

**Submission
No 208**

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

Name: Marilyn Wise

Date Received: 24 May 2021

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 lover who is deeply concerned about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and its Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast.

As a human being who has benefitted from living in this richly ecologically diverse and unique country I am horrified that through our own decisions and actions (or lack of action) we are destroying the habitats of the Swift Parrots and other birds and species. I am acutely conscious of the growing evidence of the vital role played by each of the birds and each of the animals and each of the plants that make up Australia's ecosystems. The fate of the Swift Parrots, one of Australia's most endangered and most spectacular birds, lies in our hands - actually, in your hands.

Moreover, the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry must consider the ecosystems that are necessary to grow timber in the first place. Destroying those ecosystems will, ultimately, destroy the industry - and not only the industry, but the environments that are necessary to sustain it.

I am motivated to write to the inquiry because the endangerment of the Swift Parrot is emblematic of the unsustainability of an industry that seems to be bent on destroying its own base. Without a sustainable habitat, neither the birds (and insects and animals), nor the people (our children and grandchildren), who depend upon it will survive.

There is time, now, to plan for a sustainable future - to develop nature-based solutions such as protecting native forests and ensuring that the global temperature does not rise above 1.5°C and does not therefore, have damaging and irreversible impacts to all life on earth.

Intact, biodiverse ecosystems, such as forests, are particularly efficient and cost - effective nature-based solutions, as they sequester and store significantly more carbon when compared to monoculture tree plantations, agriculture and grazed lands, in addition to conserving biodiversity and providing a range of other ecosystem services.

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 CIFOA 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,
Marilyn Wise