

INDICATIVE LETTER TO SEND TO YOUR LOCAL STATE MEMBER

Dear ,

I am seeking your support for the campaign to convince the NSW Ministers for Environment, James Griffin, and Forestry, Dugald Saunders, to implement the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC's) recommendations to change the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (CIFOA) logging rules for the Forestry Corporation to retain and restore eight hollow-bearing trees per hectare throughout logging areas on State forests, and to retain two of the largest healthy trees as recruitments for each of these.

The NRC made this recommendation in response to the 2019/20 wildfires which resulted in the loss of innumerable oldgrowth trees, and the multitude of animals that rely upon them for crucial resources - particularly hollows. In NSW at least 46 species of mammals, 81 birds, 31 reptiles and 16 frogs, are reliant on tree hollows for shelter, dens and nests, of these, 40 species are listed as threatened in the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This recommendation was included in the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) report 'Final report Coastal IFOA operations post 2019/20 wildfires, June 2021', which the NSW Government has subsequently suppressed and failed to act on. The only long-term change to the CIFOA logging rules recommended by the NRC was:

The Commission has proposed temporary additional measures relating to hollow-bearing trees and recruitment trees for medium and high-risk zones. However, the Commission considers the following measures could also enhance the standard Coastal IFOA prescriptions:

- *retain a minimum of eight hollow-bearing trees per hectare where they exist (as per the requirement in the standard Coastal IFOA prescriptions)*
- *if hollow-bearing trees are not available, then retain suitable substitutes, in priority order being, potential future hollow-bearing trees, the largest mature tree in the stand or a regrowth tree that is not suppressed*
- *retain two recruitment trees per retained hollow-bearing tree*

We have an opportunity to help alleviate the housing crisis facing many of our unique forest species. The changes recommended by NRC will greatly enhance the future availability of hollows for homes, while increasing the multitude of other resources provided by older trees in the process.

I am asking you to write to the Ministers, asking them to immediately implement the Natural Resources Commission's recommendation to urgently change the CIFOA to retain and restore eight hollow-bearing trees per hectare throughout logging areas on State Forests, and to retain two of the largest healthy trees for each of these.

Please inform me of your position on this crucial issue.

Yours sincerely,