

Public submission

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Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

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Submission to the Proposed Forestry Industry Action Plan

Proposer: Helen Hayden, resident of [REDACTED] and Councillor at Oberon Council.

Submission Summary:

This submission advocates for the inclusion of forestry contributions to local councils via rates and levies from heavy vehicle haulage. It also addresses the sustainability of forestry operations in New South Wales (NSW), environmental and cultural values of forests, community demand for timber products, the future of forestry plantations, the role of State Forests, opportunities for carbon and biodiversity benefits, and the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change risks.

1. Contribution to Local Councils Forestry Rates to Local Councils: It is crucial that forestry operations contribute financially to the local councils in Local Government Areas (LGAs). These funds would support the infrastructure and community services that are vital for the well-being of residents. Levies from Heavy Vehicle Haulage: Implementing levies on heavy vehicles used in forestry operations would help maintain and improve the road infrastructure used extensively by these vehicles, ensuring safe and sustainable transport routes.

2. Sustainability of Forestry Operations Current and Future Sustainability: Ensuring the sustainability of current and future forestry operations is essential for the long-term viability of the industry and the health of the forests. Sustainable practices should be promoted to balance economic benefits with environmental stewardship.

3. Environmental and Cultural Values Protection of Forests and Species: Forestry management must prioritize the conservation of forests' environmental and cultural values, including the protection of threatened species and their habitats. Cultural Heritage: Recognizing and preserving the cultural heritage within forests is equally important, ensuring that the intrinsic value of these natural spaces is maintained for future generations.

4. Community Demand for Timber Products Timber Supply for Key Sectors: The community demand for timber products is significant, particularly in sectors such as NSW housing, construction, mining, transport, and retail. Meeting this demand requires a balanced approach that supports both supply and sustainable practices.

5. Future of Plantations and Private Native Forestry Softwood and Hardwood Plantations: The development and maintenance of both softwood and hardwood plantations are critical for ensuring a steady supply of timber, reducing pressure on natural forests. Private Native Forestry: Encouraging the continuation and expansion of Private Native Forestry can help meet timber supply needs while promoting sustainable land management practices.

6. Role of State Forests Environmental, Economic, and Social Outcomes: State Forests play a vital role in delivering a range of environmental, economic, and social benefits. Effective management can maximize these outcomes, ensuring forests are used responsibly and sustainably.

7. Carbon and Biodiversity Benefits Carbon and Biodiversity Markets: Realizing the carbon and biodiversity benefits of forests can support carbon and biodiversity markets, providing financial incentives for conservation and sustainable practices. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** Forestry operations must adapt to climate change risks and contribute to mitigation efforts, ensuring the resilience of forest ecosystems.

8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change Risks Emission Impacts: The greenhouse gas emission impacts of different forest uses must be assessed, promoting practices that minimize emissions. **Assessment of Climate Risks:** Understanding and mitigating climate change risks to forests is essential for their long-term health and productivity.

Conclusion:

The proposed Forestry Industry Action Plan should incorporate these considerations to promote sustainable, environmentally responsible, and community-focused forestry practices in NSW.

Proposed by:

Helen Hayden, Resident of [REDACTED] NSW and Local Councillor at Oberon Council.