

Greg Combet AM MP
Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Australia needs a national Forests and Climate Action Plan that will reduce carbon pollution immediately.

The science is clear that protecting Australia’s native forests and woodlands is vital to reducing Australia’s carbon pollution. The Climate Commission's Report, *The Critical Decade*, stated that **eliminating harvesting of native forests is “perhaps the most important policy measure that can be taken to reduce emissions from land ecosystems.”**

The Government should accept this advice and develop a national **Forests and Climate Action Plan** that will protect areas of Australia’s native forests for climate, water and wildlife.

It must:

- Immediately reduce carbon pollution by protecting all public native forests from logging.
- Implement a just transition for the forestry industry so it is based on plantations.
- Ensure that biomass burning from native forests is not eligible for renewable energy certificates.
- Study and verify the amount of carbon stored in public native forests.
- Redirect public funds used to subsidize native forest logging to a permanent Biodiversity Fund.
- Protect, connect and restore native forests across all land tenures, utilizing regional planning initiatives where appropriate.

A Forests and Climate Action Plan would be a cheap, effective and immediate measure to **complement the Clean Energy Plan and reductions in other sectors.**

Please take immediate action so we can realize the potential of reducing carbon pollution by protecting native forests.

Yours sincerely,

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ADDRESS:
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