

Public submission

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Current logging practices on State Forests is no longer financially viable as NSW Forestry Corporation relies on government support to compete with commercial plantations and yields less timber compared to these plantations.

It makes no sense to continue pouring taxpayer's money into a government corporation that is no longer competitive. Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production and more private investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared land would supply the balance of timber products into the future. This investment would become rapidly available if plantations no longer needed to compete with a heavily subsidised government corporation. However, it is essential that the government ensures competition in the timber market by opposing any significant mergers of private plantations. There needs to be at least 5-10 competitors to ensure that competition thrives and that a duopoly is not established.

State Forests should continue to protect water resources and provide forestry management that could be funded by carbon storage offsets and recreational opportunities but this would not require a government corporation with its attendant costs. Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.