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Submission ID: 200264

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 9/24/2024 1:30:42 PM

Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

Current forestry operations in NSW are not sustainable and have caused already irreparable harm to fragile ecosystems reducing biomass and carbon storage, food sources and hollow bearing trees all putting putting our wild life at risk of extinction and people in danger. The neglect in forestry planning and practice has been reprehensible. It would appear that the very fundamentals of ecology have been conveniently bypassed to wreak such havoc on our natural environments. Removing protections for mature trees in 2018 was a direct assault on 174 species in NSW dependent on hollows for nests and dens. For our futures to be stable, safe and healthy I implore this committee to consider the far reaching documented, evidence-based research that tells us that ceasing logging will bring far greater benefits than the very short term and poor economic prospects of continuing. Our native forests decrease fire intensity, erosion and water way pollution, the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. Where I live the river runs brown it has the unenviable title of NSW's least healthy rivers. For generations the 'Big Scrub' forests have been cleared, water ways left unprotected and then laden with the detritus of poor farming practices including toxic waste. Our rivers are the lifeblood of country, our forests the sinks and stabilizers of the land. If they are unhealthy so are we. Year 7 basic Science for those that were paying attention.

Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

There is extraordinary environmental and cultural value to our forests. Connection, care, heritage and identity are tenants of First Nations culture in relationship to country both physically and spiritually across land and water. Cultural practices and knowledge are fundamental to well being. Take that away through logging and it is forever lost due to the profound impact at every level on that environment. Aside from the importance of maintaining the extraordinary biodiversity and given there is so little gained from this current forestry practice economically, the questions begs why not want better? I can only include that there are people in decision making spaces who simply don't understand and/or don't care. That is no longer good enough, accountability has come knocking with extreme weather events the result of climate change that people have generated. There is a choice here to make for the well being of all; clean air, cool landscapes, rainfall generation, pollination and connection to place. Let's halt and reverse the anticipated threat to the 269 nationally listed species in NSW. I would hope that real value and worth be attributed to our forests.

Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

Clearly there is a trend away from logging native forests at only 9% of the total log production last year in Australia. It is not a critical component of the industry with just such a small fraction contributing to the industry. The huge portion of that fraction then ending up as a significantly devalued product, woodchip, is an awful indictment on Forestry Corp. It does not make sense and

looks like sanctioned vandalism when considering the value of a forest standing and providing the structure for refined, elegant ecosystems. There is nothing that can not be substituted from hard wood to the sawn and treated softwood logs and composite products for housing, construction, transport and retail. Essential Energy is to be congratulated for their move away from power poles harvested from native forests.

Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

Softwood plantations are the way providing already a substantial portion of log production. Greater value could be gained by, rather than reducing the value to chip, utilise a greater portion of harvested softwood timber as saw and veneer logs. The current practice of harvesting native forests is a model that takes too great a toll environmentally and economically. Subsidizing it, as is current practice, is an impediment to better practices using plantation softwoods. It is incumbent on the industry to reduce harm and destruction.

Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models

Healthy living State Forests impact in a myriad of ways; environmentally, economically, socially and culturally and good management which has positive outcomes rather than a continuing deficit model is obviously preferable. Clearly it is ridiculous that the taxpayers of NSW are paying millions for an industry that, in its current form, has no future. When stacked against the potential for having healthy living environments that deliver the fundamentals required for well being; clean water, cooled landscapes, rich biodiversity and renewed and deep connection to place, there is an obvious choice. Let our forests thrive and take enormous pride in our capacity to have incredible environments that nurture us. In shaping this we can take much from the knowledge and wisdom of our first nations people. To live in balance, restore and renew, build connection and be engaged in place. A respectful model, as indigenous rangers are demonstrating, that will serve generations to come is worth standing up for.

Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests

There is every reason to end forest logging, not least, turning around the incredible release of some 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Eliminating that extraordinary figure would see NSW making a huge contribution to meeting our emissions target. The lowering of the harmful affects of climate change and maintaining of our biodiversity is our best way forward in what would otherwise be very difficult conditions. We have at hand one of the most powerful and effective resources scientifically acknowledged world wide to help avoid catastrophic climate change, our forests, we must look after them for our own good.