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Submission ID: 204374

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/12/2024 10:57:52 AM

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

The ongoing destruction of highly biodiverse old growth forests is manifestly unsustainable. They will not be replaced for centuries; and endangered species need them now.

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

I can only speak for the environmental values of our forests, not having much insight into specific Aboriginal sites.

Large areas of intact native forest are essential for the survival of many highly endangered, and indeed iconic, birds and animals. Obvious examples include koala, greater glider, other arboreal mammals, platypus, swift parrot, regent honeyeater, red-tailed black cockatoo, goshawks.

Without the hollows which only develop in very old trees, these creatures have nowhere to breed and shelter.

An intact forest is a very complex ecosystem, which we are only beginning to understand, but have no hesitation in destroying.

Increasingly, the human benefits of immersion in nature are becoming apparent. I can personally attest to the joy and calm I feel when in a pristine forest.

As a medical practitioner, I think we could reduce psychotropic drug use if 'forest bathing' were encouraged.

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

Of course, we will continue to use timber- indeed, I built a timber house myself, sourced from a local sawmill who seem to log in a sustainable manner.

However, there is no need to log old growth native forests to supply the building industry. There are many plantations now sufficiently mature to provide saw logs.

There is considerable wastage of timber from building demolition or renovation, more of which should be recycled.

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

As above.

More plantations of native hardwood and pine should be established on poor quality agricultural land, but should not replace existing forest. They have no environmental value, and are an industrial resource only; albeit with some carbon benefit.

If, as I sincerely hope, logging of high biodiversity forest is stopped immediately, the ban must include private property, as well as State Forests. Clearly, the distinction is meaningless in biological terms.

We should be self-sufficient in timber production and cease imports from rainforests in SE Asia and the Pacific, which are vital ecosystems, rapidly diminishing.

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

I have addressed most of these issues.

Fire management is of great interest and importance. Certainly our present regimen is not ideal. It seems likely that traditional indigenous fire management practices would benefit the environment and help to protect property.

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

I believe that intact old growth forest is one of the most effective carbon sink mechanisms available, and should be prioritised.

Clearly, we must rapidly transition from fossil fuel use to renewable energy sources. This emphatically does not include burning native forests for power generation- an appalling and misguided concept.

As the climate inevitably warms, fires will become more frequent and severe. We see this in many parts of the world, notably in the Amazon.

It is disappointing, to say the least, to learn that forest which escaped the devastating fires of 2019/2020 is being logged. This is especially egregious when the timber is used for low value products such as pulp.

I don't understand the term 'biodiversity market'. Not everything has to be commodified. The intrinsic value of nature and the cost of losing it is never considered in economic models. This has to change.