

**Submission
No 112**

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

Name: Ms Jo Lewis
Date Received: 26 May 2021

Prior to logging Corunna Forest had some magnificent trees and there is a photograph of a person walking through trees that dwarf them. The photo was published in our local nfp newspaper, The Triangle. The contrast between the immensely tall trees and the puny human being is a memory that remains with me, even though the trees have now been logged and lost.

The fires that came through the area last year are another hazard and while my home was not lost or damaged I chose to evacuate on two occasions. Living close to forested areas in a time of climate change incurs risks that must be recognized. But forests are of critical importance and protecting them must be part of our battle against climate change and against the loss of biodiversity that we also face.

The forests, biodiversity and climate change are part of a complex system. They are strongly linked in that biodiversity supports the habitat by providing services (pollination for example) forest habitat offers shade-based cooling and carbon sequestration. Climate change with its erratic rainfall patterns and rising temperatures damages reproduction (demonstrated in flies and turtles for example) and reduces available habitat particularly for cool climate species. In consequence it also damages the forests and in addition it makes them more fire prone..

I am of the opinion that logging NSW State Forests should be urgently stopped but I recognize that some adjustment and an effective transition plan will be required. Reconstruction plans for the timber industry will be necessary. It was done previously when the transition of the fishing industry was required. A similar approach is needed now for the forest workers. It can be done again.

Perhaps, for example, and in light of the fact that in 2018 NSW cleared 60800 hectares of land carrying native species, it should be possible to find suitable sites for expanding plantation timber without further threat to native woodlands and grasses.

A transition plan could also include extending National Parks and increasing the number of rangers to form part of Park Maintenance and to responsibly manage pest control. Support for eco-tourism could also be in their area of responsibility. One other suggestion, put forward years ago, is the development of a wildlife corridor and a walking/hiking trail, running from the Victorian border up to Queensland.