

COL SHEPHARD

Submission ID: 205165

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Organisation: N/A

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Location: New South Wales

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Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

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Submission date: 10/13/2024 8:45:44 PM

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

At the outset, I seek to inform the Panel that I hold serious concerns the well-being of all future generations of Australian.

Native forest logging, which is unsustainable, reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers.

I dread to think what the future holds for all future generations of Australian if the quality of our water is not improved. Past and current forestry operations in NSW have a very poor record indeed in relation to ensuring we have a top-quality water supply. Enough is enough!

PLEASE, NO MORE! END NATIVE FOREST LOGGING NOW,

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

First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge. Thus, native forest logging is an offensive to all persons who acknowledge and respect First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge.

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

Let's highlight the fact that 50% of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. This was 'criminal'.

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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

Further to my ncomments at 3. (above) A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips

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## 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

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

**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 a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk