

CHERYL DILLON

Submission ID: 205264

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:37:34 PM

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

Forests must be managed sustainably. This is not the manner in which Forestry Corp manages the forests under its control. They are logged too frequently for the trees to be able to mature to create the cavities which provide nests for both arboreal mammals and a wide range of birds. Forests are logged without sufficient regard to the presence of endangered species and even of significant species. Our unique animals are one of Australia's greatest assets that should be treasured and nurtured rather than placed under pressure from all sides.

Not even from an industrial perspective is forest management by Forestry Corp NSW sustainable. The industry is not profitable, is underwritten by subsidies in the form of various cost cutting interventions such as roads provisions and only exists in order to placate certain communities with a history of logging which should be stopped immediately and the small numbers of employees retrained in more productive areas including sustainable forest management.

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

Forests have environmental values as the site of maximum species diversity. The Forestry Corporation of NSW's management is putting an unnecessary number of unique species such as the greater glider and koala under threat of extinction. The majority of people in NSW do not want empty forests with minimal native animal habitation. Management of forests as a timber resource by repeated logging opens up the forests to increased vulnerability to fires, reduced variety of species meaning a less healthy environment.

Logging is entirely inappropriate in a time of CO2 driven global heating when healthy forests provide an important means for locking up carbon in solid form. Most, up to 90%, of felled timber is waste left to rot, carbonise, on forest floors. Tree felling involves blanket clearing of specified coups, a process that is repeated every 1520 years leaving no time for proper regeneration. By definition the habitat left for native animals is constantly reduced.

Consideration of Aboriginal values and relationships to forests with included sacred places and species that are of deep spiritual significance is undermined by insensitive and destructive, senseless forestry.

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

Demand for hardwood timbers is falling. Many people will not buy products made from timbers which should be preserved. It is appalling and outrageous that rich forests are reduced to wood chips for foreign paper production as has been largely the case with felled timber from NSW State Forests

Public submission

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

Where demand is healthy such as for softwoods they can be provided by plantations established on land previously used for farming not in estate forest land that has been specifically cleared for the purpose as in Glen Bog and the Snowy Mountains.

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

It would be useful to employ Aboriginal people as forest rangers with tasks such as the elimination of escapee foreign plants and feral animals and the appropriate use of cool burning to maintain the forests in a healthy way that could also be used as centres of tourism and other human activities.