

**Submission
No 86**

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

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Continuing to log public native forests can not be justified on any grounds. The revenue raised is negligible and it is not a big employer. For years there has been talk of transitioning to plantations but we continue to see wanton destruction of our precious native forests with breaches and relaxations of environmental standards. What remains of our forests are far more valuable left intact for the ecosystem services they provide especially with the looming reality of climate change.

Australia has the highest rate of mammal extinction and protecting our native forests are vital if we are to have any hope of arresting that decline. I would urge the committee to recommend a transition away from logging native forests and incentives to add to the National Estate.