

**Submission
No 90**

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

Name: Mr John Bell

Date Received: 25 May 2021

Dear Committee members,

I spent my whole working life in forestry research, and now I have chosen to retire to Tomakin on the south coast of NSW. I regularly spend time in the local native forests, cycling and walking with friends or with grandchildren during holidays. The 2019-20 bushfires burnt about 80% of the Eurobodalla forests, leaving little that is good animal and bird habitat, and that is representative of good sustainable forest.

I am finding it very disappointing that NSW Forestry Corporation is allowing logging of this small amount of unburnt habitat. I find it annoying that their contractors often don't abide by the rules to leave habitat trees with hollows. It takes many decades to replace hollow bearing trees and, in the meantime, there is so little habitat left available. Because NSW Forestry Corporation fails to monitor logging practices, we have a number of community groups here that visit and photograph logging operations. There is clear evidence of operational breaches.

There is an urgent need for a moratorium on logging of unburnt forest in the Eurobodalla area. Flora and fauna needs time and opportunity to recover. It is also clear that a moratorium on logging unburnt forest effectively means an end to native forest logging in this area. I don't, however, see that as a major obstacle due to the small number of jobs involved in forestry in this area. It would be quite a small, and in my view worthwhile, financial cost to assist these workers to retrain into other work. The fact that the industry does not have plantation areas to fall back on is their own fault for not accepting forestry research advice over past decades

There is still much trauma in my community from the 2019-20 fires and the damage done to our region. Ongoing logging of the remainder is an ongoing hurt.

Yours sincerely
John Charles Bell