


Private Native Forestry Review
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Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how the Private Native Forestry Review can meet the objectives and scope set out in the Review's Terms of Reference (TORs).

I write as a koala conservationist of nearly 20 years and as a citizen who holds grave concerns for the future of our remaining forests whether they are on public or private land.

My interest in Private Native Forestry (PNF) is focussed on the threat it poses to koalas, particularly on the north coast, which is the region of most interest to me. To be honest, I don't see anything in the TORs that comes anywhere close to giving me confidence that the interests of the wildlife that live in our forests is being addressed; much less any alignment with the 'whole-of-government' NSW Koala Strategy. Rather, the TORs are directed at prioritising harvesting with a view to industrial expansion. Balancing recognition of the environmental values of the private forest estate looks little more than an inconvenient part of the deal.

PNF's threat to koalas has been long acknowledged, for example in the *NSW recovery plan for the koala* (2008) and the Senate's Environment and Communications References Committee report, *The koala- saving our national icon* (2011). Numerous well-documented community reports of koala habitat destroyed by non-complying operations carried out under the *Forest Operation Plan Guidelines - Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for Northern NSW* have confirmed the extent of the threat.

With nearly 40% of New South Wales's remaining native forests on private land and their harvesting viewed as providing 'a key resource for the NSW Forestry Industry', plus the fact that PNF applies to any area of NSW other than those identified in section 60ZS of the *Local Land Services Act*, Heaven help the Koala.

For these reasons I support and commend to you EDO NSW's submission to the Review (24 January 2019) and its 25 recommendations.

I conclude my submission with this quote from Greg Callaghan, Deputy Editor, Good Weekend Magazine (Sydney Morning Herald and The Age) published January 26 2019: **Trunk call**, p.6:

"Australia is doing its darndest to cut down more trees. Forests are disappearing so fast in NSW and Queensland that WWF International has put Australia on its list of global deforestation hot spots - the only one in the developed world - while koala populations continue to be decimated through habitat loss."

The NSW Government's primary responsibility should surely be to protect the long-term health of all our forests and the wildlife that live in them. Now that our public forests have been locked in to another 20 years of industrial logging, native forests on private land will be critical for the Koala's long-term survival in a warming world. PNF de-regulation and self-assessment are simply not on.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Vass
29 January 2019