

MY SUBMISSION:

I am OPPOSED to the renewal of the NSW Regional Forestry Agreements (RFAs) because I consider them to provide very inadequate protection for our forests in this age of increasing carbon emissions, increasing numbers of threatened and endangered species, and the need for healthy, robust forests throughout the state.

Since RFAs came into existence, numbers of fauna that rely on forests, such as koalas, have decreased significantly. The habitats that animals need have been reduced by excessive logging, and ecosystems have likewise experienced negative impacts.

I am aware of recent polling in Ballina and Lismore showing that 90% of the people in those areas want to protect public native forests to support wildlife, protect water supplies, and respond to the growing need to store carbon. 70% support creating new national parks to protect koalas. Fewer than 10% are in favour of logging for timber, woodchips, and biomass burning.

Instead of continuing to allow logging and extending these inappropriate RFAs, I am in favour of increasing protections for our forests and making good use of forested lands for eco-tourism, recreation, and other activities that will encourage people to visit forests, learn of their value, and support their protection. I also call your attention to the concept of Natural Capitalism, which focuses on protecting the natural environment instead of simply exploiting it. The time for exploitation of our natural resources must come to an end. We must focus on PROTECTION, for the good of us all and for the good of future generations.

I am in favour of NOT renewing RFAs and working towards helping workers find new livelihoods that are not based on the exploitation of our forests. I also want to see much more effective protection of our native forests to protect the many threatened and endangered species for whom we must be stewards.

Using RFAs have not worked to conserve our important natural resources. They must end!

I confirm that my submission does not contain sensitive information and can be published in full on the Environment Protection Authority and/or the Department of Primary Industries website.

I understand that the Environment Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries and/or the independent reviewer may contact me about my submission.