

**Submission
No 131**

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

Name: Ms Fiona McCuaig

Date Received: 27 May 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Native forest Logging is a big RISK to Tourism and Jobs



My business will benefit from the complete end to native forest logging on the South Coast.

There are less than 300 jobs directly and indirectly involved in native forest logging on the South Coast of New South Wales (and only about 1000 in harvesting, haulage and milling across NSW) yet the continuation of this industry is not only against the core values of the people who live in this area but it's putting at risk our number one economic driver Tourism.

NATIVE FOREST LOGGING ON THE SOUTH COAST MUST END IMMEDIATELY TO PROTECT THE TOURISM INDUSTRY. Please let's make smart decisions now and for the future of this region.

Our business of a cheese factory and milkbar located on the Princes Highway in Bodalla. I am at the coalface of understanding who and why visitors come to this area. Visitors are coming to experience this natural and beautiful environment mainly from the major cities of Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. They are coming to walk and bike ride through the native forests, to experience the wildlife of flocks of black cockatoos, to breathe the fresh air, swim in the Batemans Bay marine sanctuaries and to snorkel with the seals at Montague Island.

Let's end native forest from Ulladulla to Eden. Finding jobs for those who are affected is absolutely possible. Industries have been changing since the 1800s and re-skilling employees to find jobs in *growth* industries on the South Coast is essential.

In the absence of Government Funds there is other funding available from private stakeholders, individuals and businesses who will fund the transition of logging employees to new and better industries. Please invite me to do a presentation on this.

The community of Bodalla has been very upset and outraged that the Forestry Corporation logged in the Bodalla State Forest. The forests are a COMMUNITY ASSET and the Forestry Corporation does not have a social licence to take communities' assets business and health have been directly affected from the logging that took place. LOCALS DO NOT WANT ANY MORE LOGGING IN BODALLA STATE FOREST.

The Forestry Corporation was a contributing factor to the intensity of the fires on the South Coast. Large and magnificent spotted gums (*eucalyptus maculate*) are present in forests that have not been logged. They are able to withstand large and intense fires due to the density of their wood and also because they have minimal bark. The Forestry Corporation for years has taken large trees and hence smaller, more flammable trees have grown in their place allowing a massive fuel load otherwise which not would have happened if forests were left in their natural state.

We do not want to follow the North Coast of Sydney Tourism is now coming to the South Coast BECAUSE we have our native forests, because we have wildlife and wonderful eco-tourism experiences.

This submission is on behalf of the Bodalla Dairy Shed, The Bodalla Pub, Bodalla Bakery, Bodalla Conservation Burials. I am also a member of the Narooma Chamber of Commerce who also want to see Tourism strong in Narooma and surrounding areas.

I am very willing to speak at the hearing on behalf of a number of businesses in Bodalla on the South Coast of NSW.

Kind Regards,
Fiona McCuaig
B.Econ & Masters of Prop.Dev
Bodalla Dairy Shed – 52 Princes Highway, Bodalla, NSW 2545