

FORESTS CAMPAIGN



A message from Forests Campaigner, Steve Ryan

2024 has been a pivotal year in the campaign to end native forest logging in NSW – for the first time, an end to logging in public native forests is on the agenda in NSW. There is a real chance that the State Government will make a plan to transition to a 100% plantation industry as part of their Forestry Industry Action Plan, which is currently in the consultation phase.

There has certainly been a major national decline of public native forest logging nationwide, with Western Australia and Victoria closing out their native logging operations this year. And in NSW, this is the closest we have ever been to resolving this decades-long struggle.

Alongside our continued efforts to see the end of native forest logging statewide, we have also been:

- participating in the Great Koala National Park Advisory Panel to get the best deal for the koalas of the Mid-North Coast.
- applying pressure to immediately end logging in the park assessment area while the process of gazetting the park unfolds.
- getting out into the forest to join citizen science forest survey efforts and save as much habitat as we can before the logging trucks roll in.
- co-ordinating the Forest Alliance NSW, an alliance of environment groups working as a united front to protect habitat and end NSW logging of native forests.

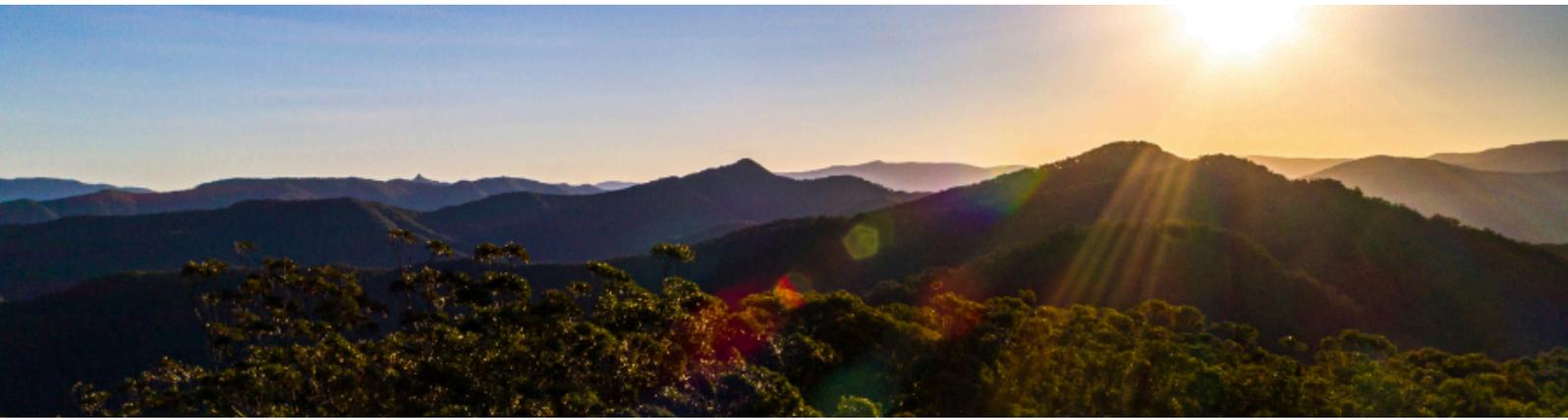
We have a huge year ahead and we need to continue the momentum to protect the precious and irreplaceable habitat of NSW forests. This is the moment to ensure that threatened and endangered species will live freely in healthy, thriving and protected forests.

Thank you for your invaluable support of our forests campaign. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Steve Ryan

Forests Campaigner

Nature Conservation Council NSW



Kalang Forest by Max Phillips

2024 at a glance

This year saw some significant breakthroughs for the environment movement both politically and within the movement itself.

As a movement, our organising for an end to native forest logging has become more powerful and coordinated through the establishment of the Forest Alliance NSW (of which we are founding member). This collaboration brings together many forest campaigning organisations into a strategic partnership that helps increase our momentum, coordinate campaigning and share resources across the movement.

Politically, we have a government that has opened the door to transitioning the industry out of public native forests. Now we have to fight to ensure that is the option they choose.

Our challenges

The pace of NSW bureaucracy has been slow – in particular the process of establishing the Great Koala National Park. At the time of writing it has been 18 months since Labor won the state election with a promise to create new National Park which would serve as a refuge for an estimated 1-in-5 of the state's surviving koalas. We have been consistently applying pressure to halt logging in the park boundaries whilst this assessment takes place. Early on, we won a small concession of a logging halt in so-called 'koala hubs' which make up a small proportion of the area but this wasn't enough – since then thousands of hectares of forest have been destroyed in the park assessment area.

What we did



Participated in citizen science to save habitat

We made significant progress in the power of Citizen Science to save habitat. Greater Glider survey work has proven a valuable tool in conserving key habitat. Every greater glider den identified, in a state forest scheduled for logging, garners a 50 metre logging exclusion zone. We found that community-led forest surveys identified up to 10 times more endangered Greater Glider den trees than Forestry Corporation surveys.



Played our role as the voice for nature in government consultations

As part of the Great Koala National Park Advisory Panel we continued our advocacy work to push for a decision on the park in this calendar year, that the park boundaries include the entire 175,000ha assessment area and that logging stop within the park assessment area as the boundaries are being finalised.

We are also speaking up for forests and pressing for an end to native forest logging in NSW in the Forestry Industry Action Plan. The FIAP is considering a number of options for the future of NSW native forests. A transition for the industry to 100% plantation-based is on the cards and we are using our platform to strongly push for that outcome.



Applied pressure to the EPA to improve logging regulations for endangered greater glider habitat

Though greater glider protections in the logging industry are falling short, last year the logging industry were still doing surveys for this nocturnal animal in the day. Alongside our colleagues in the environment movement, we helped ramp up the pressure through advocacy in meetings with the EPA and getting the message out in the media that Forestry Corporation were really failing to protect the habitat of this endangered species. As a result of the campaign for a change to greater glider survey regulations, Forestry Corporation now has to survey for gliders at night and also leave a 25 metre exclusion zone around any sighting of a greater glider, on top of the den tree exclusion zone of 50 metres.

There is still more to be done to protect this iconic species from extinction, including a 100m buffer zone around any glider sighting, the use of thermal drones to identify gliders and the population density, the protection of areas with high numbers of greater gliders and ultimately the end of native forest logging. You can be sure we are campaigning to achieve all of this.

Created important resources for the movement



Our map of the Great Koala National Park showing the assessment area and where logging is set to take place has been viewed almost 14,000 times in the past year. This map shows detail not only of where has been logged in the past year and where is due to be logged in previous years, but also logged koala sightings, the past 20 years of logging and even the all accessible harvest history.

We also produced informative campaign videos and social media reels to shed light on the threats to NSW native forests and the species who live in them.

Got word out in the media about key stories



The citizen science work has continued to provide media and lobbying opportunities as well as the protection of key areas of habitat for the endangered greater glider. NCC collaborated with Forest Alliance NSW on the launch of an important report that showed the vast inadequacies of Forestry Corporation forest surveys.

We also got word out in June that Forestry Corporation was going full steam ahead on logging in the Great Koala National Park assessment area, with 19,000 hectares of forest on their planning portal as at risk of logging in the coming year.

Mobilised thousands to action



Our call to stop logging in the Great Koala National Park whilst the boundaries are finalised has garnered over 11,000 signatures and 6,000 have signed on to our call for greater glider habitat to be protected from logging.

We also mobilised over 1000 people to write to their MPs to call for an end to native forest logging, as well as securing public submissions to the Forestry Industry Action Plan consultation.

Our goals for 2025

In 2025, we will be at the forefront of the campaign for forest protection to get the best deal for nature in key decisions expected from government next year: the boundaries of the Great Koala National Park and whether the forestry industry transitions to 100% plantation based.

Our ultimate goal is the end of native forest logging in NSW. This long-running goal is finally within reach. We will be speaking up loud and clear for native forests every step along the way.

