

**Submission
No 100**

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

Name: Mr David Holden

Date Received: 26 May 2021

To the Committee,

The continual reduction of our old growth forests has been unequivocally confirmed by numerous scientific bodies to be a major contributor to adverse climate change. The recent destruction of the Amazon exemplifies how critical it is that responsible governments adopt forest conservation methodologies, both for the sinking of carbon and to enhance air quality through transpiration. There is also the issue of water quality if logging is carried out on or near water courses. The horrific destruction of wildlife and habitat caused by the 2020 bushfires takes this issue to the very top of the agenda in my view.

The economic argument for continuing this strategy has been demonstrated to be flawed beyond redemption. Forestry should be undertaking the planting and harvesting of timber in designated areas whilst leaving the old growth regions as part of our national heritage to be managed for sustainability, recreation and tourism. More imagination in providing employment opportunities in the growth, nurture and value-adding of purpose-grown timber would far outweigh the paltry returns on such wasteful practices as wood-chipping.

We are currently approaching a global tipping point where we all must respond to the moment by adopting new strategies towards building a sustainable future for the generations which follow.

Thank You for the opportunity to voice my concerns.