

PAUL MADDEN

Submission ID: 203423

---

**Organisation:** *Arbuthnot Sawmills Pty Ltd*

---

**Location:** *New South Wales*

---

**Supporting materials uploaded:** *N/A*

---

Submission date: 10/9/2024 10:46:14 AM

---

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

---

I understand there is only 5% of the forest estate in NSW available for timber harvesting. Of the 5% there is less than 1% harvested annually. On an 80 year age for a mature tree proves the harvest rate is more than sustainable. As part of a harvest all other values are accounted for including endangered species, habitat, cultural exclusions and tourism. With continued management by experienced Foresters forestry operations at there current levels can continue for perpetuity.

---

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

---

As part of harvesting plans we recieve all of the forest values as forementioned are taken into account and there are very strict regulations around these values.

The timber industry are the best environmentalists as they live and breathe all that the forests offers. Unlike the armchair green brigade who in many cases have never spent substantial time in the forests to understand the values and how the timber industry operates

---

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

---

Demand for timber products has never been higher. Native hardwoods are keenly sort for there inherent qualities for a range of products from housing construction to furniture products. As a red gum sawmiller our 135 year old mill supplied infrastructure timber throughout NSW and other states for all this period of time. We also supply heritage timbers for maintenance and renewal of heritage structures. Wharf timbers, Rail Timbers, Shire infrastructure timbers. There is nothing wasted from a red gum sawlog and the edgings are sold for firewood, sawdust and chips are used for mulch. We cater for the local community and supply them with firewood and timber products and this has been carried out for the 135 years of the mills existence.

---

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

---

Softwood plantations have there place in housing and as Australia grows there will always be a demand for softwoods. With regard to hardwood plantations, native trees grow best in the native forest areas and that is why we have the substantial native forests that we have. My concern with hardwood plantations is the time frames we are looking at to have a viable mill log which is a minimum of 40 years. My experience is also that plantation hardwoods do not perform very well as sawm timber due to shrinkage and warpage. Private Native Forestry is an important source of timber and compliments what comes from State Forests and this is highly regulated in a similar manner to State Forests. Native hardwood from State Forests and PNF is a very important resource for the timber industry to provide timber products for housing and state infrastructure.

**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**

---

In my 40 years of experience in the Native Timber Industry and dealing with State Forests NSW, I have found them to be extremely conscious of delivering the best environmental outcomes and economically they extract a fair value for every bit of wood produced in the State Forests. I believe State Forests work cooperatively with Aboriginal peoples and there has always been opportunities for Aboriginals to work in the industry and also to operate their own businesses relating to the forest and forest products.

**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**

---

I believe that with a renewable and sustainably managed forest the public get the best environmental carbon benefits. As every piece of sawn timber stores carbon and in a house situation includes framing, cabinetry, furniture as well as outside products 50% of the weight of these timber products is stored carbon. This stored carbon can last for more than a hundred years. And all the while the renewed forest is absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and creating a cycle of carbon storage in timber products and healthy trees. It is a scientific fact that young growing forests absorb more carbon than an old decaying forest that releases carbon as the trees breakdown. I understand that trees need carbon dioxide to gain increment and this will only benefit the environment in the future.