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Submission ID: 204630

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/12/2024 10:17:54 PM

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

Native forest logging is unsustainable in several ways:

- Native forest logging businesses are not sustainable. In fact, Economists consider them 'a financial drag on taxpayers over a very long period' (Frontier Economics, 2023, Public native forest logging: a large and growing taxpayer burden).

- ANU research from August 2024, confirms that ongoing logging in NSW affects the habitat of at least 150 species considered at risk of extinction.

Conversely, the value of Australia's ecosystems, including forests and the value of conserving them is likely to be in the thousands of billions of dollars, as estimated by a Deloitte report (Deloitte, 2021, Cost benefit analysis of a mission to discover and document Australia's species).

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

Australian forests are vital ecosystems that impact the water household, the availability and quality of water.

They are vital ecosystems that are home to many species, many of them not yet described (an estimate of 70% of species are yet to be discovered!), but of potentially great value to society. As a volunteer guide in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, I share the modern fairy tale of the Wollemi pine, a tree thought to be extinct until its rediscovery just 30 years ago. Since then, significant research and conservation efforts have focused on saving this critically endangered species, especially during the devastating bushfires of 2019. The Wollemi pine's continued existence in the wild is a powerful symbol of resilience and serves as a reminder of the incredible outcomes that can be achieved when we prioritise the protection of our natural treasures.

By conserving our forests, we not only safeguard unique flora and fauna but also ensure the preservation of biodiversity, climate stability, and the cultural heritage that these landscapes represent.

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

Shifting to plantation timber is a crucial strategy for reducing pressure on our native forests while supporting sustainable industry practices. By utilizing specially cultivated timber plantations, we can alleviate the demand for logging in pristine forests that are home to unique ecosystems and endangered species.

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

Investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared land presents a more sustainable solution for supplying timber products into the future while minimising environmental impact. These plantations can be strategically established in areas that have already been cleared, which helps

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preserve biodiversity and natural habitats in more ecologically sensitive areas such as native forests. Additionally, ending public forest subsidies would encourage more responsible timber production on private lands, motivating landowners to adopt sustainable practices and invest in forestry that prioritises environmental stewardship.

**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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Healthy native forests play a crucial role in providing essential water resources, supporting both ecosystems and human communities. By prioritising the protection and restoration of State Forests, we can enhance their economic value through a variety of avenues, including tourism, carbon storage, and recreational opportunities. Well-preserved forests attract visitors who seek to experience their natural beauty, which can significantly boost local economies and create employment in the tourism sector. Additionally, intact forests act as vital carbon sinks, helping to mitigate climate change and generate potential revenue through carbon credits.

As mentioned in point 1, the current financial situation of the Forestry Corporation highlights the need for a shift in our approach to timber management. Presently, the corporation is financially unsustainable, relying heavily on government support.

**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**

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Logging in native forests releases significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change and undermining global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As such, logging native forests is in stark contrast to Australia's support of international conservation goals such as the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration which commits Australia to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. By halting logging activities, we allow these vital ecosystems to recover, enabling them to store more carbon over time and actively contribute to our climate goals.

Healthy forests are critical for mitigating the impacts of climate change, including severe wildfires and prolonged droughts. Investing in the preservation of our native forests is a crucial step towards a more sustainable future, where we can both protect our environment and foster resilient communities in the face of climate adversity.