

Submission
No 52

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

Name: Ms Catherine Eaglesham

Date Received: 1 June 2018

Catherine Eaglesham

Minister for Lands and Forestry

Suites 1 and 2

299 Howick Street

Bathurst

NSW 2795

31st May 2018

The Hon. Paul Toole,

RE The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Sir,

I am a concerned citizen and grandmother of six. I am writing to you today regarding the new logging rules. I was absolutely shocked to hear that you are wanting to make disastrous changes to the coastal IFOA and the Forestry Amendment Bill 2018, by merging four timber harvesting zones into one super logging area, from Taree to Grafton, by increasing logging intensity throughout all forests.

Rezoning the 140,000 ha of forests from Taree to Grafton to allow clear felling at a rate of 2, 200 ha per annum is illogical to me. Opening up protected, high conservation old growth forests for logging and destroying biodiversity is ludicrous. By employing the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), to remap these endangered ecological communities, which are protected and have been for decades, is a recipe for disaster and a crime against nature.

Firstly, how could you even consider, removing the need to undertake pre- logging surveys and protection for most threatened species which are currently protected? Which will remove the need to identify and protect mature recruitment and eucalyptus feed trees aswell as removing the need to look for and protect core koala habitat before logging. Secondly, you are planning on zoning 43% of the highest koala habitat for clear felling. Thirdly, this will allow logging of habitat of recognised World Heritage species and threaten unique rainforest and old growth forests. Finally, do you seriously want to diminish riparian habitat protection from the measly 10 meters to a meagre 5 meters? This action would place barred frogs and golden – tipped bats under greater threat of extinction.

I believe in standing up for nature. Who is going to be the voice of the forests, streams, flora and fauna? As a conservationist, I believe it is my duty to advocate for the forests. I would like to bring your awareness to the rights of nature and that we are all in this together. We are all interconnected. We need to be strengthening laws for nature not weakening them. I helped to save the old growth forests from decimation during the 1990s and I do not want to see their demise now for short term profit. These forest ecosystems are irreplaceable and need to remain intact for our future generations.

I strongly oppose and object to this Bill.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine Eaglesham