem we call Australia. The reduction in forest habitat by urban development, logging and bushfires is bringing about the extinction of many of our beloved birds, insects and animals. It is not only climate that is on the tipping point towards disaster and I urge everyone with influence to realise every step to remediation is a step away from the looming brink.

Brenda Debenham, No. 78

We have a moral obligation to protect the vulnerable - and this must include plants, animals and birds as well as younger generations. There needs to be an urgent reconsideration and restructuring in how native bush land is valued - especially considering how it provides crucial habitat - the ongoing integrity of this will impact on the future viability of the Swift parrot. 'Sustainable' logging of these forests does not exist when it comes to species that are so critically endangered. Please put aside vested interests of the powerful and wealthy and protect these forests so our children and grandchildren can enjoy them. What you do will impact future generations - for better or for worse.

Hilary Stiel, No. 80

Over the past decades forests have been seen as available for exploitation only, there seems to be little concern that they provide a habitat for many creatures and that they are worthy of being protected for future generations. We need to immediately turn away from unfettered destruction for short term gain and allow species to thrive in their natural world.....surely we are capable for seeing these forests as more than their monetary value.

Joanna Hughes-Hallett, No. 81

I live in NSW and as a voter and bird lover i am worried and sad about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and its Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast.

Swift parrots are gorgeous birds and they are threatened by the destruction of precious habitat. Australia is losing its beautiful birds and animals at an alarming rate. Where I live in Manyana on the NSW south coast, swift parrots have been seen in the past, but their declining numbers and habitat mean they are now a rare treat to see. Is this what you want for our children - for them to have to see our birds and animals in the museums.

Luisa Bustos, No. 82

As a lifelong nature protector I'm astounded at how little the Australian government cares about the habitat of native species. These birds have a right to safe habitat free from destructive logging.

Susan Jane, No. 83

I live in Greater Sydney in the north west, I am very lucky to live on property that has many trees and native flora and fauna. I would like to keep this pocket of vegetation intact for the many birds that visit my property. My mum got me interested in birds and bird watching and in turn I have, I hope interested my grand children in them too.

Our lives are so fleeting but not the beautiful trees. They take many years to grow and become food and habitat for many animals and especially birds. Please consider this when making your decision on our beautiful bush. Trees are so important to many things in life, which I am sure you are well aware. PLEASE save our trees for the generations ahead of us, your decision is crucial for life beyond our mortal bodies.

Leonie Herlings, No. 86

I have long been concerned about the effects of clearing of forests on the South coast, particularly after the horrific bushfires last summer where logging has continued in the burnt areas on recovering trees. The bird life has been badly effected. There are many birds in Berry where I live but I have never seen a swift parrot here.

Susan Ballinger, No. 87

I grew up and still live on the South Coast of New South Wales which is a beautiful part of the world. I feel I am lucky to be able to see and experience the South Coast's beautiful natural environment by walking along the beach or swimming in the ocean or bushwalking and birdwatching with my partner whenever we can. I truly believe all people at heart have an affinity with the natural world, whether they know it or not, and I find it sad that somehow many people have lost their connection with nature. As humans we have a responsibility to care for and conserve the natural environment as we are the caretakers of this world.

I have never seen a Swift Parrot in the wild but I think they are stunning birds with their crimson face and reddish-purple tail and the speed at which they can fly. Now, as they are critically endangered, I will probably never see one in the wild which saddens me. But what saddens me more is that by the time my nieces are adults they will be even less likely to see one in the wild as the Swift Parrot may not even exist by then. I understand that of course people need jobs and to make a living - but this cannot be at the expense of the Swift Parrot, or the other unique native plants and wildlife we have in this country. Once we have permanently destroyed the natural environment, that is it, it's gone and there's no coming back from that. I would ask, do we want to live in a world devoid of the wonders and beauty of nature? Or do we have a responsibility to look after the remaining planet we have and afford all generations the respect that they deserve with an intact and thriving natural environment? The answer to me is obvious and the Swift Parrot is one bird which we have the power right now to help protect, which we have a duty to do.

Amy Idziak, No. 88

Instead of supporting population growth by destroying the environment, it is time to support the environment by reducing the population.

Government is only addressing the symptoms of climate change and not the cause.

The cause is population growth.

All of our environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people, and harder – and ultimately impossible – to solve with ever more people.”

Geoff Dorn, No. 89

The health of the native forests and the eco systems they support is important to me, my family and my community. Extinctions of our endangered bird populations is unacceptable.

Matt Hilford, No. 90

I live in a regional area which has beautiful, but dwindling amounts of, native birds. I work with a local landcare group to plant more habitat for these birds and am saddened by the amount of birds, both species and numbers, that we have already lost. Don't be a part of continuing this decline.

Sarah Leheny, No. 93

I am writing as a lifelong NSW resident who grew up on the south coast and holidays there annually. I have been a Bushcare volunteer for almost 15 years and have seen first hand the difference changes in habitat can make to animal and birds populations. I am concerned about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast.

Sharon Phillips, No. 96

I live on a 1600 acre rural land sharing cooperative. Protecting our beautiful and fragile flora and fauna is of paramount importance to our community. especially our endangered species. Please don't let the swift parrot disappear.

Denise Cobourn, No. 100

It is about time we started to care about the future of these species and many others under a series of constant threats from continuous neglect due to poor Government policies.

It is also time to say enough is enough leave these animals and birds alone, give them a chance to exist. Logging these forests and many others is just too much on our environment. Look at the state of decline in Koala's which one particular party seems intent on killing off with their policies of destruction. These birds deserve to be left alone and we need laws and policies that actually protect them for once.

Garry Sanders, No. 101

I think that the 2019-20 black summer bushfires has given us all the final warning we should need about leaving our forests for our native animals and birds to live and breed in. As a

member of Birdlife Australia, I do my best to help protect and improve habitats for our birds and mammals in NSW. I shouldn't have to be fighting against government logging!!!

Teresa Russell, No. 104

I am a beekeeper as well. Surely no more has to be written to encourage the preservation of Australia's native forests. It is past time a meaningful effort is made to prevent more destruction of native habitats. The preservation should be permanent. Australia's uniqueness is worth preserving. The value is greater than just the dollars thrown about.

Brian Sawyer, No. 105

Please see set out below my submission into the Inquiry into Long Term Sustainability and Future of the Timber and Forest Products Industry. This is not a generic submission and, respectfully, I ask that it be given consideration.

I am writing as a NSW resident, voter and bird lover who is concerned about the decline and potential extinction of the Swift Parrot and the continued destruction of habitat in the Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast (and, for that matter, the decline of the regent honeyeater's habitat, the threat to river red gum regeneration from reduced flooding events, and many other matters affecting our tree reserves).

For over twenty six years my family has holidayed annually in the vicinity of a number of the Spotted Gum forests of the NSW south coast, with a love of camping, hiking and enjoying Australia's extraordinary natural environment, now under the catastrophic threats of fire, habitat and rainfall changes as a result of climate change.

For me, regular camping and hiking in our fantastic NSW landscapes is the main reason my stressful job can be maintained. The older I get, the more I realise how fundamental to our humanity our connection with nature is. I suspect that Covid opened a few more urban dwellers' eyes to this simple fact.

In our own home in suburban Sydney, we have installed water tanks, nesting boxes and fire protection, and replanted our garden with native habitat and a frog pond, resulting in a resurgence of bird, insect, mammal and reptile visits, including a visiting Powerful Owl and King Parrots, despite living less than 2km from three major Sydney arterial roads. But too late to save the blue-tongued lizards, chats, robins, snails, snakes and various butterflies that have disappeared from our immediate local area over the past 22 years.

I donate on a monthly basis to Bush Heritage, and am saddened by the politicising of climate change as some kind of nonsense ideological weapon to divide humanity.

We need bipartisan political leadership, to understand the likely effects of climate change and act appropriately, including conservation and land management, because its primacy as an existential threat is blindingly obvious. It is certainly obvious to my adult children, who are understandably anxious about their future and the lack of urgency in effecting responses to it, to date.

I understand the task of government and respect the challenges facing an incumbent government, whatever its political persuasion. What I am disappointed by is when both major

parties seek to make electoral gains on a short-term basis, neglecting the long term picture. Forestry future and endangered wildlife require a long term, visionary, plan.

I also make furniture from a variety of timbers; I know that Spotted Gum and Blackbutt are seen as key structural building materials, but they don't need to be. The technology to use cross laminated plantation timber (even softwoods) and glulam beams for structural purposes already exists and investment could be directed into forestry jobs for these plantation-grown materials, making Australia a leader in this new technology.

Peter Aitken, No. 106

I have lived in both Tasmania and NSW and am an avid bushwalker, and part of that is having a deep love and care for the land, and that includes the plants, birds, animals. All parts of our environment have a role in keeping our world healthy and contribute to our sustainability as a planet. We cannot allow selection attention to logging and resource usage drive extinctions and endanger our future. It is time that we were cleverer than that. The recent Federal Government environmental laws are careless, poorly based on evidence and endangering the future of Australia.

I cannot bear the thought that my 15 year old daughter will not be able to share what we have with her children because it will no longer exist. In fact she tells me that she does not believe that her generation should have children because there will be little left for them to enjoy in this world. There is a real danger of a dystopian future actually happening.

Julia Cohen, No. 107

Never forget ; extinction is forever . Do YOU want to be known as the person who killed off the Swift Parrots once and for all ?!

Martin Watts, No. 109

If we don't act now we may lose the Swift Parrots forever. Last year's lockdown highlighted how important nature is in assisting our mental health and wellbeing. All our native birds form a significant part of this.

Susan Firth, No. 117

The destruction of our native forests is a betrayal of the trust of the Australian people for government to preserve these places for our native flora and fauna. Indiscriminate destruction of the native forests

for pulp is a senseless act of vandalism destroying the habitats for both birds, and mammals and insects.

Margaret Heaney, No. 121

When I was President of Croquet NSW, I tested the idea of linking the tournaments of croquet throughout the State to the timing of the northward progression of the Swift Parrot and Regent

Honey Eater each year. The annual trail would commence in Tasmania in December and finish in Queensland in November. A prize would be made at each Club together with a tree of the appropriate species for planting in the area.

The idea was supported by all four States.

The idea was to raise awareness of the plight of the birds and contribute in a small way to their preservation.

Neil Hartley, No. 122

I have spent holidays, with my family, in my own country, travelling along the east coast of Australia, and have taught them the wonders of our flora and fauna, and how fragile the environment is, that supports all the living creatures and plants. My children are now adults and continue to care about the health and biodiversity of this country. And they vote.

With many NSW councils now joining the fight to preserve local native habitat, they take notice of their constituents, and organisations such as BirdLife Australia, of which I am a member.

When Sir David Attenborough talks about the wonders of Australia, and is a Lifetime Patron of the Australian Museum, I wonder what he would think about the continual destruction of native forests in NSW.

Lyn Garling, No. 123

Birds are under enormous environmental pressures and the loss of any more species is a national tragedy.

Kaylene Doust, No. 124

There was time when bird loving visitors, like myself, might have hoped to see these birds in the forests of Southern NSW. Today that is less likely than ever. I can only imagine the awful effect that the loss of these birds, and their habitat, has on both the human and bird communities of this area. Why do I care, when I don't actually live in the region. Because the threat to this endangered bird is repeated throughout our state. I, and friends can tell many stories of birds we had visiting our area 10 years ago are now rarely seen. There is a pattern. If action can be taken to protect this bird, perhaps similar action can be taken - earlier, before other birds become threatened and endangered. Then we can all be confident that our children and grandchildren will enjoy these wonderful creatures into their future.

Barbara Hicks, No. 126

I am an amateur bird watcher and watching swift parrots gives me pleasure and it's a pleasure I have shared with my children and want to be able to share with my one-year-old grandson in due course. I hope that your actions will help to make this possible.

Deborah Street, No. 127

I am Conservation Officer for BirdLife Northern NSW and Secretary of Friends of Kalang Headwaters Inc an organisation formed to preserve the scarce remaining lowland rain forests from the ravages of Forestry NSW.

John Gregory, No. 130

We lost our house and everything we owned on NYE 2019. Not only did we lose the house but we lost our environment and our birds in our neighbourhood of Rosedale NSW. It is very important that after that devastation every tree and possible habitat is left alone and not logged. Please make sure that logging is stopped in our south coast bird and animal habitats.

Cath Bowdler, No. 132

I am shocked that Vic forests won their recent appeal to log areas which house endangered species and that NSW is following suit. As a member of various environment groups and a committee member of Pittwater National Heritage Association I urge you to recognise the rapid extinction of much of our native wildlife and to act to save them

Edna Blanchard, No. 133

Our 1400sq metre suburban block has been given Land for Wildlife designation by the Humane Society International because we have densely planted it with native trees and shrubs over the past 10 years in efforts to try to ensure it is a small native plant habitat area for native animals. In 3 of the past 4 years our nesting boxes have been used to hatch eastern rosellas and to date we have identified close to 40 bird species on our small property as well as native reptile, frog and many insect species.

From their earliest years our children have experienced the joy of having seen koalas in residence in eucalyptus species we planted to celebrate our children's birth on our outer Brisbane 2 acre block where we lived before retiring to Iluka. I do not want to think that the only native bird species our young grandchildren will see in the wild in the future are common bird species and that they will only see less common Australian avian gems on DVDs. I would like our children's and the no-voting species such as the swift parrots' future world to be a place I would like to visit.

The fact that the present Morrison government is totally ignoring the most recent recommendations of the International Energy Agency that there be no future global investment in coal, oil or gas and is hell-bent on taxpayer funding of the Kurri Kurri gas plant disturbs me greatly.

Do neither the present Federal or our State government understand that global heating must be adequately addressed now for as Christine Lagarde, the then CEO of the International Monetary Fund said in Davos in 2013:- "Unless we now address climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried or grilled."?

Despite the fact that today the "average person" on Earth consumes at a rate over 50 % above a sustainable level, human populations are continuing to grow globally and in N S W plans are in place to continue to increase our State's population. What sort of pressure will any population

growth place on our native species' forest habitats for both additional housing as well as for additional food production?

Close to 40 years ago a Grade 3 8 year old student told me she thought we should:-" treat each other and the environment how we would like to be treated." 40 years ago this little lass got it in one simple sentence. One does wonder at the values of our present decision makers. What sort of planet do they want their own grandchildren to live on?

On Friday my partner and I attended School Strikes 4 Climate rally and of the comments of the teenage girls participating in this rally, the most common comment was:-" What sort of a future world will it be for our own children, if we do decide to have children?"

It makes you think. I hope so.

Harry Johnson, No. 135

I live next to Mogo State Forest and adjacent to Biodiversity mapped swift parrot habitat and see larger trees being removed every day with no apparent controls.

Sophie Hall, No. 136

There is overwhelming evidence that the loss of biodiversity is detrimental to the health of our planet and our health as a species. the loss of endangered species is happening at an alarming rate and I fear for my children and grandchildren's well being. I want to leave them a legacy of a health and viable planet earth. That is why I am concerned about the future of swift parrots.

Chris Shipway, No. 139

I am a biologist, teacher and wildlife rescuer. I haven't had the privilege of rescuing a swift parrot, but I've handled a lot of our unique parrots and they all deserve protection. My community has fought overlogging, outrageous bushfires and I have protected 1200 acres of habitat myself. But much more has to be done. I'm not against logging but I am against clear cutting. I've managed my acres for over 40 years and been able to selectively cut valuable timber while still leaving enough trees to maintain my populations of native animals, from parrots to koalas. We have to find a way for forests to maintain their wildlife populations while still providing timber and that means shifting our focus from clearcutting to sustainable logging through selective cutting.

Margaret Skeel, No. 142

Extinct is forever. Australia is already notorious for its extinction rate since colonisation. We have been bad custodians of the biodiversity around us. We must turn this around.

Erik van Keulen, No. 144

As a would-be ornithologist (and enthusiastic breeder of budgerigars in my childhood!), I love parrots. In Australia, we are so lucky to have a gorgeous assortment of parrot species. Although

they're important to the eco-system, their main value is in their incredible beauty. Parrots are their own reward!

Natalie Ritchie, No. 145

I live in the Shoalhaven and witnessed the destruction of last year's bushfires on the habitat of the many rare and endangered birds that were one of the most important things that brought me here 24 years ago. I am now witnessing the change in birdlife on my property based on the reduction in habitat. It is not appropriate to expand or even continue logging on the South Coast.

Gabe Hart, No. 147

I have travelled extensively - and spotted birds - in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. With COVID, I have been restricted to watching the birds who visit my backyard, but that does not stop me caring for birds and habitats in other areas that are threatened.

Sarah Lukeman, No. 148

My wife and I love seeing and photographing native birds in their natural habitat while bush walking.

Michael Probert, No. 151

Just stop logging & ensure there will always be food & trees to support our natives be it birds or animals who depend on the forests to survive , would you & your families like it if your home & food was taken from you.?!???

Diane Johnstone, No. 152

I am a great grandmother and very concerned for the future of all living creatures, fauna & flora, as the extinction of any effects the future of my children and grandchildren.
The future of our planet depends upon how we care for it right now

Everything depends on the whole web of life forms being intact to keep our system viable so that the whole structure will not collapse.

Alma Cameron, No. 153

Since Covid last year, I started regularly observing birds in my local area and going to local bushland to watch them. It's been an amazing learning journey and I'm so sad that so many birds are in decline, and all because of our human activity

Amanda Thompson, No. 154

As a NSW resident I continue to experience the effects of climate change but see our elected leaders make decisions that continue to exacerbate the causes not just for climate change but other related issues such as plant and animal living pressures leading to extinction.

Whilst you will have this position for a number of months, our environment and offspring will live with it forever.

My only request is that you consider the long term health of our environment - not just that of our elected officials, leaders of industry or the budget.

Rob Seale, No. 155

My family has strong connections to the south coast, dating to the 1850s. This landscape is precious and it's future precarious, especially since the recent destructive bushfires of 2019/20. I saw the aftermath of this destruction first hand in January this year, on a trip down the coast. It was chilling. I'm concerned that logging any surviving forest will remove even more of the Swift Parrot habitat, not to mention habitat for many other species. I don't understand why priority is given to short term gain, and for the benefit for so few, rather than considering the well-being of all the people of this state. Once it's gone, it's gone. Our childrens' legacy lost.

Laila Ellmoos, No. 157

As a mother of two young boys I feel it is the duty of my generation to protect our native flora and fauna so that our children can enjoy its' beauty.

Marita Neilson, No. 160

I'm a long term bird watcher and bush carer but I've only rarely seen the Swift Parrot, partly because they are so swift. But they are a crucial element in our South eastern forests, even moreso given the massive impact of the 2019/20 fires on our South Coast. They have a part to play in the regeneration of the South Coast environment so their forests must be protected.

Ian McKinlay, No. 163

Australia's diversity of flora and fauna is the envy of the world. Please, let stop the destruction

Leila Wright, No. 167

It is essential that we do not permit the extinction of yet another wonderful species.

Fiona Mitchell-Clark, No. 169

Thank you for your time...

I live in Kandos, on the western edge of the Wollemi National Park, where every day I enjoy watching native birds use our birdbaths...

Thank you for your service.

James Nutting, No. 170

We know now more than ever how important biodiversity is, for the survival of human beings and the planet. Losing one species might not be a disaster, but each loss adds to the likelihood of a serious problem.

Catherine & Andrew Reilly, Nos. 174 & 175

Dear honourable committee members

I am a NSW resident, voter, parent and nature lover who is deeply concerned about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and the Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast which are its critically important habitat.

I love our rapidly diminishing native forests and believe that we should stop clearing what remains.

Phillip Cornwell, No. 176

We must protect the habitat of the swift parrot it is dwindling fast and the point of no return has nearly been reached. Birds give so much pleasure to people and add to the richness of life in communities. The future of nature is in your hands. You must make this your legacy to protect the sustainability and future of the old forest.

Andro Tomich, No. 179

I visit this area regularly and wish to see the areas the swift parrot habitat protected and safely out of any logging zones. Today is biodiversity day and Australia has a shameful record of extinction.

Merran Hughes, No. 182

I have always been an animal lover, and was a veterinary nurse for over 25 years. I am also a keen gardener and these two interests have combined in my native garden that attracts a great deal of wildlife. This has made me more aware of the need for protection of habitat and also the issues facing many species such as the Swift Parrot.

Maree Davison, No. 186

I have been a wildlife carer for more than 30 years and have been dismayed and distressed at what has happened to our wildlife during those years.

We have lost far too many of our precious species, and not only birds. Don't you think it is time to call a halt and stop the destruction of vital habitat for all our wildlife. You are the Federal

Minister for our environment. Please fight for its survival and thereby the survival of our particularly threatened species. Thank you.

Irene Callahan, No. 187

While i personally didn't grow up with Swift Parrots in my area, I was lucky enough to grow up with Rozella's and Grass Parrots. Having these parrots in my backyard not only showed me the beauty of these birds, but their calls / sounds still today, 40 years on, trigger wonderful memories. Having such Parrots land your your backyard or fly overhead is something that we can't take for granted and shouldn't be something of stories told by parents to their children or grand children "when i was a boy".

When I travel with my family to other areas of the great State of NSW I enjoy listening to the local birds of the locality and try to catch a glimpse of the birds.

Geoffrey Press, No. 192

I am 77 year of age and never in my life have I seen so much utter disregard for the wildlife of Australia (and in NSW in particular) in favour of the rampant march of commercial interests, particularly the Timber Industry. Politicians and political parties who fail to TAKE REAL ACTION, NOT JUST VOICE CONVENIENT PLATTITUDES, to halt the the rapid extinction of so many of our native birds and animals, will certainly pay the price at election time.

I live on a rural property of 28 acres and am doing my utmost, along with other landholders, to conserve the natural environment on our properties, to promote the the natural habitat for native birds and animals to breed and thrive. It's time governments and government authorities added their considerable weight (and influence) to these endeavours. There is little doubt in my mind that the time has arrived when governments are not judged primarily on the pursuit of the holy DOLLAR.

Geoff Boorman, No. 197

I have been a birdwatcher for 30 years and have sought out Swift Parrots many times. Despite scanning in areas where they have been seen in the past, their numbers continue to decline and to spot a Swiftie now is an absolute rarity. Which is indicative of the troubling fall in the population of the species.

This makes it imperative to act now while it is still possible to save them by ceasing all native forest logging in New South Wales.

Susan Winterton, No. 199

Having moved to Australia 11 years ago with my family we have enjoyed exploring and being among the trees and birds. It is critical we continue to maintain the habitat for future generations.

Ruth Smith, No. 201

I am not a resident of the south coast (I live in Newcastle), however I am aware that the food and shelter provided by these trees on the south coast are crucial to the survival of the Swift Parrots on their long, exhausting journey from Tasmania. These forests also help ensure the survival of other unique birds, animals and plants. Once these species are gone, we cannot get them back again and now is our small window of opportunity to ensure their future.

Rebecca Howard, No. 202

Haven't we lost enough species. It's time to think smarter.

Leanne Doorey, No. 203

I am concerned by the number of species of Australian native animals and birds that are listed as endangered or even extinct already. I believe that we need to seriously consider the preservation of habitat for threatened species even when that is costly or inconvenient.

I live in the Hornsby Shire (Northern Sydney) and am very proud of our contribution to the natural environment. I am a volunteer worker with Hornsby's Bush Care team and am very aware of the link between native forest and native fauna.

I am also aware of the enormous workload required to return local bushland to anything like it's natural state - we volunteers do little more than scratch the surface in our tiny patches. Australia desperately needs to conserve as much of a native bushland and habitat as we possibly can - we will not be able to fix it later.

Keith Robards, No. 205

Swift Parrots are so beautiful and have every right to live their lives without losing even more habitat, all non-human animals are clever however humans have trouble seeing that as they judge them using human values.

Amanda Barnes, No. 206

My first encounter with Swift Parrots was on the NSW South Coast at Tathra. It was such a privilege to see these rare and beautiful parrots.

Stephanie Sheppard, No. 210

I care about our environment, as do many of your voters, but particularly as I feel if we let this species go then what is next, our iconic kookaburra! I just cant imagine an Australia without birds for me or for all my grandchildren.

Sadly I dont have the power to make changes but YOU do, so maybe this is the one good thing you do for New South Wales environment, and try to protect this one species.

Julia Salnicki, No. 212

We survived the bush fires of last year and many old dead trees were destroyed, these being vital to our birdlife. Where we live we have noticed the absence of many of the bird species that we have enjoyed having around for the last twenty years that we have been here.

Ronald Tregagle, No. 213

In the seven years that I have lived in the southern highlands of NSW I have seen a rapid decline in the birds visiting my garden in particular and the area in general. For example, shortly after we moved to Bowral, Retford Park was cleared for a new housing development. Prior to this the hundreds of pine trees were visited daily by black cockatoos. While these trees are not a native food for cockatoos, they nevertheless congregated in large numbers in these trees. When the trees were cleared and the house building started the birds were displaced. Prior to the clearing of this development we were privy to a most spectacular and probably once in a lifetime spectacle. One day while walking down Braeside Drive and Purcell Street we saw squadrons of black cockatoos in the hundreds fly over us over a period of about fifteen minutes. When we later mentioned this to friends and ornithologists we were told that this sort of 'fly over' was unheard of. I had assumed it was normal life in the highlands as we had not lived here long at that time. We should have recorded it for posterity. We rarely see black cockatoos now. We do have a large group of noisy miners who call our garden home and they may be keeping some of the smaller birds away, however in other locations where there are not large populations of noisy miners, there are still very few birds. I am starting to feel I am in a native animal free zone. Our local council seems hell bent on removing trees, sadly these trees are too few and are valuable habitat for native animals and birds. Our neighbour has put up numerous possum boxes in his garden as these animals are displaced by the tree removal. We need to stop this practice and we need to be planting trees, not removing them. Daily we are subjected to the noise of chainsaws and chippers run by "tree services" or "tree control".

Now the NSW government seems hell bent logging the last areas on the south coast that were not destroyed by the 2019-2020 conflagration. Other areas in the highlands are being burnt and it is an eyesore and not what is necessary for the health of our national parks. I was in the RFS for many years and the 'prescribed burns' or 'hazard reduction burns' I have seen in the highlands are not properly managed. Trees are blackened to the crown covered with dead leaves. This is counter productive as the leaves will fall and become the 'fuel' which is loathed by the RFS. There seems to be little concept of humus being a valuable commodity which helps keep moisture in the soil and helps our native vegetation to survive in harsh times. "Hazard reduction" is supposed to be cool temperature burns at ground level, but these practices are not being adhered to. The RFS has this outline for hazard reduction:

The characteristics of a low intensity burn include:

- Low flame heights - Flame heights should average about one metre, but may be higher in patches of heavy or elevated fuels.
- Low scorch height - Scorch height should average less than five metres. Scorch height is the height to which tree leaves are killed from the heat of the fire.
- Slow rate of spread - The fire should spread only at a slow walking pace.

In Budderoo there is no green vegetation to be seen. This is unnecessary and damaging and this sort of hazard reduction should end. "The University of Melbourne desktop analysis used Rural Fire Service data to compare the size and severity of this season's bushfires area with hazard reduction burns over the past five years. The majority of the area in which there had been

prescribed burning had been razed again by bushfire in the past three months." What is the point of this practice?

Recently while visiting gardens in the Blue Mountains I was cheered to hear that a local RFS captain who has a magnificent garden advocated 45 centimetres of mulch in her garden. Perhaps there is hope that the hierarchy in the RFS will realise that mulch actually helps to keep the ground damp and as such suppresses all but the worst of fires? We can but hope that land management improves.

Megan Hyatt, No. 216

I saw my 1st Swiftie with my Dad (sadly now not with us) & my son @ Chinamans Dam near Young. I raced over very excited as it was a new bird for me & I was so surprised to see one. I whole of people asked my Dad what was going on & he proudly said I had located a very endangered bird & they were then keen to have look for themselves.

My son has developed into a very keen birdo & we have done many trips together birding, tree planting & surveying etc. Recently after all those years we got onto Swifties again @ Mt Annan Botanical gardens & the Capertee Valley. So from 3 generations to 2 & hoping back to 3 or even 4 we hope to continue Swiftie sweet moments - hopefully the Swifties too will have more generations to come - but that depends upon suitable habitat which we must protect - no logging especially now after the reduced habitat because of the fires.

Politicians say with covid we must listen to & act on the health experts advice - they must also listen & act on the birding, scientific & environmental experts!

Matt Hughes, No. 219

I volunteer at BirdLife's Discovery Centre in Newington Armory and am keen to pass on to the visiting public what the government is doing to help these endangered birds.

Deborah Harris, No. 220

I have been camping in the National Parks where the Spotted Gums tower over you since 1990's. I have taken German and Brazilian friends camping to these special places. We spent many years bushwalking in the Spotted Gum forests of SE NSW.

Enjoying the Swift Parrots were part of our excursions. I and all my friends would be devastated if the incredible parrots disappeared.

Glenda Odgers, No. 221

I am a grandmother of four beautiful boys who i want desperately to grow up knowing the south coast as i know it now. We holiday down there often and the boys are all interested in the birdlife in the area. The swift parrot is one of their favorite birds that come down and visit with us on the south coast for a short time each winter.

Susan Timmins, No. 223

I cannot comprehend that through government neglect and disinterest a species like the Swift Parrot could be lost forever. It and its Spotted Gum forest habitat must be protected.

Martin Cousins, No. 226

It's shameful that Australia has one of the highest extinction rates in the world. And the further impact of climate change and destructive bushfires will continue to wreak havoc on our country if we do not take measures to reduce our impact on the environment.

Anita Weinberg, No. 228

Australia's fauna and flora are the jewels of this country. (And incidentally will fuel eco-tourism in the future, IF there is not drastic loss of species.) Not working to protect and save our threatened species is tragically irresponsible. If we fail to do so, we'll be leaving our children--and the world--with a much impoverished land. It's about respect for all life and indeed about the beauty of the natural world. The Swift Parrot is great example.

Margaret Gluek, No. 232

Having grown up holidaying annually on the NSW south Coast this region holds a special place in my heart, with its native forests core to its value on so many levels.

Tomas Kelly, No. 234

The decline of many of our woodland bird species are a clear indication of our failure to protect our natural environment. Their loss is an indicator of broader impacts on woodland and forest ecosystems. We know that clearing and loss of habitat is one of the primary drivers of woodland bird species decline and yet on many fronts we are failing to protect remnant native woodlands and forests.

Deborah Taylor, No. 235

Australian wildlife and especially birdlife is unique in the solar system and on this planet. Birders from around the world envy the variety of bird species still surviving here, but only with the help of government policy to protect them.

Lori Lebow, No. 236