

**Submission
No 136**

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

Name: Ms Elizabeth Stock

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I would like to state my opposition to the continued logging of Native Forests in NSW. I believe this practice is unsustainable and provides little financial benefit to our state or environment.

Recently I was able to tour through Myrtle Creek Forest in Northern NSW. Some of the forest had been burnt a few months before but it was ready to be logged. There was an extremely small patch reserved for koalas. This small section was of very poor quality, containing very small trees and shrubs that could not support any fauna, let alone a koala. This was an unequivocal demonstration that procedures for safeguarding flora and fauna were dishonest at worst and farcical at best.

After our devastating bushfires, any natives forests must be safeguarded to ensure our ecosystems continue to be healthy and replenish. We have lost so much and to log what remains is unconscionable. We need fresh water and clean air to live, but the Government appears happy to remove the last of our forests.

The little employment that comes from logging and milling is not worth the loss of our forests. It appears there is little financial benefit from logging native forests but more to gain from filling logging quotas.

Governments should be using resources to transition workers into long term forest management or tourism. I would like to see a rigorous effort made into planning and implementing programs to transition communities over to other sources of employment and income. For example, mountain biking is a big drawcard for some communities, with our local track (Duck Creek, outside Ballina) being quite crowded by locals and interstate visitors who drive several hours to enjoy it.

I am sure that the general population is not behind the current logging of NSW Native forests after witnessing the devastation of the recent fires. We need to maintain and expand what precious forests we have left. Any further destruction must not be mandated by our legislative body of government.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Stock