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

Logging native forests is unsustainable as an industry and unsustainable for wildlife and the environment. At some point suitable harvestable trees will run out forcing an end to forestry operations. Unfortunately, the essential habitat required for many threatened species will also run out and the species along with it as their habitat, and food sources disappear. Once common hollow dependent fauna species 20 years ago are now on the threatened species list e.g greater glider, yellow bellied glider, spotted-tailed quoll. This is a relatively short time for these species to go from common to endangered with extinction. Yet logging seems to have ramped up in recent years in NSW- with a 'better get it quick' attitude. Australia is not a third world country. We are a thriving nation that shouldn't rely on destroying its environment and precious Natural Heritage for the purposes of continuing a dying industry. The native forestry industry has had its day after going hard for nearly 200 years. Whatever is left must now be kept for the environmental values.

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

As an Australian with European heritage I can only imagine what it must be like to have your culture, language and ancestry decimated and then see the remaining last links to the past i.e., natural heritage, old growth forest, scar trees, burial trees, totemic animal species etc still being relentlessly destroyed. Logging of native forest further adds to the destruction of Aboriginal culture and continued lack of respect for what was once here prior to European occupation. Logging of native forest needs to stop now so the healing process of Aboriginal reconciliation through healing of country can begin.

There appears to be very low regard in the government for the environmental values of NSW forests. Species continue to be added to the Threatened Species list and little is done to stop the main cause of their decline- the loss and degradation of habitat on both public and private land. Much of which is not done via best practice to reduce impacts to wildlife and is largely unregulated on private land. Since the changes to the Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016) and the LLS Act (2016) the mapping of old growth forest has stopped. How can we protect something if we don't know where it is? The last time OGF was mapped it was back in 2011 with the CRAFTI mapping. Old growth forest habitat, especially large hollows in old trees, are irreplaceable within human life spans. Logging must stop in and near all old growth forest. Illegal logging on Private Native Forestry land is particularly worrying as it is self regulated and the guidelines and mapping not clear enough which lends itself to working the grey area of what is legal and illegal. These old forests don't just belong to the current owner of that property they belong to generations of past and the future. The State needs to do more to protect the native forest on both public and private land for the future of all and the environment not just a bit of quick income for the current owner.

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

The current timber grab is unsustainable and they will end of doing themselves out of business. From what I see enough land has already been cleared that could be used for softwood and hardwood plantations. The demand for timber is shifting more towards treated pine, bamboo etc for structural frames, fencing, paper etc rather than hardwood. I believe that hardwood plantations have a role if we want to have self sustaining timber industry in Australia so that we are not driving timber extraction in other countries and causing deforestation somewhere else e.g., Indonesia, Solomon Island, PNG. Hardwood plantations need long term planning and correct selection of suitable timber and maintenance practices to predict market demand, the appropriate species are selected and bushfire hazard, weed invasion are reduced. The skills and expertise are there to advise on this we now just need the political guts to end native forest logging.

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

As per my responses above. The logging of native forests needs to end. Industrial scale plantation forestry needs to take place on land that has already been cleared on both private and public land. There should be incentives for people with private acreage to grow some trees as future timber trees for the next generation e.g., for domestic supply, firewood etc.

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

State Forests could definitely play a role in plantation forests for both softwood and hardwood ensuring that there is staged supply of timber available of the coming decades. There could also be jobs in maintaining the forests, weed control, environmental monitoring (water quality, local wildlife, carbon assessment), hazard reduction treatments using Aboriginal cultural burning methods to reduce fire hazard. A variety of native hardwood and softwood species could be assessed for suitability depending on the locality, potential for carbon sequestration, non-fire prone species, fungal resistant, durable timber, supplies market demand (e.g., hardwood for decking, timber windows, outside timber purposes). There is also potential to value add to the forest area by incorporating other activities e.g., mountain bike trails, hiking, overnight cabin hikes, camping which would take the pressure off National Parks whose prime purpose is conservation not recreation.

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

There is definitely scope for plantation forestry to enter the carbon market. Some suitable species of timber trees e.g., Araucaria family grow relatively quickly and have huge capacity for sequestering carbon. Hoop pine was used for many purposes in house building historically in the Northern Rivers.

Suitability for biodiversity markets is less clear, could have conflicting interests (logging habitat) and shouldn't be a primary focus for future forestry. Conservation is best left to the high value areas such as National Parks, Private Land Conservation, Council reserves. Once the logging of native forests is stopped then the best quality forests, endangered ecological communities, old growth forest, threatened species habitat should be rezoned into National Park. The remaining

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forestry land could grow softwood and hardwood plantation timber that are fit for purpose knowing that it will be harvested in stages to ensure an ongoing supply of timber for the Australian market. Trying to encourage and increase wildlife and income around biodiversity in habitat grown for imminent destruction is perverse when that habitat may only have a 30 year lifespan. Yes wildlife will move into plantations and will have to be dealt with at the time of logging which will be difficult, but not as bad if properly planned for e.g., the case where blue gum (koala food tree) forestry plantations in Victoria became a major food source and core habitat for koalas which turned very messy when it came to harvest time.