

LES JOHNSTON

Submission ID: 200078

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 9/23/2024 8:08:06 PM

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

My background is scientific and economic analysis. All public subsidies being given to support forestry operations in old growth forests should be rapidly removed. Old growth forestry is a practice from past generations.

The environmental harm (species extinctions, water quality impacts etc) and fire risk created by old growth forestry must be part of the analysis.

The current conversion of the great majority of old growth hardwood logs into woodchips is not justified financially given the low price of woodchips. Existing building demolitions could provide a market for used hard wood if price structures were appropriate.

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

Old growth forests provide a diversity of non tree co-habiting species. Removing old trees just depletes the diversity for years to come.

Harvesting practices lead to soil erosion. Harvesting is not banned in erodible soil areas or higher slope landforms. Harvesting and clearing of areas where logs are removed provides for growth of exotic introduced species eg lantana, crofton weed.

Respect for cultural heritage is not observed by banning of logging in areas after close consultation with land council representatives.

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

The local demand for timber building products is almost fully met by plantation forests. Structural members using as harvested hardwoods has almost zero demand relative to much more engineering plantation products with known structural performance.

The use of timber railway sleepers has almost disappeared as concrete sleepers provide a much better engineering solution for rail network operations.

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

The very small market for hardwood timbers could readily be met by hardwood plantations with prices set by internalised cost structures. The case of the export of hardwood woodchip with costs being met by tax payer subsidy is classic market failure.

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

The existing land held by State Forests provides a significant opportunity for a greater diversity of uses and employment opportunities. Aboriginal forest management and the establishment of

camping areas established by sensitive environmental management would be one such alternative option.

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

The current state of carbon offset carbon markets in Australia is of poor standing. There are many farmers who have changed farming practices to encompass carbon monitoring and management. State Forests provide another opportunity for watercourse carbon sequestration and management. Logging of old growth forests would no longer be an option under a carbon management offset regime.