Public submission

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Organisation:	N/A		
Location:	New South Wales		
Supporting materials uploaded:	N/A		

Submission date: 10/13/2024 9:44:26 PM

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

Losing money whilst logging native forest makes no sense. Logging forests such as Tallaganda which does not contain significant amounts of high grade timber is just economic madness. Current operations have amounted to virtual clearfelling areas, denuding habitat and landscapes, leaving fire prone debris piled high. A mine reserve was seemingly ignored by encroaching pine plantation. Forestry seem to have a supply mentality in that they control forests, lets log them rather than why are we logging them. A case in point is the lack of upgrading of pine plantations by pruning to create higher value timber. Future operations should focus on establishment of new forest plantations on existing cleared land and maintenance of existing forest for future generations.

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

Tallaganda not only contains large endangered animals like the Greater Glider but a range of unique invertebrates. The higher species density area was largely excluded from the national park and kept as state forest. this is an unacceptable cost to future generations.

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

Demand for timber products focuses on high quality timber not pallet grade as produced by previous local timber mills in the Tallaganda area. The Mills in the area had minimal effect on the forest but were all forced to close by NSW Forestry. High grade timber is better produced by managed plantations.

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

NSW Forestry has shown little interest in improving the quality of its softwood plantations. If demand is not there perhaps we should not be focusing on supply,