

**Submission  
No 176**

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

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**Date Received:** 28 May 2021

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## PROTECT OUR NATIVE FORESTS OF NSW

I am a resident of the Bega Valley and have lived near the South East Forests all my life.

I would like to see the NSW funding that subsidises woodchipping of my local forests, used to support a sustainable timber industry, one that listens to science-based recommendations of Ecologists such as Prof. David Lindenmayer.

2019 Krebs Lecture by Prof. David Lindenmayer on Landscape Transformation and Ecosystem Collapse highlighted the importance of VIC forests collaboration with all stakeholders and their environmental focused recommendations.

Currently this industry is running at huge losses; financially and ecologically. Rural communities can wait for no longer for the NSW State Govt to acknowledge the required balance for forest ecosystems to thrive. Many years of logging practices in SE forests have interrupted the ability of Native Forests to reach maturity. By keeping the forests young habitats for native animals are threatened and when the logged forests burn, they are highly destructive to the surrounding communities, as was saw during Black Summer's unprecedented catastrophe.

As the Earth's climate changes rapidly, the reduced rainfall and changed patterns of rain in Southern NSW are resulting in risk of bushfire is occurring closer and closer together. Managing the forests well to enhance the prospect of eco-tourism, improve support of habitat for our native animals and provide an industry that values the timber products produced and the jobs of those employed are important to the communities of the Bega Valley.

We owe it to our children to ensure a bright future for the next generations. Aim to understand the knowledge of those who are qualified through years of scientific research, collaborate with those that are informed and able to make long-term decisions now before the forests no longer are what they were.

Angela Robbers