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24 July 2019

NSW Natural Resources Commission
Level 6, 52 Martin Place,
Sydney NSW 2000

Correspondence via email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear NSW Forest Monitoring Steering Committee: Professor Patrick Baker, Associate Professor Phillip Gibbons, Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer, and Dr. Peter Hairsine.

Re: Comments on the NSW forest monitoring and improvement program strategy

Australian Wildlife Society is dedicated to the conservation of Australian wildlife – fauna, and flora – in all its forms through national environmental education programs and advocacy. We are writing to comment on the NSW forest monitoring and improvement program strategy.

In regards to the proposed design of the strategy, we would like to see Wildlife Conservation specialists be actively involved in the design of the strategy, who will advocate for the conservation of preserving wildlife habitats so that our native wildlife have a place to exist in.

Assessments of the status and resilience of threatened species and the adequacy of protected areas to provide habitat for native animals, amidst increasing threats, is a priority issue and should be a key focus. Urgent action to help forest managers be better informed about species protection measures should also be included and implemented. A reduction of land clearing is highly important for the healthy function of our ecosystems and native wildlife populations and should be another key focus. Furthermore, it should be noted that logging activities should be reduced at all costs, especially when there is a presence of old-growth trees and trees with hollows that provide homes for our native wildlife.

Organisations such as NSW Universities could contribute to monitoring and research on NSW forests coordinated by the Program, to help answer the evaluation questions on pg. 12 of the program strategy. Australian Wildlife Society would suggest to form an alliance with NSW Universities.

Thank you for your time with evaluating our feedback and we hope that the preservation of wildlife habitats continue to be a key focus when implementing strategies such as this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick W Medway".

Patrick W Medway AM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

