

**Submission
No 210**

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

Name: Harold Todd

Date Received: 26 May 2021

Dear Committee,

As a NSW resident I am deeply concerned about the decline and extinction of the Swift Parrot and its Spotted Gum forests of the New South Wales south coast.

I am very concerned with the increasing destruction of habitat for all of our native fauna and particularly those endangered such as the swift parrot. The bushfires of 2019 have really motivated me to become more active in the conservation of our flora and fauna. It has come clear to me that more has to be done by Governments to not preserve but increase our natural habitat. This has motivated me not only to contribute significantly by donation but also with my volunteering time. Joining such organisations such as Birdlife Australia, Sydney wildlife rescue and subscribing to the Climate Council and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Swift Parrots are one of Australia's most endangered birds and after breeding in the forests of Tasmania they migrate to the Australian mainland (including NSW) in autumn where they seek out mature forests to spend the winter to feed.

The forests of New South Wales are critical feeding habitat with the majority of Swift Parrot foraging sites in NSW occurring 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).

I believe decisive action should be 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.

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,
Harold Todd