

BRHIANNON MCDONAGH

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

The Native forestry logging industry is not sustainable either in the economic or the ecological sense.

Note as defined by the 1987 Brutland Report Sustainable Development is 'the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

And Unsustainability defined as - 'State or condition that threatens the long-run (environmental, social, and economic) development.'

Hence the continuation of Native Forestry in NSW is as viewed by our Landcare group the opposite of sustainable practices in that a) it is continuing to dramatically impact of the habitat of the threatened Yellow-bellied Glider; the Greater Glider and the vulnerable Koala & Glossy Black Cockatoo and many other threatened mammals and birds. 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests.

The process that the continuation of native forest logging is impacting these species is by reducing the hollow bearing trees (note 174 species rely on tree hollows for dens and nests) and the changes in the composition of the forests.

The loss of the coupes within the current forests is destroying the fauna corridors and the connectivity of the forests.

b) The newer current logging practices use heavier machinery than before and hence after logging the forests are then more flammable (per lead researcher Professor David Lindenmayer, from ANU, said. 'We've understood for a long time now that logging can make bushfires worse.' One of these processes is the drying out of the forest by loss of canopy cover, penetration of weeds after logging practices. It would be fair to compare the current industrial logging practices as the equivalent of industrialised extractive mining of timber resources from our state forests

c) The other issue is the loss of productive timber now that fires are more frequent 'the rapid increase in the frequency of high-severity wildfire in parts of south-eastern Australia (Lindenmayer et al. 2023a) clearly indicates that the probability of forests remaining unburnt for long enough to produce a viable crop of timber' This is also evidenced by the decline in yield from public forests having reduced by 40% since 2010.

d) Severe impact on the native forests by industrial style current logging practices increased soil compaction, reduces the ability of the native forests to provide water to towns.

e) The use of heavy machinery, creation of logging roads damages the very important soil biodiversity that is below the surface of the existing native forests. 'The maintenance of soil biodiversity is essential to both the environment and to agricultural industries' NSW dept of Environment and Heritage. These living organisms are vital to provide essential cycling of nutrients, improve permeability of water to the soil, reduces risk of erosion, suppresses pests, parasites and disease, aids in the capture of carbon

Note in regards to the confirm the current poor NSW forestry practices the former NSW Minister Bob Debus recently said 'As a publicly owned body, the Forestry Corporation should be attempting to minimise environmental damage during logging operations. Instead, they appear to

be deliberately targeting the areas of highest conservation value within the state forest estate for destruction,'

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

Stopping Native Forest Logging in NSW will also greatly benefit the fight to limit the effects of Climate Change, hence if logging stops next year a comparison would be to remove 840 thousand cars from the road for every year.

Whereas currently Native Forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Conversely by halting native forest logging now, in the future previously logged forests can then regain lost carbon and therefore make a huge much needed contribution to meeting our emissions targets.