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Submission ID: 204525

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/12/2024 5:14:38 PM

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

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Quite simply, native forest logging isn't sustainable. It is insanity to pursue short term goals at the expense of long term goals. The tragedy of the commons is playing out in NSW public forests. Timber yield is declining as the forests are degraded, but FCNSW continues to overestimate what is available. This then feeds into unreliable financial targets and then tax funded subsidies are needed.

I'm a landowner. I'm desperately trying to add as many trees into the catchment as I can. It is heartbreaking to watch the forests around me be degraded with no benefit to the public. We need to protect the trees, not remove them, so that we can maintain hollows and habitat, protect the catchment, reduce the impacts of floods, reduce the risks of bushfires by amongst other mechanisms, providing old growth sanctuary areas. A protected public native forest should be managed to reduce weeds, which always colonise far faster than new saplings can develop. In a climate (emergency) where we should be protecting and expanding native forests, we are loosening and ignoring restrictions. FCNSW seems to literally get away with murder (of our threatened species).

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

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We have Aboriginal elders trying to stop forest degradation and destruction. Surely after all colonialism has taken from these people, we can respect their wishes to halt native forest logging. The natural disasters of the last decade should remind us to listen to Aboriginal knowledge in our future planning. I am a teacher and a grandmother. I am appalled that I may soon be teaching children about many extinct species that me and my own children had access to. Surely koalas belong outside of story books and old films? We can't bring back Tassie Tigers. Let's do all we can to halt this great extinction event. At the moment at least 150 threatened species are being put at more risk by native forest logging. The public forests are protecting vastly diverse habitats within them and adjacent to them.

Our mighty forests help raise rainfall, hold the soils in floods, take up flood waters, are needed for pollination, provide cooling and filter our air. My identity as an Australian is tied up in our landscape. How much more does this apply to First Nations people? That can't be calculated. We need the forests for our physical and mental health and our cultural wellbeing.

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

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There are sustainable options for all these uses. And this is a furphy. The majority of timber taken from my area goes to chip (which is exported, further insanity in a heating climate) or to be burned.

Native forest timber made up only 9% of Australian log production last year, contributing a tiny amount compared to how much it is subsidised by our taxes. .

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Treated softwood logs and composite timber products are plausible substitutes for hardwoods. Many consumers are actively looking for ways to reduce their impact on our public forests. This includes corporate consumers such as Essential Energy.

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

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New plantations on degraded farm land and in floodplains is a solid plan. All the spaces opening up on the floodplains due to home removals are ideal. The trees will help hold the ground together and minimise the impact of flooding. With only 9% of logs coming from our old growth, we can just stop and let them stand. So much of what is taken ends up as chip or being burnt. We need better models of log usage. Taking a habitat tree and then not even using it for structural or aesthetic purposes is a double insult to our environment. Where a luxury native wood is required, it could be sourced from private land under tight controls and with transparent oversight. Subsidised native logging promotes a non-competitive and unethical, financially unsustainable business model. This results in a distorted market, pushed away from the softwood plantation industry, which is better managed sustainably.

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#### **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**

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Social outcomes sounds good, but not when it is just green washing, which is what I've seen so far. The best social outcome for me is the ability to take my little students into a native forest and show them the wonders of our flora and fauna.

Intact native forests offer so many communal benefits. It is shared wealth in more ways than just financial. Let them stand so they can filter our catchment water, improve our localities, way of life and offer tourism benefits.

Please stop the native forest hardwood division of Forestry Corp from using my tax dollar to support running at a financial deficit. We are literally paying to destroy our own economy and lifestyle.

Indigenous Ranger Programs such as the Githabul Rangers, offer successful models of the management and the recovery of our disaster ravaged environments.

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#### **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**

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I would like to see this being driven by independent science and not just a carbon offset greenwash activity. There is no biodiversity benefit to a felled forest. Living through the aftermath of the 2022 floods, please give us more trees not less in the catchments. Felling the tops of ridges and slopes in the catchment is insanity, and yet it is happening.

Native forest logging in NSW is releasing so much carbon each year, when we need to be storing it. To continue logging is simply illogical in terms of the environment, social needs and long term financial goals. Please, no more increased risks from fires and floods from continuing native forest logging.