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

Current forestry practices in NSW are not sustainable.

Current forestry practices in NSW are mining practices, are not forest husbandry practices, and are not sustainable insofar as the extraction of timber from NSW public forests, in particular old forests, take resources out and do not replace them like for like.

Forestry interests do not and cannot replace existing forest which are felled or thinned in the current manner.

Simply abandoning logged forest to fix itself is not sustainable practice.

Old forest takes hundreds of years to regenerate to its condition at logging and so for human practical purposes and for forestry purposes it is objectively unsustainable because it is not replaced within living memory nor within a human lifetime.

No human logger of any patch of NSW public forests can say they have actually logged sustainably by replacing the forest, meaning the mature forest flora, fauna, fungus, mycelium, insect population, microbial population, and everything else, as it takes longer than their lifetime. They can only postulate their hope that the forest will return to its earlier condition in some future time frame, and therefore they cannot say they have logged or can log sustainably.

The above is particularly unsustainable in that the logging of NSW old growth forests is carried on in a global biodiversity hotspot.

Simply abandoning logged forest to fix itself is not sustainable practice.

Current logging practices cause local extinctions, increasingly every time, which means they are not sustainable.

The composition of the old growth forests of NSW is not known and new discoveries continue from year to year, so it is not sustainable to remove timber from forests where the effect of the removal is not comprehensively understood. It is understood that we do not know the complete content or interaction for the elements of the forests being logged, as we keep finding new things year on year, many of which are of revolutionary benefit to medicine and science.

I submit that current logging practices make the forests more susceptible to fire.

I submit that the structure, function and resilience of the NSW public forests is compromised, reduced or destroyed by current logging practices.

I refer to and support the submissions of Professor David Lindenmeyer to the IFP in respect of these matters and the scientific research referred to in his submissions.

I submit that the submissions of Professor David Lindenmeyer to the Panel set out and refer to proper and authoritative science in relation to these matters and its contents are persuasive to show the only conclusion is that current forestry operations in NSW are not sustainable.

I submit that forestry operations in NSW should be sustainable and that the NSW Government, the forestry industry, the IFP and the public must do all things necessary to ensure that they are sustainable, are properly scientifically observed, measured and supervised and that supervision of those operations is legislated, enforced and audited, with rigorous and properly funded enforcement, prosecution and follow up.

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

NSW public forests contain global biodiversity hotspots which are irreplaceably valuable both for themselves and the things they contain.

In European sourced conceptions, forests have always and continue to form part of the cultural heritage in all ages and in all locations and forests and their constituent elements feature in the literature and folklore of every country and culture.

‘Nature everywhere speaks to man in a voice that is familiar to his soul’ said Alexander von Humboldt (The Invention of Nature, Andrea Wolf, John Murray Publishers 2015 p54).

In indigenous culture, forests, their constituent parts, flora and fauna are elemental and feature and have always featured as essential things.

Logging has been halted by the courts in places of significance to local indigenous culture and courts will continue to do that, based on the acceptance of evidence that undisturbed forests and their constituent elements are of central importance to indigenous communities. Courts do not jump to conclusions: They are presented with an accept proper evidence in support of their decisions

NSW public forests contain global biodiversity hotspots which both for themselves and their constituent elements are universally recognised as valuable, unique and irreplaceable.

The global biodiversity hotspots in NSW public forests contain known and unknown things which are or will be environmentally valuable and commercially valuable now and in the future.

Mature old forests are very efficient in sequestering atmospheric carbon to counter climate change and environmental warming.

Mature undisturbed forests are environmentally essential to local and regional water quality.

Mature undisturbed forests are environmentally essential to local and regional flood mitigation by slowing the discharge of rain water to watercourses which flood homes, businesses and agricultural land.

Mature undisturbed forests are environmentally essential to local and regional air quality.

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

The demand for bulk timber products for use in building construction, mining transport and retail is satisfied by plantation timber.

Very small amounts of specialty timber extraction goes on in NSW public forests and it should continue if it can demonstrate on a case by case and ongoing basis that it is environmentally sustainable and be terminated if it cannot do so on a continuous basis.

Plantation timbers can go into engineered timber products in the place of old growth timber from NSW public forests.

Plantations can be grown to order for incorporation into engineered building products.

High value timber products come from plantations, not from NSW public forests which are largely turned to woodchips.

Woodchip sources can be transitioned to plantation sources.

Woodchip sources can be transitioned to faster growing frass such as hemp with cheaper and more ethical outcomes.

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

The future of forestry is in plantations not logging of public forests.

The future of forestry is in providing plantation timber for use in its natural state or its engineered timber products.

International House in Sydney and Daramu House in Sydney's Barangaroo have shown that timber is a viable alternative to concrete for commercial buildings using ethically sourced cross-Laminated timber, Glulam and laminated veneer lumber, sourcing timber from plantation timber. Plantation timbers can go into engineered timber products in the place of old growth timber from NSW public forests.

Plantations can be grown to order for incorporation into engineered building products.

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

NSW state forests should be used not for logging but for the delivery of a diverse range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management such as tourism, recreation, carbon sequestration, water quality, and air quality.

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

Ceasing logging will meet carbon sequestration and reduction targets without anything further being done and without any cost to the Government of NSW, or with relatively insignificant cost of removing existing forestry services from the forests and reskilling a few workers.

In Northern NSW most small sawmill businesses employing a few people have been closed and replaced with forest based tourism and recreation yielding higher returns than the original forestry enterprises.

Entering a green forest space reduces breathing and heartrate within 30 seconds, reduces blood pressure within 30 minutes and has many other health benefits, so we should keep and nurture these spaces for better health outcomes.