

Submission
No 65

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 May 2021

Partially
Confidential

To the legislative committee re the feasibility of the native logging industry.

I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns about the persistence of logging in our decimated native forests post the 2019/20 bushfire season.

I am a member of NPA Milton branch and have been on excursions with that group into the nearby Brooman Forest, South Coast NSW. From the citizen science surveys in which I have been involved it is clear that many of the compartments currently ear marked for logging are still either in a recovery phase, are on a slope with a gradient unsuitable for logging, include trees necessary for the provision of habitat for endangered species or are old growth forests with mixed canopy heights and species.

As a concerned citizen I am in favour of the ceasing of logging in our burnt and remaining unburnt native forests to enable our decimated native wildlife populations to recover and to promote the integrity of the biodiversity of our forests. Biodiversity is integral to the health and protection of our natural environment and ultimately for human populations.

Our remaining native forests particularly on the South Coast are far more valuable in every sense as destinations for eco-tourism and recreational pursuits, habitat for endangered species, and as carbon sinks rather than as woodchips and firewood. It appears that a very small proportion of native logs are used for sawlogs and most of the operations are conducted by contractors from out of the district.

The transition to profitable plantation timber operations seems to make far more sense than subsidising an operation which flouts recommendations and breaks rules set out by the EPA. Apparently, some local forestry operations on the South Coast were stopped by the EPA on several occasions last year due to non-compliance issues some of which were the result of reports made by active citizen science participants such as Coastwatchers and Brooman State Forest Conservation group.

In the light of the recent fire disaster and the issues surrounding climate change it seems imperative that to restore our native forests and our wildlife populations to a sustainable position should be of utmost priority for the future of our country and generations to come.