

**Submission  
No 152**

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

**Name:** Andy Putnam

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Australia's habitat and its species are being threatened more than ever before. Only about 20% of Australia is protected according to research from Australia's Conservancy Council.

Fires ravaged through sections of our forests including the one where my house is located. The fire burnt uncontrollably from one end of the property to the other.

Now is the time to invest in a more sustainable approach like the \$50 million hemp processing plant proposed for Murwillumbah which among other things will provide building materials.

We need to manage our forests sustainably and avoid old growth forest timber harvesting.

No doubt there are concerns around employment for our forest workers but times are changing and some industries need a major overhaul. The coal industry is facing the same problem and yet a renewable economy will generate increased employment.

It's time we abandoned tradition and looked to the future. We need industries that redress the risk of global warming and secure a more sustainable future for us and the many species who share this continent.