

Submission  
No 117

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

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It is high time that logging of our native forests is ceased. Especially after the horrific fires in 2019/20, which burnt between 60 and 80% of state forests across NSW, now is the time to make the transition out of native forest logging.

In the Port Macquarie area, koalas are predicted to go extinct due to habitat loss. Koalas need trees to survive. In the Port Macquarie LGA, nearly 60% of all Private Native Forestry leases sit over primary or secondary koala habitat. This is not acceptable.

In Gippsland, the Leadbeater's possum is being driven to extinction due to habitat loss. All species are critical to the functioning and balance of a healthy ecosystem the loss of one species can have unforeseen consequences,

It takes, on average, 100 years for a eucalypt tree to form a hollow. Many species of arboreal marsupials and many bird species depend on hollows to survive. Logging of native forests destroys this critical habitat. It also destroys biodiversity. Without biodiversity, there is no resilience, without resilience ecosystems collapse - hence we engineer the demise of all species upon which the ecosystem supports, including humans.

It time to cease logging native forests, in favour of sustainably managed plantations. New plantations should only be established on existing cleared land. We also need to improve the efficiency of paper recycling.