

Letter to: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au, lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au  
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Dear Premier Andrews and Minister D'Ambrosio,

Our members wish to congratulate your Government on its important decision to cease native forest logging in Victoria by 2030. The National Trust (NSW) has long campaigned for an end to native forest logging in NSW.

Like Victoria, many arboreal mammals, including sugar gliders and our genetically distinct koalas, of which only 60 individuals survive, are on the edge of extinction in southern NSW, due to commercial logging of our public native forests and land clearing. As in Victoria, very few jobs are associated with logging, milling and chipping native forests, less than 200 in the whole of southern NSW. On the other hand, many hundreds of thousands of jobs depend on tourism, agriculture and urban settlements, water supplies for which are increasingly threatened by logging and climate change.

As in NSW, the economics of this industry have not made sense for many decades. Our forestry service has publicly admitted it is losing revenue from native forest logging, as the Victorian Auditor General also identified in Victoria several years ago. The logging industry itself also is loss making, or at best marginally viable, but would make losses if it paid an economic price for its logs. (See [www.tai.org.au/content/money-doesnt-grow-trees](http://www.tai.org.au/content/money-doesnt-grow-trees), [www.tai.org.au/content/logging-or-carbon-credits](http://www.tai.org.au/content/logging-or-carbon-credits).) While throughout Australia, this industry is an environmental and economic scandal, it has managed to avoid public scrutiny and demand on-going public subsidies for decades.

Hence, we thoroughly endorse your decision to announce an end to logging by 2030. Nevertheless, we hope the long timeline for its phase-out does not allow your courageous decision to be overturned.

Regards

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