

Submission  
No 123

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

**Organisation:** Northern Rivers Guardian, Inc

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It is essential that NSW and Australia change its attitude towards nature and the biosphere if we are to transition from the pioneering, extractive methods of earning a living towards a truly sustainable lifestyle that we can hand on to future generations.

Climate change brings extreme weather events which include catastrophic fires in a variety of flora types. These do not simply pass over and regenerate, they cause often irreparable damage to human habitation and wildlife populations.

Instead of continuing with a plunder mentality we could easily shift towards farmed type of wood and fibre production that is safer and more reliable. It is important that we do NOT simply import from other countries, because we are all on the same planet: we are in this together.

The ability of plants to absorb carbon will be vital to pushing back against climate change. We need more trees, not less. and we know that young trees do not store as much as older trees and they also burn more easily and hotter.

We also note that water is stored in the ground as well as the biomass on forest floors. This water is slowed to reduce flooding and flows out slowly to reduce drought.

Like much of coastal NSW the Northern Rivers attracts tourism due to its wide range of flora and fauna. these forests are fragile, yet resilient, but will not stand up to the onslaught of heavy machinery. We are informed that relatively little is gained by destroying these ecological communities compared to celebrating them. Logging is now being compounded by land-clearing for short-term gain, a short-term fix for a long-term disaster. We can say goodbye to the best opportunities for Eco-tourism with every forest we destroy and every species that goes extinct on our watch.

we make the following suggestions for what a sustainable future for the timber industry should look like,

including:

- o An end to public native forest logging.
- o Immediate expansion of the plantation estate, with a goal of a 100% plantation-based timber industry.
- o Government transition plans and assistance for communities impacted by transition out of native forest logging.
- o Transfer of the most ecologically significant state forests into the national parks estate.
- o the timber industry can modernize and move to a sustainable future while meeting the needs of communities and industry by producing plantation wood and sourcing fibre for building and industry through materials like hemp.

Our community will benefit from a more peaceful production scheme and the world will be allowed to maintain its biodiversity.

We will thank you and our children/grandchildren will thank you. This is your chance to be on the right side of history.

sustainable forestry