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

From what I read, and from some of what I've seen, I don't think NSW forestry management is adequate. I remember reading that a NSW politician (forgot whom, sorry) said that Australia was not under-forested because there is enough forest to provide housing for the current and foreseeable population. That is the wrong metric. Forests, particularly, natural mixed forests and old-growth forests are essential for more than just timber and housing construction. We now know that natural forests provide an extensive variety of environmental benefits that are essential and economically important also - next section.

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

Forests - and plantations to a much lesser degree - provide habitat for wildlife of all kinds, from the cute species, like koalas, to ones we barely recognise from pollinating insects to seed-dispersing birds, greenery that provides oxygen and trees that lock up carbon. Large forests actually bring moisture inland from the ocean and even create rain. (See research on the Amazon for example.) It's not just threatened species that are important - it is the network of species that makes whole ecosystems function.

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

I've lived in Europe for a good number of years, China for about a year, West Africa for 2 years, Indonesia and Malaysia and a lot more for shorter trips. Yes, we love wood to build with, and it is good in many ways, but around the world, people have figured out many materials to use for building, from stone to glass & steel, baked brick to new developments in re-using waste, printing houses, etc. I think that wood should be reserved for uses where it is particularly effective and aesthetically pleasing. There's no point in using up native forests when plantations and alternate materials offer alternatives.

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

From what I have read, plantations are a reasonable way to supply timber - but absolutely NOT by cutting natural forests to establish plantations. (e.g. Peter Wohlleben's several books writing of his experience in managing a forest in Germany, first for production forestry and eventually for the greater benefits of natural mixed forests.

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

I gather that Aboriginal management of forests and the landscape generally was able to continue for thousands of years, despite the inhospitable landscape in much of Australia. I think that they

emphasised rotations of hunting, burning grassland etc to avoid over-extraction. I doubt that they had reason to use large amounts of wood, but it's clear that many places have used virtually all the wood that they had (e.g. I worked in Haiti, including by "Plaine de l'Arbre" which at that time (1990s) was without any trees. I've worked with foresters in Asia and Africa who were trying to develop planting projects to combat erosion, drying and heating of the land, and to encourage more balanced ecosystems (as well as for wood). It is madness to keep harvesting until most of the forests are removed, even if replace by plantations. It is ecological and climatological suicide. I'm no at all sure that the State Forest agencies know that - or perhaps, their governments only require those agencies to produce usable wood?

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

There are many opportunities, most of which involve saving natural forests.