

JILL GREEN

Submission ID: 203938

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/10/2024 10:07:12 PM

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

Native forest logging is currently and will continue to be unsustainable in terms of the yields that have been achieved and the impacts logging will have on the forests' role as habitat for wildlife and providing ecosystem services.

Frontier Economics found that Forestry Corporation NSW's hardwood business made a normalised profit of \$0.4 million in the financial year 2020, and an average normalised profit of \$2.3 million over the five years to 2020. This is a very small profit and significantly smaller than the \$64 million five year average over the same period earned by their softwood plantation business.

This poor return should be taken in context with the economic benefit from ceasing native forest harvesting and obtaining environmental and recreational services from the forest. This, along with the environmental concerns, has led Victoria and WA to decide to cease logging their native forests.

Protections of mature trees have been removed since 2018 in order to increase yields. This is destroying hollows that can take more than 100 years to develop and are essential for the survival of species that rely on them for nesting. There is estimated to be 174 species that rely on these hollows.

Logging of native forests harms the future sustainability of our ecosystems, for example by:

- reducing biomass and carbon storage,
- increasing fire threat and intensity,
- causing erosion and water way pollution,
- causing the penetration of weeds and other invasive species
- reducing the function and health of waterways via erosion and siltation.

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

- Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people
- These forests provide ecosystem services such as habitat for wildlife within the forest but also to the surrounding landscape by cooling the landscape, cleaning the air, generating rainfall and playing a key role in pollination of crops
- 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests
- Native forests provide locations for local communities and tourists to enjoy recreation and enjoyment of nature

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

- Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023 and half of the logs taken from native forests were turned into woodchip and exported. This resource can be provided from plantations. Forestry NSW has been making financial losses from their operations and has had to be subsidised by the NSW taxpayer.

-
- Demand for hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations is declining and is mostly applied to low value uses such as woodchips. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods. Even power poles are not being sourced from hardwood.

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

- Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW. The ecosystem services provided by public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to remain in their natural state and not disturbed by clear felling of coups that fragment to natural functions of the forest.
- Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement
- The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss and has to be subsidised by the NSW taxpayers. Ceasing native forest harvesting will provide an economic benefit to NSW.
- The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species

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

- Native forest logging in NSW releases carbon into the atmosphere. Regrowth on cleared land takes many years to replace the carbon lost from trees that have been logged. Even the State forests that have been logged over many years in the past are still maturing and therefore are continuing to increase their store of carbon. Ceasing logging will make a major contribution to the task of meeting emission reduction targets.
- The biodiversity benefits have been listed in other response to question 2. Native forests should not be used as biodiversity offsets because the offset would relate to biodiversity being destroyed elsewhere so there would be no net gain in biodiversity. The principle of Nature Positive should apply.