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Submission ID: 203227

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/8/2024 2:10:07 PM

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

It is obvious that the further destruction of native forests in NSW is not sustainable. Many thousands of hectares of habitat for endangered species are cleared every year. Biodiversity is destroyed and carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

Native forests are extremely valuable as carbon sinks, and retaining our forests is one of the best ways to reduce our emissions and help us reach net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.

The forestry industry operates at a loss, so it is not sustainable economically as well as environmentally.

A fair transition for forestry workers is essential so they retain their jobs and livelihoods.

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

Australia is a leader in native animal extinctions, a label that I personally find abhorrent. With the Federal Government claiming to halt the extinction crises, the felling of habitat for these threatened species must cease. Otherwise these are just more empty words.

Indigenous people have looked after these forests and the creatures who dwell in them for many thousands of years and mourn their destruction. They should be allowed to continue caring for country and have their cultural values maintained.

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

Demand for timber will continue to grow, so proper management of timber plantations is a necessity. With the vast majority of logs from native forests destined to be exported as wood chips, surely the end of native forest logging will not affect the supply of construction timbers.

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

Proper management of softwood and hardwood plantations are essential to meet supply needs. If properly managed Private Native Forestry can be useful, but the laws that govern this industry are weak and often breached without penalty.

Legislation must be strengthened to avoid further destruction of valuable habitat.

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

State Forests could pivot to providing better environmental, economic and social outcomes. The role of eco-tourism, educational and research facilities etc should be explored. These could help provide jobs for current forestry workers.

State Forests could liaise with local indigenous people to learn the centuries old techniques and knowledge they possess. The use of cultural burning practices would be beneficial in reducing bushfire risk.

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

The best and most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to immediately stop destroying native forests. Ancient trees are now known to store the most carbon , so bulldozing these trees should be seen as sacrilege. Especially as they are just pulped .

Biodiversity offset markets can be ineffective as so many have been exposed as fraudulent .

Native Forests NSW needs to know that they are actually working properly before committing to use them in any sort of offset scheme.