

**Submission
No 207**

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

Name: Mrs Maureen Webb

Date Received: 24 May 2021

Dear Committee,

Please see my comment into this inquiry

As a NSW resident, voter and bird lover I am deeply concerned about the decline and extinction of not just the Swift Parrot and its Spotted Gum forests but for all the birds now facing problems on the New South Wales south coast.

During the 2019/20 disastrous bushfire the South coast of NSW lost thousands of hectares of bushland which then meant we lost billions of insects, birds and wildlife and this would include the habitat for the endangered Swift Parrot.

As Swift Parrots are one of Australia's most endangered birds and while they breed only in the forests of Tasmania they migrate to the Australian mainland in autumn where they seek out mature forests to spend the winter, feeding on abundant blossom and lerps.

The forests of New South Wales are critical feeding habitat for these birds. In particular, the Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast are well-documented as one of the most important mainland foraging areas for Swift Parrots and we cant forget the other birds that utilise these forests that were so badly destroyed.

But, the majority of Swift Parrot foraging sites in NSW occur outside of conservation reserves, including within state forests managed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW and open for logging under the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Agreement (CIFOA).

Unless decisive action is taken to protect the remaining forest habitat across their range and improve and fund management actions, Swift Parrots could be extinct within the next two decades.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the most important – and interdependent – human induced environmental challenges that society faces today, threatening people's lives and well-being. Nature-based solutions are key to tackling both these challenges.

Nature-based solutions such as protecting 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 damaging and irreversible impacts to all life on earth.

Intact, biodiverse ecosystems, such as forests and nor there are not many remnant forests after the bushfires so we need to ensure those remaining are not logged.

The forests remaining must be protected to ensure there is habitat for the Swift Parrot and all of our birds and wildlife still clinging on trying to be more resilient, functional and able to adapt to a warming climate as well as the bushfire disasters they have to cope with.

This inquiry has the opportunity to recommend critical actions that can save this 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 impacted Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Amend the CIOFA to exclude all known and potential Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Amend the CIOFA to address the effects of climate change, including increased bush fires and droughts.
- Conserve remaining intact native forests and facilitate the expansion and connectivity of 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 natural areas in NSW.
- Explore nature-based solution incentives, such as carbon markets, to finance forest conservation.

Yours sincerely,
Maureen Webb