



Respondent No: 524

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- Q1. **First name** Melanie
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- Q6. **Postcode** [REDACTED]
- Q7. **Country** England
- Q8. **Stakeholder type** Individual
- Q9. **Stakeholder type - Other**
not answered
- Q10. **Stakeholder type - Staff**
not answered
- Q11. **Organisation name** not answered
- Q12. **What is your preferred method of contact?** Email
- Q13. **Would you like to receive further information and updates on IFOA and forestry matters?** Yes
- Q14. **Can the EPA make your submission public?** Yes
- Q15. **Have you previously engaged with the EPA on forestry issues?** No
- Q16. **What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA are most important to you? Why?**
All
- Q17. **What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA do you think have a positive outcome on the management of environmental values or the production of sustainable timber? Why?**
None because they fail to deliver either environment protection or industry security.

Q18. What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA do you think have a negative outcome on the management of environmental values or the production of sustainable timber? Why?

Most because the draft allows for increased intensity of logging, reduction of current protections for threatened species including koalas, riparian buffer zones, oldgrowth forest & rainforest.

Q19. What are your views on the effectiveness of the combination of permanent environmental protections at the regional, landscape and operational scales (multi-scale protection)?

See attachment below.

Q20. In your opinion, would the draft Coastal IFOA be effective in managing environmental values and a sustainable timber industry? Why?

not answered

Q21. General comments

not answered

Q22. Attach your supporting documents (Document 1)

[Redacted]

Q23. Attach your supporting documents (Document 2)

not answered

Q24. Attach your supporting documents (Document 3)

not answered

Submission to the Committee regarding the Draft Coastal IFOAs

As a regular visitor to the North Coast of NSW I feel I must contribute to this discussion on the draft recommendation of changes to the Coastal IFOAs.

Although my career keeps me resident in the UK, having my family and friends on the North Coast keeps me coming back year after year.

Maybe the breathtaking beauty of these North Coast public native forests and the abundance of unique wildlife that lives within them is not fully appreciated by the timber industry but it should certainly be appreciated by the NSW Government.

The sheer uniqueness of these places and creatures in the world, makes this an invaluable asset as a tourist destination which has clearly not been fully embraced. The opportunities for an exciting transformational regional eco- industry are numerous.

Even if you disregard the importance of conserving the unique eco-systems and extraordinary biodiversity of these forests, the wonderful service they provide in carbon storage, social well-being and recreation; the economic advantages of protecting native forests are many.

I have discussed this with family and friends who, like me, find the North Coast a destination which draws us back so often.

We believe that to continue logging, especially with increased intensity, is to destroy NSW's best asset. Any profit from increased quotas of saw logs is short term and not sustainable. It is as nothing compared to the asset of these beautiful unique forests, hinterland and beaches. We believe that the NSW Government would do well to set aside these public native forests and take advantage of the many non-timber extracting industries like eco-tourism, education programs and regeneration projects. These activities can only enhance the value of these important public assets and truly make good economic sense.

This would also address the concerns about the serious decline in koala numbers. Whilst the timber industry claims that logging improves koala habitat, this has to be disputed due to the observable lack of forestry management and weed control, resulting in thick walls of Lantana and other weeds which prevent koalas access to the trees.

Consequently, when I heard of the NSW Government's plans to increase the intensity of logging in the public native forests in order to increase timber yields, I was concerned enough to read the 300 odd pages of the Draft. Here are my objections:

- 1) Increasing intensity of logging throughout public native forests This is incompatible with genuine environmental protections.
- 2) Reducing distances of riparian buffer zones from 10 – 5m is irresponsible, guaranteed to cause destruction of whole riparian eco-systems, severe silting and depletion of healthy flow resulting in detrimental effects to aquatic species and agriculture downstream.
- 3) Removing species-specific exclusion protection zones.
- 4) Open up oldgrowth forests for logging, previously protected in informal reserves.
- 5) Numbers of trees required to be retained is totally inadequate to maintain any sort of habitat.
- 6) Requirement for loggers to look for and protect koalas and threatened species is removed.
- 7) 140,000 ha Intensive Logging Zone for North Coast which is effectively clear-felling.
- 8) No review of past failures or update of new information has been considered before decision to renew RFAs.
- 9) No requirement for Forest Corp to rehabilitate previously logged forests which have been left seriously degraded by weed infestation and dieback. Nor is there provision for them to be held accountable for future damage and lack of management. Forest Corp are taking public resources but not being held responsible.
- 10) These IFOAs appear to be more like guidelines for the industry rather than regulations, making them harder to enforce. I understand there has been considerable lack of enthusiasm for prosecution of past breaches.
- 11) Genuine Selective logging was possible with chainsaw and small equipment but current practices with the large unmaneuverable machinery are incompatible with sustainable timber extraction.

Hopefully a sustainable plan will be found which genuinely cares for our forests, with a sustainable logging industry confined to plantations and farm forestry.

Kind regards

Melanie Woodcock

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