

**Submission
No 40**

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

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We are facing a tsunami of species extinctions largely driven by ever shrinking habitat. On top of that the disastrous bushfires of 2019/20 destroyed between 60% – 80% of our state forests.

There is evidence that logging activity makes bushfires more intense.

Pressure to fulfil contracts after the fires has led contractors to break many rules.

I travel around the state frequently and often stay in campsites in or near state forest. They are a valuable asset that beautifies our state immeasurably but they are disappearing and as they go the attraction of many parts of the state go with them. No one wants to camp in a logging coupe. In the light of these facts I would like to see forestry management radically rewritten.

I want to see our state forests managed to preserve:

their ecological value as habitat for threatened and yet to be threatened species

their vital role in protecting the integrity of our water courses

their cooling and rain attracting properties

their value as carbon sinks (providing they don't burn) and

their value to us as places of rest, recreation and recuperation.

Logging jobs could be replaced with tourism and forest stewardship. There could still be a place for boutique high quality timber but there should be no clear felling for saw logs, wood chips or for burning in so called sustainable wood fired power stations.

The enforcement of any regulations also needs to be adequately resourced or they will simply be ignored as is frequently the case now.

Please ensure the long term sustainability of our forests is not endangered by the short term interests of the timber industry.