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Submission ID: 204841

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Location: *Victoria*

Supporting materials uploaded: *N/A*

Submission date: 10/13/2024 1:42:27 PM

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

Logging and clearing of native Eucalypt forest has been shown conclusively to be unsustainable, given the increasing impacts of climate change. We have already lost so much of our essential old growth forests to logging, clearing for development and infrastructure, and so-called fire mitigation and salvage operations. The latter is very much a problem in Victoria, where most Victorians refer to this as "Stealth logging", but it is also a critical issue in NSW, particularly around the watersheds. Studies have shown that intact forest ecosystems, not replanted, revegetated areas, are essential to preserve health and vitality of our waterways and maintain water quality for residential and agricultural use. Intact forest ecosystems are essential for mitigating climate change and cooling our regions, lessening the risk of drought and desertification due to erosion. Existing revegetation schemes have shown to be a failure in this regard, as often the species replanted is not the same as what has been removed, and where companies have attempted to replant the original species, the seedlings have not thrived, as they require a tall forest environment and the protection of "Grandmother trees" to grow. Hence we see aerial footage of huge swathes of bare ground or fields of blackberries and other invasive weeds, many years after logging and supposed "restoration". You simply cannot replace large old trees. Once they are gone, they are gone forever, along with all the forest community that once dwelled there. We are in an extinction crisis. Forestry Corp NSW already has a terrible global reputation for causing extinction of forest species. It is rapidly approaching the level of disgrace faced by VicForests, who became so notorious, they had to be shut down before it could lose the Victorian government the next election. Alas, in Victoria, VicForests is still operating, but under a new name, new official role, but still destroying habitat for profit by selling logs to be pulped or chipped for export or to keep local mills afloat. This fact has been well noted by the international community and Australia's trading partners, despite all the Victorian government's attempts to obfuscate and misdirect. NSW now faces the same loss of social licence. Already many companies are refusing to trade in the products of Australian Native Forest logging. Such products are seen as unsustainable and environmentally destructive. Customers around the globe now associate Australian hardwood products with the rush to extinction of the adorable Greater Glider, the remarkable Coastal Emu, and the globally adored Koala. Customers at grassroots level are boycotting non-plantation Australian Hardwood products, and this customer behaviour is impacting suppliers. The native timber industry has not been profitable for years now (VicForests is a prime example) and this will only get worse as attitudes towards the products of native forest logging change. How can logging of native forests possibly be sustainable as an industry, if its customers no longer support it? It's time to transition OUT of logging Eucalypts. There are much better alternative species, suitable for construction, furniture, fine arts, pulp and woodchip, that can be grown on already cleared land, including degraded farmland and former industrial sites. Why are these alternatives not being explored? Existing forestry staff can be transitioned into plantation timber industry, so there is really no argument around job losses. The logging industry in Australia has far exceeded its use-by date. It is clearly unsustainable and the general public, the customers who buy products, and the

voters who will decide the state and the nation's future, no longer support the industry. Logging and clearing of native Eucalypt forest, including areas of regrowth forest, needs to stop immediately and permanently, before it is too late.

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

The old growth, remnant, and even regrowth forests all along the Eastern seaboard of Australia are crucial ecosystems that not only support an array of unique bird, reptile, mammal and marsupial species, not found anywhere else on earth, but are crucial to the health of waterways, and ultimately our coasts and reefs. Country, Sky, Water and Sea, are all intrinsically linked. The health of one is utterly dependent on that of the others. Our First Nations people know this. They have known this for thousands, upon thousands of years. Traditional custodians cared for country, ensuring species remained in sustainable balance. Yet since Invasion, this continent has seen more mammalian extinctions than any other country on earth. The greatest invasive species of all, colonial settlers, have destroyed so much of this ancient, living landscape, all for the sake of greed. Indigenous Australians have an intimate connection to our forests. Those ancient grandmother trees are family! Their shade has sheltered the people for millennia, watched over the birth of countless generations. Yet your logging machinery rip them out in an hour, ripping out the hearts of our first people. Around the globe, people who actually care about the future of life on earth, watch on in horror. Around the world, renowned conservationists, including the globally beloved Sir David Attenborough, have called upon the Australian government to stop destroying native forests. International media are right now reporting the incredible hypocrisy of our country hosting a "Nature positive" summit, while all around them, Nature is being destroyed and the habitat of Greater Gliders is being ripped apart. Generous donors from around the world, who gave so much to save our precious wildlife during climate change induced bushfires, storms and floods, look on in horror to see Government backed forestry industries killing, injuring and rendering homeless the survivors of those disasters. Every day, wildlife shelters and rescue groups are inundated with pleas to "Do something, stop this carnage!", but what can we do against the juggernaut of the most corrupt, soulless and immoral industry in the land? Many can't even access areas where Greater Gliders and Koalas are in need of rescue, because draconian forestry lockout laws prevent us from legally entering areas of "active logging". Claims by the industry and government that this is about OH&S are known by all to be rubbish. It is well known that the real reason to keep us out is to prevent us getting footage and evidence of critically endangered animals being killed by forestry operations. Well, you can't lick us all out, and evidence of Greater Gliders being killed during logging operations has already been found and made public. Rest assured, we will not stop. Sadly we know more evidence of tragedy will be found, and we will ensure it is made public. Extinction is forever, but so is the shame for those guilty of causing it, and the world knows exactly who is responsible for the extinction of forest dwellers.

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

As already mentioned in item 1.), there are many alternatives available for a transition of the forestry economy. The most obvious one usually considered is plantation timber, and Bluegum and Pine are already in use for pulp and woodchip. However, there are faster growing, more sustainable options for cellulose fibre and pulp applications, including Hemp. In addition, waste products from food industries can be used for these purposes, including sugarcane, pineapple, banana and even soy. Improving and scaling up recycling operations is also an obvious choice. For the building industry and especially for the cabinetry industry, I am in favour of plantations of

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native Acacia species, including *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Acacia elata*. These fast growing but long lived species have provided highly valuable indoor carpentry products since early settler times. My own home interior uses plantation Blackwood, and the heritage homes all round my tiwn and city are full of these timbers, still in beautiful condition after a century, with little maintenance. Customers abroad rave about our Acacia timbers, so why are we cutting down magnificent ancient Mountain Ash and glorious Spotted Gum, when we could be growing and harvesting Acacias with their beautiful grain and hardwearing character? It makes sense to transition.