



February 23, 2023

Patagonia International Inc., Japan  
General Manager, Marty Pomphrey

Patagonia International Inc., Australia & New Zealand  
Country Director, Dane O'Shanassy

Conservation of the mountain ash forests in Victoria

Dear Marty Pomphrey,

I hope this finds you are well.

It has been a couple of weeks since I last updated you on our 'Thankyou for not Chopping Here' work to protect the mountain ash forests of Victoria and create the Great Forest National Park. I am thrilled to share some positive developments.

With the release of our documentary series 'End to and End: Running to Save The Great Forest' online, we have received supportive feedback from Australian viewers but also those watching these films from all across the world.

There is currently a great deal of public interest surrounding the forests, as it was recently covered in the country's biggest newspaper, *The Age*, that "Nippon will close Australia's last white paper plant... meaning native forest logging in Victoria could end sooner than scheduled".

It is certainly encouraging to see Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd. take this step, and it illustrates the company's focus on driving sustainability through its mission to contribute to better living "everywhere it does business". To that end, I am reaching out to propose an opportunity for Nippon to take further direct action and realize immediate positive impact in its business in Australia. We would like to appeal to Nippon to not only discontinue relations with VicForests but to support the proposal for the Great Forest National Park, which would see past logging sites restored and vital habitat protected into the future.

As you know, the devastating summer wildfires of 2019-2020 destroyed vast areas of Victoria's old-growth forests and killed millions of animals, including endangered species. Despite this devastation, VicForests continues to clearfell log the mountain ash forests that survived the wildfires. Classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, these vast, ancient



ecosystems are not only home to the world's tallest flowering plants but are also home to one of Australia's most critically endangered species, the Leadbeater's possum. The forests store immense amounts of carbon, are amongst the most biodiverse areas anywhere in Australia, and provide the 5 million residents of Melbourne with drinking water. They also hold immense, irreplaceable cultural and heritage value.

Local environmental groups and others have been continuously protesting against VicForests, calling for the protection of Victoria's mountain ash forests. And at the end of 2019, the Victorian Government announced that it will phase out the logging of native forest in Victoria by 2030. Yet, according to Australia's leading scientists, this forest is on the brink of collapse. There simply is no time to wait.

There is, however, an opportunity for better management if action is taken now. Put forward by local community groups following the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009, the Great Forest National Park vision proposes linking 170,000 hectares of existing parks and protected areas together with 355,000 hectares of new protected forest. Studies indicate this National Park would attract an extra 400,000 visitors annually, add more than \$71 million to the local economy every year, as well as create 750 new, full-time jobs.

As general manager of Patagonia Australia I am writing to you directly for your help. I would like us to together invite executives from Nippon and Opal to visit this rare ecosystem in person, so that they can understand both the high ecological value of the forests and the community's proposal for the Great Forest National Park.

Earth is our only home, and I believe that taking steps now to protect the remaining mountain ash, one of the world's highest carbon storage trees, will help protect our shared home for future generations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dane O'Shanassy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Dane O'Shanassy