

Submission
No 17

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FORESTRY
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

I write this submission in opposition to this Bill. I am so very tired of battling the destruction of vegetation and the habitat of our native wildlife that vegetation supports. Now in my seventies, I'm supposed to be retired, enjoying the relaxation and peace my working life should have afforded me. Instead I find myself compelled to speak out against the ongoing wrecking of so many habitats that should be the rich and nurturing home to the species whose environment we share. The human body can take a lot of punishment. It can lose limbs, lose its sight, hearing and taste. It can struggle on with damaged and - in some cases - lost organs. But there comes a time when the 'whole' has lost so many parts it is no longer viable. Our species are on a conveyor belt to extinction. No categorisation of a species seems to do anything to ensure its survival. It seems that 'Vulnerable' and 'Endangered' are merely labels that predict extinction. The human species, in its hubris, seems to have assumed that the ongoing destruction of habitat and the continual loss of species will have no effect - apart from the swelling of greedy, self-interested parties' bank balances - on our survival. This is a fool's way of looking at things. I predict we will one day realise - and not too far from today - that we have destroyed so many species that make up the complicated web of life on this planet that homo sapiens' existence becomes unviable. It's the death by a thousand cuts. And in the meantime, those of us who spend what should be our twilight years trying to plant what little we're able to, to make up for the vast swathes of land clearing, whilst we rescue and care for native animals, made homeless and stressed to the point of death by loss of habitat, with no government support, using what cash resources we have to fund those volunteer efforts. This is an unconscionable shifting of good custodianship - which is what our government should be aiming for - onto the shoulders of the elderly and the full-time rescuers and carers. What enriches the rapists of our environment, impoverishes us and the animals we support. I ask that this Bill not be passed.