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2 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission on the NSW Regional Forest Agreements  
Second and Third Five-Yearly Review and Regional Forest Agreement renewal**

I write to expressed my rejection of the RFA review and strong objection to the renewal of the RFAs. The review is too little too late and fails to address the patent failings of the RFA to meet its objectives.

Our forests are not being managed on an ecologically sustainable basis. Threatened species habitat is being logged at an unprecedented rate. Bell Miner Associated Die Back is proliferating due to logging and lantana invasion of denuded forest areas. Koalas have declined by 50% on the north coast. Logging cycles are getting shorter, logging roads and log dumps are getting bigger, logs are getting smaller, yields are declining, threatened species targets have not been met and hollow bearing trees are still being logged. There absolutely nothing sustainable about Forestry Corporation's industrial scale logging in our public native forests.

In fact, the current relentless industrial scale logging is destroying forest values that have a far greater economic value to the NSW public than the timber being extracted. If left alone our public native forests will continue to store and sequester increasing amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, downstream water users will receive greater water volumes over time, forest ecosystems will have a chance to recover and grow old and unrealised tourism opportunities can flourish.

Tourists do not want to face fully loaded logging trucks on narrow rural roads, nor will they visit devastated forests. Tourists want to see koalas in the wild, have nature experiences and feel good about seeing and experiencing healthy protected forests.

87% of NSW timber supply comes from plantations. We know that the public plantation sector of Forestry Corporation is extremely profitable unlike native forestry which makes an annual loss and employs very few workers directly. It is time to stop subsidising public native forest logging and transition the remaining 13% of the native forest timber industry into plantations. It is time to

realise the untapped opportunities our public native forests provide for future environmental, economic and social benefits, other than flogging it into non-existence.

I object to the fact that the Government has already declared its intention to roll over the RFAs and lock the current ecologically and economically unsustainable logging in for another 20 years even before this review process is finished. There is no consideration of an option to not renew the RFA or of an alternative use for our forests.

This is a fundamentally flawed process in which I have no confidence. The RFA must not be renewed. Public native forest logging should cease and alternative sustainable uses like the Great Koala National Park proposal should be implemented. This would result in the generation of many more jobs that currently directly rely on public native forest logging and would provide truly sustainable economic benefits for the region.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment, even though I believe the outcome is a disgraceful done deal.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula Flack', followed by a period.

Paula Flack