



Respondent No: 578

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- Q1. **First name** Elizabeth
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- Q6. **Postcode** [REDACTED]
- Q7. **Country** not answered
- Q8. **Stakeholder type** Community group
- Q9. **Stakeholder type - Other**
not answered
- Q10. **Stakeholder type - Staff**
not answered
- Q11. **Organisation name** New England Greens Armidale Tamworth
- 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?**
See attached
- 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?**
N/A

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?

See attached

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 attached

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

See attached

Q21. General comments

See attached

Q22. Attach your supporting documents (Document 1)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Q23. Attach your supporting documents (Document 2)

not answered

Q24. Attach your supporting documents (Document 3)

not answered

New England Greens Armidale Tamworth (NEGAT) is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion of the logging of our native forests, an issue which impacts on our environment and wildlife.

NEGAT opposes the Government's proposed changes to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA).

This State's almost 2 million hectares of State Native Forest is a priceless environmental asset that needs to be managed for everyone, so that our environment is protected, taxpayers benefit and more people can have more access to these beautiful places. NEGAT is aware that the changes proposed in the draft *Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals*

- **Increase logging intensity throughout public native forests**, including allowing high-intensity logging in 140,000ha of coastal forests between Taree and Grafton, enabling virtual clear-felling of areas up to 45ha in operation. This will convert biologically complex, natural forests into monocultures of blackbutt .
- **Permit logging in stream buffer zones that are currently out of bounds for logging**. These areas are the most important refuges for threatened species left in many forests, including gliders and quolls, and contain some of the most ecologically important trees in production forests.
- **Open previously protected old-growth forest to logging** by remapping these high-conservation-value areas to make up timber shortfalls. Old-growth forests are rare and provide vital refuges for threatened species, including large owls and gliders.
- **Permit the logging of trees up to 140cm in diameter, and 160cm for blackbutt and alpine ash**, and remove the need to protect recruitment trees (the hollow-bearing trees of the future) in logging operations.
- **Replace the need to look for koalas** with a habitat model that will require the retention of a maximum of 10 feed trees of just 20cm diameter per hectare in mapped koala habitat.

Each of these changes to currently existing environmental protection is a retrograde step and will negatively impact on our environment and economy with:

- **Further widespread declines in wildlife** . The Australian Senate has already been prompted to call for an inquiry into the crisis facing our threatened species. The intensive harvesting zone will destroy almost half of the mapped high-quality koala habitat in state forests
- **An increase in overlogging**. The number of jobs and mills has already collapsed and logging now accounts for about 0.03% of primary industries employment. This situation will be worsened as climate change and forest dieback make future timber resources increasingly uncertain—an issue highlighted in the Natural Resources Commission report but ignored in the IFOA.
- **Destruction of tourist potential** as natural habitat is destroyed.

NEGAT urges that the Government conduct a review of the logging industry which takes into consideration climate change, conservation and socio-economic issues, as was recommended in Ewan Waller's report .

NEGAT urges that the IFOA be abandoned and that the end of the Regional Forest Agreements be used to transition out of native forest logging on public land and to implement positive alternatives like National Park Association's [Great Koala National Park](#) and [Forests For All](#) proposals.

Elizabeth O'Hara Convenor, New England Greens Armidale Tamworth