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Do you want your submission marked as confidential? *	No
Do you want to receive future notifications and updates on the PNF Review? *	Yes
Which of the following best describes you? *	Environmental organisation
Which draft PNF Code are you providing a submission on? *	Southern NSW

#### My comments

I am thankful for the opportunity to comment on the Southern PNF Codes.

The time is surely WAY overdue to give much better protection to for our native forests- they have been burned, cleared, logged and disregarded for way too long. So many of our unique native species are on the brink of extinction. In the face of critical climate change, private landowners should be compensated for NOT cutting down trees..as opposed to being given encouragement to do so. The community expects government bureaucracies to take a much more responsible stance re this. As you can see from my observations below..your codes are weak, insipid and ineffective in regards to any acceptable standards of conservation. Improvements are urgently required.

I am familiar with PNF operations from a visit to an area known as Mount Rae forest.

I have followed events there, and observed a law purporting to protect biodiversity being perverted in this area, to log a forest that NSW gov. ecologists from the Southern Threatened species department had previously targeted for protection and informed local council that it was a significant area of high conservation value .

Under PNF commercial scale firewood logging was approved without any need to consult with these scientists, or local council, and all input from local community groups were ignored.

These codes had no protections for the *Diuris aequalis* orchid (endangered in NSW ). Only AFTER firewood logging approvals were given and this issue was raised with the then NSW Environment Minister did a protective prescription appear in the code of practice for this species. The lowest prescription.

This orchid is now targeted for protection by the Saving Our Species scheme and a landholder adjoining lands approved for firewood logging is site managed to protect this species from possible local extinction. While the same habitat -with known records for this species -is allowed to be logged for firewood

Another well known species in this forest, and also targeted by the SOS scheme for protection - the gang gang cockatoo - is known to breed in this forest, yet it has no protections at all under the PNF codes of practice.

The Southern COP must be amended to include :

\*Protections for the Gang gang cockatoo.

\*Increased protections for the *Diuris aequalis* orchid.

\*Independent ecological surveys prior to approval - in the Mount Rae forest case the lack of surveys, saw incorrect claims made regarding forest type and threatened species here. No one bothered to check with the depts own scientists who were conducting surveys for VCA's and were well aware of the rare forest types in this forest. Aerial mapping was incorrect for this area and cannot be lied . Areas must be ground truthed.

\* Council, community input and local knowledge should be sought to ensure good outcomes, not ignored as it currently is.

\* Approvals should not be given to log native forests for such low end products as firewood or woodchips .

\* A moratorium should be put in place on logging native forests as a result of the recent devastating bushfires to give many species, but most especially koalas, a chance to recover.

\* All hollow bearing trees should be retained.

\* Logging should not be allowed on read of over 20 degrees of slope.

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