

WA FOREST SURVEY GUIDE

SOME INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE FILLING IN THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S SURVEY INTO THE VALUE AND USE OF WA'S NATIVE FORESTS | JUNE 2021.

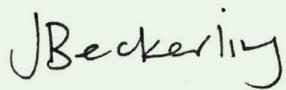
Wafa has been inundated with requests from the public regarding the best way is to answer some of the questions in the new WA Forest Survey released by Minister Sanderson. People are wanting to know how to make sure that their response clearly indicates that they want native forests fully and securely protected.

We are the umbrella non-government organisation for forest conservation in WA. We have been advocating forest protection since 1990 and represent 25 forest conservation groups in Perth and the South West, and we are delighted that the WA public is finally being asked by the State Government if they want native forest logging to stop.

So, we've put together this handy guide to making your voice heard in this survey. We hope it's helpful. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries or for support.

This is the first time the public has been asked if we want to see an end to native forest logging – it's very exciting stuff and an opportunity not to be wasted.

In solidarity,



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The survey can be found here:
<https://bit.ly/WAForestSurvey>

SECTION 1

If you have any genuine business or employment interest in the forests, include it here.

SECTION 2

We encourage you to select the overarching answers that point towards the need for a major rethink of the way forests are managed here, such as **'biological diversity or biodiversity'** **'carbon storage'** **'threatened species and communities'** and **'Aboriginal Heritage'**.

Questions 2.1 and 2.2 are very similar. Don't worry too much about this.

2.1 Just pick your top three.

2.2 Pick your top two, and then select one that you missed in 2.1 to take the opportunity to get another one into the mix when the survey result data is being compiled.

2.3 This is where you say which major threats you want to see controlled in the forests. If you want logging to stop, make sure that you select **'native timber harvesting'** as one of your top three.

This is also the one of the only places you get to have a say regarding fire and mining. If they're top issues for you too, go ahead and select **'fire'** and **'mining'** here too. Some people have said they are selecting **Other** here so that they can explain the cumulative impacts of all these threats – you might prefer to do that.

SECTION 3

3.1 Record your own personal position here, remembering that when the survey says **'native timber harvesting'** they're talking about native forest logging.

If you're filling this out to show that you want native forest logging to end, be sure to say **'native forest harvesting'** is **'very unsustainable'**.

This is also your chance to say that bauxite mining, is **'very unsustainable'**.

3.2 Think eco-tourism, research and education, honey-production, First Nations cultural activities and educational programs. If you think these can be developed / supported in the forests, select **'Yes'** here.

3.3 **This is really important.** It is our chance to explain that native forest logging, mining and inappropriate burning are undermining these sustainable sectors and cultural connections to the forests.

Go wild! – Tell them about how native forest logging, mining and inappropriate fire must stop entirely to allow for innovative, sustainable activities to be developed and supported.

3.4 This Question! Here's where we encounter the logging lobby's language and very deliberate, calculated attempt at greenwashing. Select **'It is never appropriate'** if you want native forests protected and support the development of secure jobs in sustainable sectors.

NB: While making high value products from timber is great, we don't need to log native forests to do this these days – there is plenty of recyclable wood available, as well as windfall timber and other micro-sources that don't require logging precious native forests.



SECTION 3 (continued)

- 3.5** This is pretty complicated and raises a lot of issues. Here's a brief summary that you might like to consider. You can select **'Don't know'** here if you prefer.

It is technically possible, but native forests must ultimately be protected in their own right and with their biodiversity, health and resilience as the first priority. To generate ACCUs, a Federal methodology would have to be developed. The State could develop its own policy here and generate credits for offsets that could be traded into polluting projects within its own control (Synergy for eg.). This raises issues with ongoing polluting projects, and the offset system itself being problematic. Regardless of the complexity with credits, the avoided emissions from stopping logging and clearing, and the maintenance of a profoundly valuable carbon store, could be measured and recorded as a major contribution to WA's climate action efforts.

- 3.6** If you think that the true extent of old-growth is underestimated and left open for logging in WA, then select **'No'** here. The survey allows further comment on this if you select **'No'** or **'Maybe'**. You can give your reasons at 3.6.1.

- 3.6.1** Here you can say that the definition in 3.6 is technically okay, but the way that the State agencies have interpreted it, and the dodgy criteria and identification process they've established means that old-growth is still being logged. You can say that there needs to be a review of the way old-growth is identified. You might also like to point out that, considering we need all native forests for climate and biodiversity, all native forests need to be protected from logging and clearing, not just old-growth.

If you want more information about the definition, please see the resources on the WAFA website regarding old-growth definitions www.wafa.org/get-informed.

- 3.7** This is where you get to say that climate change presents a threat; that it's important we protect forests for carbon capture and storage; that forests are important for endangered wildlife and biodiversity conservation; and that native forest logging needs to stop completely.

Make sure you **strongly agree that no native forest 'harvesting' should occur.**

Woohoo! We hope you enjoy saying this as much as we did!

SECTION 4

- 4.1** Think about the impacts on reduced rainfall and increasing temperatures on the forests' health and resilience here.
- 4.2** You can select as many as you believe will need to change given the changes to the climate. If you select **'Other'**, you can give further information specifically in the context of the changing climate and its effects on the forests.
- 4.3** Think about personal, recreational, cultural and/or business uses here.
- 4.4** This question is more about big picture Government policy and management here and what needs to change, for example logging, mining, fire, threatened species, feral animals.

SECTION 5

You can add any further comments at 5.7 and upload files at 5.8.

If you want to write a submission you can do so and upload it at 5.8. You can also add files to give further info. The WAFA website has a very good resources page where you'll find background documents on various topics. You might find something there to support one of your answers. Check out the Get Informed tab www.wafa.org.au/get-informed.