

**Submission
No 206**

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

Name: David Milledge

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Dear Committee,

Please see below my submission into the Inquiry into Long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry.

I am writing as a NSW resident, voter and bird researcher who is deeply concerned about the decline and imminent extinction of the Swift Parrot and the loss of its Spotted Gum forest resources on the NSW south coast.

I am also writing as a former resident of Tasmania and have a long history of involvement with Swift Parrot research. I studied this species in southern Tasmania and in the central highlands between 1965-1973 and contributed data on its occurrence to the former Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union Atlas schemes and the nest record program.

I am particularly concerned about loss of the species' over-wintering habitat on mainland Australia, particularly on the NSW south coast and western slopes, where the food supply can be erratic and is becoming more so with accelerating climate change impacts.

I am especially concerned about the NSW Forestry Corporation's proposed logging of forests on the NSW south coast that have been significantly adversely affected by the 2020 wildfires. Logging of these forests will further seriously diminish food resources for the Swift Parrot at a critical time in its life cycle.

Unless action is taken now to halt the extinction trajectory that this species is clearly on, I fear that it will disappear within my lifetime. This would be an unbearable tragedy.

Climate change and associated biodiversity loss are the most serious – and interdependent – human-induced environmental challenges that our society faces today, directly and indirectly threatening people's lives and well-being. Nature-based solutions are key to addressing both these threats. Nature-based solutions such as conserving and regenerating native forests are key to meeting the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change; Globally, they can provide over 30% of the climate mitigation action needed by 2030 to prevent global temperature rise above 1.5°C, above which the IPCC warns we would see significant and irreversible impacts to all life on earth.

Your inquiry has the opportunity to recommend crucial actions that can save this species, together with many other forest-dependent species and secure a more environmentally sustainable future for the timber industry. In considering the future of the timber industry in NSW, I urge you to consider the following recommendations.

Recommendation(s):

- Immediately and permanently suspend all current and planned forestry operations within fire-affected, known Swift Parrot foraging habitat in public and private forests NSW.
- Amend the CIOFA to exclude all known and potential Swift Parrot foraging habitat in public and private forests on the NSW south coast and south-west slopes.
- Amend the CIOFA to counter the effects of climate change, particularly increased wildfires and droughts.
- Exclude remaining native forests in good condition from industrial-type logging (clear-felling) and facilitate the expansion and connectivity of these forests, particularly old-growth native forests.

- Develop a forest industry transition plan with a focus on wood production from sustainable and appropriately placed plantations.
- Invest in sustainable tourism infrastructure and opportunities for local communities, tapping into the economic value and services of native forested areas in NSW.
- Explore nature-based solution incentives, such as carbon markets, to finance forest conservation.

Yours sincerely,
David Milledge