



**WA FOREST ALLIANCE**

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## *IPCC report confirms urgent need to protect native forests*

The latest IPCC report - published yesterday (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021) - is a chilling reminder that we must act now to protect our native forests for climate and biodiversity.

“The report confirms that we are on track to reach a 1.5°C increase in average global temperatures by 2040, and a 2°C increase by the middle of this Century. This means that we can expect the severe fires, floods and other extreme weather events we’ve experienced in the past couple of years to become more frequent and more intense,” said Jess Beckerling convener of WA Forest Alliance.

“Even if we stop burning fossil fuels immediately, the report finds that we will still reach 1.6°C of warming before carbon levels in the atmosphere start declining.

“We need our State and Federal Governments to take immediate action to stop burning fossil fuels and protect all remaining native forests and other natural carbon stores.

“Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are at the highest concentration they have been in the past 2 million years. We need to bring that level down fast, and protecting remaining native forests is an obvious first step on that path.

“Our remaining forests are absolutely vital carbon stores – drawing down and storing huge volumes of carbon from the atmosphere. It’s never been more urgent that we protect and restore them.

“Protecting the South West’s native forests from logging would prevent 38 - 58 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted over the next decade – that’s the equivalent of immediately taking 1.2 million cars off the road.

“Mature, biodiverse forests draw down and store more carbon, more reliably, than regrowth forests and plantations. Logging and clearing of native forests have no place in a climate emergency. We must act right now to protect and restore native forests – they’re the best allies that we have,” said Ms Beckerling.

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