

Summary of submissions on the Hardwood Forests Draft Forest Management Plan for the Western Forests of NSW

A draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Western Forests of NSW was placed on public exhibition in late 2018. In total two (2) submissions were received from stakeholders, both being from individuals.

Submissions covered a range of issues, however some were assessed as outside the scope of the Draft Forest Management Plan. These issues were noted and are described below.

- Creation of indigenous protected areas (IPA's) across NSW public forest estate.
- Deforestation is our country's greatest environmental crisis.

Key issues raised in submissions in relation to the content of the Draft FMP included:

- Call for restoration and management of our native woodlands and forests for biodiversity and landscape values, with employment opportunities created for indigenous peoples.
- Call that all industries have a responsibility to increase efforts to minimise climatic extremes and restore forests to ecological health.
- Call to reduce logging volumes proposed to meet the requirements of threatened species and to retain mature habitat across the region.
- Concerns that areas of endangered ecological communities and significant sub-categories exist within larger tracts of all forest and that the plan does not adequately account for smaller sub-regions of biodiversity that vitally require immediate protection and restoration works.
- Concerns the FMP will be undermined by the cumulative impact of these proposed forestry plans, changes to land clearing laws on private property and subsequent mining projects surrounding the region.
- Call for ESFM to include and prioritise the preservation of habitat and species, biodiversity, the best-practice management of natural values and protection of intact forest areas.

Comments were considered and changes made to the draft plan to address issues or incorporate additional information. Examples include review of management actions and subsequent management plans in relation to forest health and regeneration.