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

There is nothing sustainable about Native Forest logging. It is an industrial and largely indiscriminate process.

While Forestry NSW may have in place policies and procedures, for what it calls sustainability, there is no way that it can directly control its staff/contractors who don't adhere to SF guidelines and may even go out of their way, despite the threat of legal and/or monetary penalties, to log and destroy as is their convenience. Penalties for breaches are in no way a deterrent.

Native forests do not and can not regenerate as fast as they are being destroyed. There are over 150 NSW species dependent on tree hollows for breeding and shelter alone: birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, micro-organisms, the full role/value of many not yet fully realised- that exist within our native forests cannot survive the days, years, decades for logged forest areas to regenerate to the level that provided shelter and food prior to destruction.

Native forests are more than habitat, they impact on atmospheric moisture and terrestrial water catchment, flow and storage which then impacts our creeks and rivers. Loss of canopy, destruction of earth holding and water slowing root systems respectively results in droughts and floods and reduced water quality. Our native forests are also large stores of carbon, logging releases stored carbon into the atmosphere. Humanity needs to be looking at every means possible to reduce the levels of atmospheric carbon and it is another reason in a list of many that native forest logging needs to have stopped.

Research of recent years has found while native forest logging is an existential threat in itself, it also makes forests more prone to the full ravages of wild fires.

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

For want of a better place to insert this thought: when will enough research be done? How many times does evidence of the environmental, economic, cultural and social significance of remaining native forests have to be presented before it is recognised, accepted, acted upon and cemented forever in legislation that preserves and protects?

Many, many highly trained and expert environmental scientists have dedicated years of their lives studying and providing evidence as to the great significance of native forests to every aspect of the natural Australian environment and its stability yet the protection of those same forests is denied while lay people like me are consulted/surveyed/ invited to give our opinions.

Native forests are the vessels of great spirituality: to visit and sit within their abundance of diversity is a spiritual experience for this white woman.

Those with a vested interest in the logging industry will argue for the continuation of an industry that has been a multi-generational source of income and identity; those employed in the alcohol, gambling and tobacco industries have or might pleaded the same. More so than the latter 3, the future of the logging industry within native forests is very limited as the raw product cannot last. No more does a logger enter a forest and select their specific stock to fell by hand. There is nothing spiritual in the noise, diesel fumes and mass destruction of 21st century logging.

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

No one would suggest taking the pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge to be ground down to make sand for play sandpits, yet our ancient native forests are being felled and 50 percent of the timber is being chipped and exported for use in low value products. This is a special kind of madness, especially when soft wood plantation timber could meet the supply chain with no impact on the housing and construction and associated industries of NSW/Australia.

Demand for high quality hardwood timber is reducing because corporations who aim to be environmentally responsible are finding and developing alternative, more sustainable products.

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

More than 90% of Australia's log production currently originates in plantations. It would take only political will to see that become 100%.

Millions of dollars in government support to the industry perpetuates it's misplaced and environmentally catastrophic focus on native forest logging.

Woodchip, originally a by-product of logging has become a major product. In other parts of the world short cycle coppicing is seen as best practice for wood chip production.

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

Native forest logging does not contribute to our economy. A recent report by the Australian Institute claims that in actual fact native forest logging lost \$79 million dollars of taxpayer money in the last 7 years.

Native forest logging employs less than 0.1% of the NSW workforce. While logging persists, opportunities are being lost in the tourism and pharmacological sectors, and our water security is threatened/reduced. Habitats that support hundreds of unique Australian species are threatened and many those species are at real risk of extinction.

The value of native forests to every aspect of our society, ecology, environment and economy is far greater with them standing and intact.

It does not say much of a government , or a people- that we are content to not only support, but also fund, the destruction of that which is beyond any monetary value.

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 are numerous scientific papers that cover these subjects. I trust the science and urge the panel to do the same.