

**Submission
No 132**

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

Name: Miss Rowena Russell

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As an individual who moved to this area thirty nine years ago, I am concerned at the devastation of forests that I have witnessed , the transition of forestry working employment in this area and a sustainable future for all.

Illegal harvesting of trees has been rampant for decades in this area. It is in attitude aswell as done at inappropriate times (Sundays, public holidays, after the fires) and places. So often we come across areas hidden from general roadside view and it is all gone, unexpectedly, and irretrievable! Most humans and no flora or fauna have a say, nor chance in this.

I understand that a public forestry programme of sustainable timber for local industry is a vital employment and natural resource. I support the timber industry in the beautiful application of our timbers, for example, local products, 'Timbertown! but why do the trees have to be celebrated dead and lying down? There are some remaining workers who have skills that need to be preserved and passed on..

Finally, I am aghast at how much wildlife has been wiped out, and at an accelerating rate despite their endangered status. This increased rate is a direct response to the privatisation of the timber industry to be meeting orders from international contracts (pelletised trees for electricity overseas?!) and further promises to wider consumption.

Surely the health of the forests and the humans and animals and birds that rely upon them should be the guiding factor for safety and forestry practices. In this particular green area of NSW I suggest we hold a last bastion of once was pristine forests that continue to do their best at keeping the air clear and climate change damage at at minimum. Please honour this. Yours respectfully, Rowena Russell, volunteer worker at private sanctuary.