



## SAVE OLD-GROWTH FORESTS PETITION COLLECTION GUIDE

Thank you for collecting petitions to save our old growth forests. The NSW Government is planning to open up thousands of hectares of protected forests to logging. But together we can stop this disastrous plan.

### Why collect petitions?

By collecting petitions across the state we are creating a united voice of concern and sending a strong message to the NSW government to save our old growth forests. Collecting 10,000 signatures will force a debate in parliament and stop the government from sneakily sweeping this issue under the rug.

Collecting petition signatures also provides a great opportunity to engage your community and get them involved - you are raising awareness and growing the movement of people taking action by collecting petitions.

### How to effectively collect petitions

There are a number of ways to collect petitions:

1. Ask the people in your community to sign the petition - your family, friends, colleagues, and people from your school, university, church, etc.
2. Engage people at stalls or events - community events are great opportunities to talk to lots of people and collect signatures. Anyone can collect petition signatures if you're part of a group, hold regular market stalls or know other people that do - pass on this guide and petition pages.
3. Recruit new people to collect petitions with you - if you have an engaging conversation with someone who is passionate about this issue, ask them to join you and collect petition signatures too.

### Any questions? Send them to us!

If you're asked questions about old growth forests that you're not sure about, you can send people to [nature.org.au/](http://nature.org.au/) or share our email address [ncc@nature.org.au](mailto:ncc@nature.org.au). We also have some helpful facts and figures on the other side of this sheet, as well as a few FAQs, PTO.

We would love to hear from you, please contact Ed on [emortimer@nature.org.au](mailto:emortimer@nature.org.au) (Lismore and North Coast) or Shirley on [shall@nature.org.au](mailto:shall@nature.org.au) (Sydney and NSW wide).

### Snail mail

Please post filled in petition sheets to Nature Conservation Council, POBox 20232, World Square, NSW, 2002.

## Key facts and figures

- A pilot study by the Natural Resources Commission found remapping would open 78% of high-conservation value old-growth forest to logging.
- Old-growth forests contain vital hollows that take hundreds of years to form. The loss of hollow-bearing trees is a major threat to the survival of many species, including at least 46 mammals, 81 birds, 31 reptiles and 16 frogs.
- Remapping forests on private land is already happening and has opened 29,000 hectares of previously protected old-growth forests to logging.
- The government plans to spend up to \$3 million remapping and rezoning old growth forests. The cost of buying out existing contracts is estimated to be only \$1.47 million.
- Forests absorb more than 30% of our carbon emissions, and older trees store more carbon than younger ones. We should be protecting and restoring forests to increase their carbon-storing capacity.
- Globally, we need to expand our forests to increase carbon sinks to curb climate change and Australia is one of only five countries that can do so on the scale needed.
- The Natural Resources Commission says the forecast wood supply shortfall may never happen.

## FAQs

### **Question: Can I scan in the petitions I collect and email them to you?**

Answer: No, unfortunately not. The NSW Parliament requires 10,000 original hand written paper petitions to force a debate in parliament; photocopies, scans and faxes will not be accepted. Please post your original signed petition papers to: Nature Conservation Council, PO Box 20232, World Square, NSW, 2002.

### **Question: Can I ask people outside of NSW, or people who are not NSW residents or citizens to sign the petition?**

Answer: The NSW Parliament guidelines do not explicitly state that signers of the petition need to live in NSW to sign the petition, so technically yes, please outside of NSW, people who are not residents or citizens can sign the petition. That said, we strongly encourage you to collect the signatures of NSW residents wherever possible.

### **Question: When do you need the petition posted to you by?**

Answer: As soon as possible, the sooner we have 10,000 petitions the better. 10,000 paper petitions is no easy feat, so we're aiming to have 10,000 paper petitions by November.