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

Australia is the worst country in the world for deforestation among the developed nations. This is not something we should be in any way proud of.

To my understanding, much forestry is done like this:

- Beautiful mixed forests are clear-felled
- Because the trees are not all the same, it is difficult to process them for timber, so much of the unique material here goes to waste and not only that but actively becomes carbon emissions through being burnt
- A monoculture tree crop is planted, something fast-growing that lacks side branches
- Poison baits are laid to prevent wildlife from eating the seedlings (leading to wildlife deaths throughout the foodchain)
- Because it's a monoculture, all the same tree, with just that tree's specific nutrient demands, and the same crop is often replanted over and over in the same place, and because the (competing!) understorey groundcover has been stripped, slashed and burned, destroying much of the topsoil and leaf litter and increasing erosion, fertiliser is applied to the crop aerially
- The overapplication and inaccuracy of fertiliser nutrient application pollutes air and water in the local area, making local people and ecosystems sick (note the high incidence of cancers in some forestry-heavy regions of Tasmania)
- Many of the trees fall over and fail to thrive, because trees grow much better in a mixed forest situation, within a complete community
- The local area, and the country as a whole, floods more, and there are more bushfires, and the global temperature continues to increase year by year.

Some ideas to do forestry better:

- Pollarding (no need to cut the tree down) as in Japan
- Bamboo crops (quick, renewable): in many Asian countries, including the highly technologically advanced Japan, bamboo is used to make scaffolding instead of metal
- Renewable, sustainable, beautiful, breathable hemp building materials (eg hempcrete instead of concrete such as used at Narara Ecovillage on the Central Coast of NSW)
- Mixed forestry rather than monocultures
- Taking a few trees rather than clearfelling
- Leaving EVERY SINGLE SCRAP of old growth forest we have remaining as heritage for our children's children's children.

Thank you. This is important.

Submission by Catherin J Pascal Dunk, Central Coast New South Wales

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Member of Permaculture Central Coast, Member of Permaculture Australia, Member of Narara Eco Living Network, Professional Member of Institute of Professional Editors (NSW Branch), Registered Indexer and Member of Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, Co-founder of

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

Forests are critical to our survival as a race and to the survival of life on our planet. They are the lungs of the planet, providing the very oxygen we and the other animals need to breathe to survive. They shelter and provide ecological niches for countless other organisms. Old-growth forests are far superior to re-growth forests in every way, both measurable and intangible. They are more beautiful, more complex, more biodiverse, more intricate, more productive, more culturally meaningful, more habitable; and even less prone to bushfires, floods and erosion. Hence, when we cut down an old growth forest , and there are VERY FEW LEFT , we cannot replace it. They are irreplaceable.

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

- Bamboo crops are quick and renewable. In many Asian countries, including the highly technologically advanced Japan, bamboo is used to make scaffolding instead of metal.
- Hemp is another renewable, sustainable, beautiful, breathable building material available (eg hemp used for making hempcrete instead of concrete such as used at Narara Ecovillage on the Central Coast of NSW)

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

Better ideas when using timber plantations:

- Mixed forestry rather than monocultures
- Pollarding (no need to cut the whole tree down) as in Japan
- Taking a few trees rather than clearfelling
- Leaving EVERY SINGLE SCRAP of old growth forest we have remaining as heritage for our children's children's children.

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 love the bush and it is critical to my mental health to be in nature. State forests such as my local Strickland State Forest are an incredibly important part of my life. We go there several times each year to picnic, bushwalk, boil the billy and celebrate our family's birthdays, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

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Hence, when we cut down an old growth forest , and there are VERY FEW LEFT , we cannot replace it. They are irreplaceable. DO NOT CUT DOWN ONE SINGLE EXTRA OLD GROWTH TREE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY AND IT IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.

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

Forests protects us from flooding by preventing erosion and by the roots absorbing excess water from rainstorm events.

Rainforest is much less prone to bushfire than dry sclerophyll forests of the type that any forestry activity encourages. Whenever we cut down trees the forest becomes more open, of the type where fire-prone eucalypts flourish. Eucalypts are very ready to colonise and take over rainforests. Their constantly-shed leaves retard undergrowth and allow them to easily outcompete many of their moister competitors. Eucalypts can survive a bushfire and some native plants such as banksias actually require a bushfire to open their seed pods.

Deforestation leads directly to flooding, erosion and poorer soil. Reforestation of the kind generally undertaken by forestry operators encourages bushfires. We need to (re)plant as many trees as possible, but we need to be MUCH smarter in what species we plant, and we need to avoid planting monocultures, especially of fire-prone species.