

**Submission  
No 87**

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

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## NSW Upper House Enquiry into Native Forest Logging:

As a former MP (in South Australia), I have some notion of how important submissions such as this can be, so I want to keep it short.

Minister Keen and a number of your Lower House colleagues fully appreciate the fact that if you remove a tree 25 m. high, you take out 25 m. of photosynthetic cells capable of restoring oxygen to the atmosphere and capturing carbon dioxide. In instances where the clearance is for agricultural production, clearly you have lost 25 m. of photosynthesis and gained a miserly 20 cm. of pasture at best.

It will be argued that new trees will grow to replace those which have been removed, so then you would again have 25 m. of photosynthesis but you would have waited ~80years to get back to square #1. Neither outcome involves a very helpful exchange from a climate saving point of view, and each involves loss of habitat for wildlife.

And if you believe in the importance of retaining jobs in native forestry by the removal of native forest, compare that to the number new jobs created by plantation forestry, or, Heaven forbid, by restoring native forests to preserve species currently threatened by deforestation and clinging to the scant shreds of their habitat which remain.