

Submission
No 146

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

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Submission: NSW Inquiry into the future of logging in NSW

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make this submission.

We live in Bodalla, New South Wales, alongside the Bodalla State Forest (BSF) Compartment 3006, which was logged in the second half of 2019 by Forestry Corporation (FC). We were shocked at the projected extent of the area designated for logging, given initially as net 148.2 hectares out of a gross area of 179.2 hectares, leaving only 31 hectares which would not be logged (FC email 1/4/19).

Of concern was a table giving a breakdown of product removal by volume (m³) i.e.

HQ Large Sawlog 1300
HQ Sawlog 400
Poles, Piles, Girders 50
Low Quality (Salvage) 700
Pulpwood 1300
Firewood 500

for which the following species would be logged:

74% Spotted Gum
11% Yellow Stringybark
10% White Stringybark
3% Silvertop Ash
2% Ironbark

We had visited recently logged native forests (BSF Mitchells Ridge, Mogo Forest and Corunna Forest) and were appalled to see the aftermath of logging operations – huge dump piles of rejected tree trunks and leaf debris littering the forest floor; great swathes of previously heavily wooded areas now denuded; churned up tracks and bare earth mounds.

In the months leading up to logging my husband and I were under extreme stress as we dealt with FC personnel in an attempt to get more lenient treatment of our Forest. We were also concerned about the wildlife, some of which were protected species (e.g. powerful owl, microbats), many bird species, marsupials including wombats and ringtail possums, goannas and other reptiles. In the case of wombats, of which there was some evidence, after a little vacillation FC agreed to append the Glenbog protocol to the harvest and haul plan.

Of equal importance to us was the role trees play in combating climate change by sequestering carbon, a factor which did not appear to merit much consideration in our discussions with FC.

While we managed to get some personal concessions (such as having a planned log dump relocated further away from our property, and an undertaking to establish a tree retention area along our fence line) the post-logging result was similar to that seen in the forests mentioned above. In addition, artificial diversion of a drainage line during logging appears to have rearranged the topography in that section of the forest, resulting in part of our grounds being flooded from time to time.

We are deeply concerned that this kind of wanton destruction is being perpetuated in other forests, especially given the devastation left by the 2019-2020 bushfires. A Dept. of Agriculture report estimates that as of 28 April 2020, around 8.3 million hectares of native forests were

potentially affected by the bushfires (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares>), while 85% of native forest on the far south coast designated for logging was burnt (Bega District News, 16 March 2021). Yet logging has commenced in bushfire-affected forests despite new environmental conditions introduced by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) for logging post-bushfires (The Guardian, 17 February 2021).

In a report commissioned by World Wildlife for Nature nearly 3 billion animals – mammals, reptiles, birds and frogs – are estimated to have been killed or displaced by the bushfires (bbc.com/news/world-australia, 28 July 2020). Critical habitat for the survival of remaining wildlife is being further reduced by continued logging.

We are disappointed that the EPA appears to be unable at times to enforce Forestry Corporation's compliance with logging regulations and we would like to see harsher penalties backed up by court action where non-compliance appears to be deliberate.

We would like to see an end to native forest logging through an accelerated growth of timber plantations, with our State forests being developed as places of exploration, exercise or retreat where one can enjoy the peace and beauty of nature. The Far South Coast is popular with tourists and having pristine forests with good walking tracks would attract even more visitors which can only benefit the local economy.

Gloria Tommy
27 May 2021