

Climate Change Consultation

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

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PERSONAL SUBMISSION -

I believe the remaining native forests should be preserved in this state due to the biologically rich and highly valued landscape. The southwest of Western Australia is listed as one of the world's global biodiversity hotspots because of its large numbers of endemic species and the serious threats to its biodiversity.

Western Australia's karri, jarrah, marri, tuart and tingle forests grow within this biodiverse hotspot and nowhere else in the world. These forests have become important refuges for forest dependent flora and fauna species which are critical habitat for endangered species such as the Numbat, the Mainland Quokka, the Western Ring Tailed Possum and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

Climate change, forest diseases, destructive fires, logging and mining are placing enormous stress on the south-west forest ecosystems.

Continued industrial scale logging of the remaining forests is undermining their capacity to cope with the pressures they are under. This disturbance is:

- x Continuing to reduce critical habitat for threatened species such as nesting hollows in mature trees;

- x Spreading dieback and other diseases;

- x Fragmenting ecosystems and facilitating access for introduced predators.

- x Compacting soil with long-term implications for ecosystem health;

- x Causing erosion and reducing water quality;

- x Releasing very large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

My last point being the main reason why the end of native forest logging is so important.

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).

Jo-Ann Arundale

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