

29/11/19

Mr Dustin Winzer, B.Ed.



RE: Climate change issues paper – consultation. End Native Forest Logging.

To whom it may concern,

It's hard to know where to start, as we have said it all before.

My parents' generation raised issues surrounding deforestation and logging in this state, and its link to air quality, during the seventies. Pollution and air quality have always been a pertinent issue in my lifetime, and yet laws designed to protect our air quality have let us down. Now we have a situation, and the laws need to change.

Recent science has shown that older forest store as much, or more carbon than young forests (Ketchell, 2014), muting misinformation from the forestry industry that they are actually doing the environment a favour by razing and burning native forests;

***"When forests are cleared or burnt, stored carbon is released into the atmosphere, mainly as carbon dioxide"*** (Climate Council, 2019).

Current practices of clearing and burning are a major contributor to greenhouse gases, and Western Australia is a world leader in this deforestation and native forest destruction.

Ending logging and land clearing is also a way to mitigate the 16% (UWA, n.d) drop in rainfall we have experienced in W.A. over the last 20 years. Anecdotal evidence from farmers in the south west put the figure at 20%. Estimates put the remnant vegetation at only 60% to 30% of the original vegetation cover, with South Western Australia being at the wrong end of that statistic at only 30% (Beckerling, 2013). There is a link between rainfall and vegetation cover, something I was first taught in 1994 by my Geography teacher. In an interview with the ABC news, Dr Mark Andrich speaks on this exact issue;

***"Around half of the rainfall decline, at least up until the year 2000, is a result of land clearing," Dr Andrich told the ABC at the time*** (Kilvert, 2018).

If we are to begin to repair our rainfall and water issues, we must first begin to repair the forests. A reversal of forestry practices in Western Australia would pay dividends for rainfall.

There has also been a tripling of the critically endangered species in Western Australia during my lifetime, under the watch of elected governments. There are a total of 57 animal species in W.A. that research shows to be critically endangered, and in distinct risk of extinction. There are 239 that are endangered, critically endangered or threatened (DPAW, n.d.), an unacceptable risk to genetic and species diversity. A very basic search of these species finds that the primary cause of the listing of these animals is due to habitat loss (ABS, 1990). This is a politically correct way of saying deforestation and land clearing for development, logging, farming and human activity.

I support an immediate end to native forest logging and a transition to fully sustainable plantation forestry, in order to sequester adequate carbon out of the atmosphere to mitigate the effects of anthropological climate change. The destruction of forests in Western Australia has been left out of the climate change conversation. The very easiest way to mitigate the ravages of climate change is to preserve forest in their natural state, and to increase their range, and restore them to some of the original range.

I call on the government of Western Australia to end native forest logging and transition to plantation forestry as described by the Western Australia Forest Alliance's **Forests for Life Plan** (WAFA, 2018).

Thank you for accepting my submission.

Kind Regards,

Dustin Winzer.

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