

BRIAN CROWTHER

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

Logging native forests is unsustainable. Only 5% of native forests remain in NSW. This is all we have left to preserve and allow healthy evolution to take place within functioning ecosystems. Forests managed for "harvesting", are essentially the same as wheat fields, a crop. After native forests have been logged the result is a fire prone replacement, loss of soil and nutrients, loss of habitat for native flora and fauna, much of it classified as, vulnerable or endangered, loss of ability to hold water, resulting in increased run off erosion, flood events and sedimentation issues downstream. The service roads, the logged coups etc allow for the intrusion of invasive species that further degrade the ecosystems. The landscape is degraded. The Commission overestimates the amounts of timber harvestable. I have personally witnessed these effects in the (Tantawangalo and Coolangobra, state forests when they were being logged, now National parks, near Bega. I have also seen in the SE forests of NSW the Forestry Commission not stick to guidelines for preserving canopy in coups and along water courses, myself (Earth Science, Geology, Physical Geography and Physics) and Robert Coenraads (PHD Geology, Frenches Forest NSW)) did a scientific measurement of this in some logged coups) Yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010 and protection (I assume as above) has been removed in 2018, a disgrace, in an attempt to squeeze more out of the scarce native forest, we have left, a disgrace. This and the above shows the Forestry Commission cannot be trusted and requires strict rules that are enforced on it.

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

Wilderness has value in NSW Law, as per the outcomes of the sandmining of beaches cases (my BA Politics course UNE). Native forests share these and I suspect, if legally challenged on this basis, as only 5% of our native forests remain, on this basis be ruled to cease. I would like to see that.

As for 1, mature rainforests, protect our waterways, store water, carbon, prevent erosion, sedimentation downstream, protect against devastating bushfires, allow evolution to continue along with all that vital stored DNA that could possibly have direct benefits for humans eg medicine, generate oxygen, clean air, provide amenity for humans with proven psychological benefits (there is a lot on this, you can fact check that). A spiritual value, even for atheists like myself. For myself, I see that I am made of the stuff of the Earth, created in a supernova explosion and I am the result of 4 billion years of evolution and part of the Earth, these forests are part of me and me of them. I do not own them, nor does anyone else, nor the DNA of 4 billion years held within them. To destroy that is to destroy ourselves, the means of our sustenance, spiritually and materially, an act of gross vandalism, stupidity and ignorance.

Lets be honest, Australian's who take pride in Australia, eg Tory types carry on about the uniqueness of Australia and if they are not hypocrites would then seek to preserve the 5% native forest we have left (probably less as this was the figure in the middle 1990s, by the way. 269 listed native threatened species live in these ecosystems.

First nations peoples have their spiritual values embodied in these intact ecosystems, an integral part of their/our (non-indigenous, we share), culture.

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

Logging native forests accounts for only 9% of timber used for construction etc and that amount is unsustainable as native forests are a finite resource. Half of that being sent abroad for foreign companies to benefit from the value added, Australia only getting a pittance of that, indeed NSW subsidises this, without this logging would not be profitable. Subsidising so that foreign companies can make large profits, you must be kidding, NSW Govts LNP & ALP good economic managers, yes, for their foreign donors. A joke, pathetic.

These types of industries do not create large numbers of jobs. The logs taken from native forests for specialised purposes, such as making furniture do. Plantation timbers can supply the needs of the paper and woodchip industries. They already supply 87%.

The market for native timber is not required and is dwindling anyway.

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

Plantations already supply 91% of Australia's log production. Alternatives to native timber should be as veneer etc from hardwood plantations and native forests preserved due to their other values, such as importance as ecosystems, as dealt with in previous sections.

Subsidising the harvesting of timber from native forests is just plain dumb. This distorts the market taking resources away from where they should be invested, ie plantations etc, to create sustainable industries, rather than undermine these for the benefit of foreign companies. While writing this I am seeing a pattern, [REDACTED]

5) As per point 4 I will repeat as I suspect you deal with these separately, Subsidising the harvesting of timber from native forests is just plain dumb. This distorts the market taking resources away from where they should be invested, ie plantations etc, to create sustainable industries, rather than undermine these for the benefit of foreign companies. While writing this I am seeing a pattern, [REDACTED]

Public native forests have a much higher value, not just monetary but including monetary aa, when not logged.

As per my point in point 1, I will also copy to place here;

Wilderness has value in NSW Law, as per the outcomes of the sandmining of beaches cases (my BA Politics course UNE). Native forests share these and I suspect, if legally challenged on this basis, as only 5% of our native forests remain, on this basis be ruled to cease. I would like to see that.

First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

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

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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

In terms of keeping to CO2 targets to prevent catastrophic climate change, logging native forests is madness.

The net increase in CO2 emissions due to logging native forests in NSW is 3.6 million tons pa or 840, 000 cars. Ceasing this is like taking those cars off the road. Vital.

This logging permanently releases half the stored carbon in a native forest, madness.

Ceasing logging in native forests will allow those areas logged within those to recover and thus sequester that half of the CO2, ie take it out of the atmosphere, PERMANENTLY, REALLY SMART.

Thus helping us meet our CO2 targets.

Today's Guardian article, They are relics of the Gondwana age but five years after Australia's black summer these trees are dying a 'long, slow death' | Bushfires | The Guardian, shows how native rainforests are affected by climate change and that they slowly die after a fire event caused by this climate change. That this climate change must be avoided by cutting back Co2 including, as per here, ceasing to log native forests, preserving stored CO2 and sequestering a lot in recovering coups etc. This helps prevent a positive feed back of forests dying due to climate change and in doing so releasing more CO2 thus causing another cycle of climate change, bringing climate catastrophe closer. Madness.

- Native forest logging is unsustainable
- Estimations by the Forestry Corporation of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently over estimated
- The yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010
- Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests
- Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees
- 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests
- Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species
- Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers

Prompt 2: Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

- Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity
- Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air
- 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests

- Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests
- Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place
- Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people
- First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge
- There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW

Prompt 3: Demand for timber products, particularly as it relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

- Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year
- Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported
- Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips
- Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section

- Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods
- The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

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

- Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production
- A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips
- Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry
- High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

Prompt 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 forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW
- Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement

- The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections
- The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species
- Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging
- First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

Prompt 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

- Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year
- Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year
- Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value
- Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets
- Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk

- Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence

Got all that? [Then you can make your submission here!](#)

The information above is a summary of the work of extraordinary ecologists, climate experts, fire experts, economists, conservationists, Traditional Custodians and community forest protectors. It makes the clear and substantial case to end native forest logging immediately.

Once you've made your submission, please [send an email now](#) to Premier Chris Minns, the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Agriculture **calling on them to place a moratorium on native forest logging** while the Independent Forest Panel undertakes its review. [Use this link to send that email](#) to help the forest protectors at Bulga, and for all our native forests around the state.