

Submission
No 50

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

Name: Mr Scott Sledge

Date Received: 31 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

Please see attached summary of concerns that NEFA spokesperson has submitted.

I want to be put on record as a submitter on behalf of Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc, a community organisation (more than 600 members) with connections to NEFA. We support submission.

We further want to impress upon NSW legislative decision-makers that the government has responsibility to manage land and preserve the environment on behalf of all citizens and not to sell us out to corporate interests.

Not only would removing protection for our forests be potentially fatal come election time, but could easily embroil the community in protracted disputes with the timber industry and tie up government agencies which enable environmentally damaging practices.

I remind you that the RFAs of the past 20 years have brought peace in our forests, but government has not adequately monitored logging and the community has shown remarkable forbearance in face of undisciplined destruction of habitats. This restraint is likely to come to an end should the government seek to abdicate its responsibilities and allow public lands to be effectively privatised.

Finally, I submit that every one of us needs be mindful of climate change and take decisions which prioritise our environment for the sake of our future.

Yours faithfully,

Scott Sledge, JP

President, Northern Rivers Guardians

& President, Nimbin Environment Centre