



870 Ophir Rd
Summer Hill Creek
NSW 2800
www.cwecouncil.com

**The Minister
NSW Department of Energy, Climate Change and Water
July 9, 2025**

Re: The Improved Native Forest Management Method under the Carbon Farming Initiative Act 2014.

Dear Ms. Sharpe

I would like to take the opportunity to express strong opposition to the proposed Improved Native Forest Management under the Carbon Farming Initiative Act 2014. I do so on behalf of the Central West Environment Council (CWEC).

Our organization represents seventeen environmental groups from regional centres within the Central West of New South Wales. Our collective agenda is that of protecting and conserving the environment for current and future generations. We object to the above proposed method for the following reasons.

CWEC does not support any proposal that allows for compromise on the issue of native forest logging. The current proposal provides an opportunity to claim carbon credit for reduced logging or logging which has been deferred to a later date. This is unacceptable. Carbon credits should only be awarded for complete cessation of native forest logging. The Method provides opportunities for gaming the system and the provision of carbon credits for continued destruction of our native forests.

Other states have banned native forest logging. It is time New South Wales did the same. Environmental groups such as CWEC have been calling on the New South Wales Government to ban native forest logging for some time. The practice has been banned in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria. It is time that New South Wales followed suit rather than introducing loopholes.

The impacts of native forest logging are disastrous for the environment. Native forest logging has significant impacts on the environment, including habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, increased fire risk and contribution to climate change. Our native forests are a vital part of the Earth's life support system. They are

biodiversity strongholds that provide clean water, clean air, and as carbon stores they are essential in our defense against the worst effects of climate change. They provide essential habitat for our increasingly threatened native wildlife, including such species as the greater glider, yellow bellied glider, sooty, masked and powerful owls, koalas and quolls. We need urgent action to stop the continued destruction of species habitat, not a system that is open to compromise.

Native forest logging is not economically sustainable. There is no economic justification for the continuation of native forest logging. New South Wales is operating at a significant loss, with the Forestry Corporation's hardwood division reporting a 29-million-dollar loss at the end of the 2023 2024 financial year. Our native forests deliver a better return if they are conserved.

When it comes to our native forests we need to transition from extraction to preservation and regeneration. If we are to save our native forests and the species that rely on them for survival, we need to move away from using them as an extractive resource to employing strategies for their preservation, maintenance and regeneration. This can only happen if logging is to cease completely. Carbon credits for logging cessation can assist in this transition.

Native forestry hardwood can be grown and harvested commercially without threatening native forests. Moving to a 100% native timber plantation industry would reliably create the necessary product and provide jobs. If advice from CWEC had been taken 30 years ago, this would now be an established resource.

Conclusion: The proposal is a highly questionable step towards ending native forest logging in state forests. The inclusion of compromise on the issue is not acceptable to CWEC. Deferring logging to a later date is a very large and dangerous loophole. If we are to be serious about taking real action to save our native forests and the species that depend on them, we will only support proposals that lead to the banning of destructive logging practices, in this case only awarding carbon credits for complete logging cessation. Instead of regarding our native forests as opportunities for resource exploitation, we must move toward a model of conservation and regeneration. Native hardwood logging should only occur in the plantation industry.

Yours sincerely
Nick King
President. Central West Environment Council