

**Submission
No 213**

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

Name: Pam Handyside

Date Received: 28 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.

I am also concerned about the significant loss of critical koals habitat forestry logging operations and the little consideration that the forestry industry gives to this critical habitat.

We must save the Swift Parrot and koalas from any further decline in viable populations and forestry operations must be stopped in crucial areas.

Swift Parrots are one of Australia's most endangered birds. They breed only in the forests of Tasmania in summer before migrating to the Australian mainland in autumn where they seek out mature forests to spend the winter, feeding on abundant blossom and lerp.

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.

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.

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 as well as critical koala 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,
Pam Handyside