

**Submission
No 170**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITIES**

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Submission to Inquiry into the planning Systems and the Impacts of Climate Change on the Environment and community.

I am a resident of Dalmeny close to Narooma on the south coast of NSW.

Dalmeny is a small village right on the coast and next to Mummaga Lake.

Dalmeny residents are facing a big challenge from the local council (Eurobodalla Shire Council) and developers who have a proposed development of 100 hectares to be sited in forested land in the highest part of Dalmeny.

The forest and bushland is comprised of spotted gum and ironbark and is well used by locals and tourists alike for recreation. It is home to many species of birds and animals, some of them being endangered.

The proposal to build 600 plus homes in the area would see a large part of the land being clear felled. The local council has ruled out that there would be affordable housing built and most dwellings would cost at least \$100,000,000 based on the cost of available land here and the costs of building on fire-prone land. The land has many sloping areas leading down to gullies and waterways that spring up after rain. Mummaga lake will be subject to runoff and pollution from any new development on the hill above.

Removing trees from the top of hills can have disastrous effects on the environment as without the trees' deep roots, the water table rises bringing salts to the surface. Wagga Wagga and Parkes are towns which have experienced this with severely salinated land causing areas in the towns to be unusable.

Any good farmer knows that you leave the trees on top of the hills to prevent salinity problems down lower on their property.

One the main factors causing climate change is clearing of land because the carbon dioxide is then released into the atmosphere, instead of being stored for 100's of years as in older trees.

Logging continues to be a major reason why trees are removed despite attempts by some sides of politics to stop or minimise logging.

Dalmeny Matters, in their submission has outlined the many attempts that have been made to council and parliament at all levels to try and halt this proposed development. Buck passing has been their main response.

The Dalmeny community were not going to be notified of the latest land area being put up for sale by the council, until a concerned councilor alerted the residents in July 2021.

Community consultation on the proposed development was minimal.

Planning laws governing these decisions is woeful as the different levels of Government have referred concerns back to another level of government, like a merry-go- round.

Coastal land areas from Byron Bay to Eden have been subject to inappropriate land development causing community outrage and in some cases destruction of crucial habitat. The Dalmeny land area is one such proposal.

Judith Gordon

Trees

How does carbon storage affect climate change?

Carbon sequestration secures carbon dioxide to prevent it from entering the Earth's atmosphere. The idea is to stabilize carbon in solid and dissolved forms so that it doesn't cause the atmosphere to warm.

The main influences on our temperatures over the last 100 years include:

- increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
- changes to land cover (replacement of darker forests with paler croplands and grasslands)
- solar fluctuations (small effect caused by changes in the brightness of the Sun)

WWF

Plants and trees play an important role in regulating the climate because they absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen back into it. Forests and bushland act as carbon sinks and are a valuable means of keeping global warming to 1.5°C. But humans clear vast areas of vegetation around the world for [farming](#), urban and infrastructure development or to sell tree products such as timber and [palm oil](#). When vegetation is removed or burnt, the stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere as CO₂ contributing to global warming.

Up to one-fifth of global greenhouse gas pollution comes from deforestation and forest degradation.

While the earth's climate has changed throughout history, **[scientists agree](#)** that the significant changes we've seen over the past hundred years or so have been due to human activities. Recent warming is also happening at a rate that is much faster than previous climatic changes. **Climate council**

Carbon dioxide is the most significant of all the greenhouse gases, followed by methane. Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have increased by more than 45% since the Industrial Revolution and are now the highest they have been for at least [800,000 years](#).

Key points. Australia is experiencing the effects of global climate change. Our average land and sea temperatures have increased. Despite large natural variation we are also seeing changes to rainfall patterns, increased fire danger, and rising sea levels.

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