

JOAN STAPLES

Submission ID: 203860

Organisation: N/A

Location: Victoria

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/10/2024 4:13:22 PM

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

Over 40 years ago, I was the Chair of the North Coast Conservation Council. We campaigned long, hard and successfully to stop the logging of rainforests in NSW. It was clear 40 years ago that hardwood logging was unlikely to be sustainable. Since then forestry operations have become more intensive and have moved into remnant areas of old growth forest. Society now recognises the danger of climate change and how valuable are our forests for other uses. It is time to stop.

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

Over 40 plus years, I am tired of being asked to provide reasons to stop logging. We now have more than forty years of understanding. That understanding places the greatest value in environmental, spiritual, cultural, and Indigenous values. It is time to stop.

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

Construction, housing, mining, transport, etc have been portrayed for 40 years as necessary industries requiring sawlogs. Since the introduction of woodchipping this has never been the case. Woodchip licences should never have been given for northern NSW. It is time to stop all logging.

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

Forty years ago, the public were pointing out that plantations could meet our needs. I have made submissions to inquiries in various states arguing this point and have seen other states stop old growth logging in favour of plantations. It is time for NSW to catch up with public opinion and do the same as other states which have only plantation logging.

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

My experience with the cessation of old growth logging in other states is that State Forests are best managed by being placed in national parks and diverse management options pursued within that model, including Indigenous joint management. The Forestry Corporation should be disbanded. The market-driven model no longer has the social licence to continue. Instead the public support the values of carbon storage, watershed protection of town water supplies and recreation/tourism. Time to recognise this and stop logging.

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

Old growth forests store more carbon than new growth. Current logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) per year. Time to stop logging.