

Public submission

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

Native forest logging in NSW must be banned immediately.

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

Native forest logging is not a sustainable activity, particularly in the face of climate change and the ever-increasing human population of Australia. According to the government's 2023 Intergenerational Report, Australia's population is expected to grow from the current 26 million to 40 million by 2063. At that time, Australia's average air temperature is anticipated to have increased by 1.7C, bringing more extreme whether events such as bushfires and floods. To ensure the persistence of the NSW's wildlife and natural beauty, we must fully and permanently protect all native forests on public land.

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

All demand must be met by timber plantations. Any new timber plantations must be established on degraded agricultural land. No native forests should be cleared to make way for plantations.

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

All demand must be met by timber plantations. Any new timber plantations must be established on degraded agricultural land. No native forests should be cleared to make way for plantations.

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

All State Forests should be converted to National Parks, and their sole focus should be environmental outcomes such as carbon sequestration and providing habitat to wildlife. Most of the land of NSW is already devoted to delivering economic and social outcomes, for example through agriculture, mining, and recreation. In order for nature to continue alongside us indefinitely into the future, it must be granted the maximum possible area of land where it can be fully protected from direct human impacts.

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

All forests on public land must be fully protected by converting that land to national parks.