

Public submission

GREG GILL

Submission ID: 204863

Organisation: *N/A*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/13/2024 2:13:05 PM

██████████
NSW ██████████

Greg Gill
██████████
Email:
████████████████████

I have lived in ██████████, a regional area on the Mid-north coast of NSW, for the past 39 years. This area is surrounded by State forests and has an extensive history of timber production. It is abundantly clear from the most cursory inspection of the local forests that during this relatively short period these forests are not being managed even close to what would be considered sustainably. A more apt description would be knowingly and willingly destroyed. This unacceptable situation is common throughout the public native forests managed by the Forestry Corporation NSW

Since 2010 yields from state forests have declined by 40% from 1.3 million tonnes down to 0.8 million tonnes in 2023, and are currently only 61% of claimed sustained yields, this figure does not include with the massive loss of resources in the 2019/20 fires.

Logging of native forests in NSW is not sustainable. It greatly reduces essential carbon storage which is critical in our current predicament of a climate crisis. Moreover, the removal of mature trees, particularly oldgrowth trees;

- removes the abundance of essential nectar and browse
- drastically depletes the provision of hollows that a large number of species require for nests and dens, this is of critical concern given the extinction crisis facing so many of our unique species.
- reduces available water in creeks and rivers
- promotes stream pollution and erosion
- increases the risk of fire and the intensity of fires
- facilitates the introduction of invasive species

Extensive areas of State Forests in NSW form important water catchments for a number of towns, clearly these areas should be unconditionally left untouched,

Native forest logging is clearly unsustainable and needs to end without delay.

In 2023 Forestry Corporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for each hectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining tens of millions in regular equity injections.

Since January 2020, the NSW Environment Protection Agency has issued 31 warnings, 13 penalty notices, five stop work orders and eight prosecutions against the Forestry Corporation NSW, Additionally there are currently 17 investigations, with four prosecutions ongoing.

The NSW Forestry corporation has also paid out almost \$1.7 million in fines over the past four years, with taxpayers bearing the costs associated with the EPA's investigations.

The situation where we have one government department spending millions of dollars to investigate and penalize another department, is a huge waste of taxpayer dollars. The people of NSW should not be paying to degrade and in many cases permanently remove the important the vital habitat of native species. It is clearly in the best interest of taxpayers to stop logging public native forests.

Native forest logging in NSW is without a doubt **not** environmentally or economically sustainable.

Additionally, these forestry activities are causing increasing community dissent and division as is evident by the multiple community forest protests seen in recent months. Last year the Nature Conservation Council NSW released the results of a poll which clearly showed that 54% of NSW residents oppose or strongly oppose the harvesting of native forests, with only 19% in support. Moreover, less than 1 in 4 residents believed the government at the time was doing enough to care for the environment.

The law locks up the man or woman

Who steals the goose from off the common,

But leaves the greater villain loose

Who steals the common from the goose

Industrial scale, smash and grab native forest logging must end now!