

Submission
No 80

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 25 May 2021

Partially
Confidential

Logging native forests have an impact on my local area.

After logging forests are fairly uniform in size and age. This means these young forests require a lot of water during their growing phases which can take decades, decreasing runoff in the catchments and lowering the water table reducing the amount of water in creeks and rivers. This affects all life dependent on the water to live in or to drink. Certainly, during logging and for quite some years afterwards, there is an increase in sediment in the creeks and rivers till the ground revegetated and becomes stable. This detrimentally affects the aquatic life in creeks and rivers. This all undermines the ecosystem and biodiversity of the forests and surrounding waterways.

forests reducing carbon storage and increases the risk of wildfires.

I walk and bike ride through the bushland and it is heartbreaking to see the destruction of newly logged area and the lack of diversity in all regrowth forests.

I also kayak on the local rivers which after rain can become so silty that you can barely see under the water. This all changed dramatically after the fires when the runoff from badly burnt areas created so much ground erosion that the contamination sent plumbs of black water out of all rivers, even beyond Montague island. swimming was not possible in any of our beach or rivers and this is still the case even now nearly one and a half years later. The bush fires had a major impact on my health and I'm still having breathing problems after months of smoke inhalation. The psychological damage to the community during and after the fires has been huge.

I think there should be an end to all public native forest logging and an immediate expansion of the plantation estate. This should be managed with a diversity of complementary species that support each others growth and connectivity. There should also be a Government assisted transition for impacted communities out of native forest logging. All ecologically significant state forests should be transferred into national parks.

adequate funding needs to go into National Parks so they can manage their estates and the tourism they will attract.

Our local communities and businesses will benefit significantly from improved waterways both fresh and ocean, as well as intact bushland and forests. This will allow clear and green as well as eco-tourism. The forests would serve the community if protected in reserves. The wildlife too would have secure homes and this too increases tourism. certainly having less logging truckson the roads would be wonderful.