

LINDY STACKER

Submission ID: 204132

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/11/2024 3:45:33 PM

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

Estimates of Forestry Corporations amount of harvested timber is consistently over estimated. The yield from public forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Protections for mature native trees removed from around 2018 shows logging has intensified & seriously reduced hollow bearing trees, also impacting on valuable food sources for native wildlife. Some 174 species in NSW rely on den hollows & nests for survival. OVER 50 YRS (OR LONGER) we have seen the same arguments for native forest logging, whilst in reality tree sizes have shrunk/ wildlife have diminished/ water way pollution has increased/ bush fire threats expanded & intensified/ invasive species proliferated/ drought seasons extended & are more unpredictable etc etc Yet there has been few restrictions to limit or STOP native forest logging, even against the advice from expert academics? Forestry Corporation is highly subsidised by the NSW tax payers & could not operate without these generous but outrageous concessions (gifts) that few tax payers are aware of? The secrecy of the grants afforded to NSW Forestry Corporation, begs the question why? Most citizens do NOT read Government Gazettes. Many smaller private saw millers have long gone out of business, again substantiating the decline in large logs (trees) & falling market demands. This unsustainable destructive dinosaur must be stopped. The Great Koala NPark has seen logging increase more than 3 times the rest of the state in northern rivers. Our state Govt has permitted logging in the GKNP even before the status of the PROPOSAL has been enacted. A moratorium on logging was necessary to enhance its 'status'. We can not have 'sustainability' when the Koala strategy requires only 5-10 small potential Koala food trees per hectare to remain. Sadly on the Nth Coast most of our Koalas are now on private land, with the Govt paying \$2,532 per hectare to private land holders to add to Np, whilst Govt costs amount to \$1,281 per hectare to log Koala homes on public land. If our gov't gave redundancy payments to workers, it would cost them approx \$257 per hectare. On many grounds the NF industry is simply unsustainable. Koalas have declined by 50% over 20 yrs on the north coast. It takes 120 yrs for tree hollows to develop & a further 100 yrs for LARGE hollows to develop for larger animals. Due to the intensity of bushfires, a further 25% of these trees are expected to be lost.

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

Healthy unlogged native forests have a significant cultural value for first nations people & non first nations people. First nations people have been telling us this for over 200 yrs. Rivers/creeks & waterways hold not only practical benefits for first nations people but spiritual significance. Forests intact provide a cooler climate, produce more rainfall, are necessary for clean air, vital for recreation & connection to country & offer hope to future first nations generations. Almost 200 recorded native wildlife species are threatened or endangered by continued native forest logging. The spirituality of our entire ecology to first nations citizens should not be underestimated. However, within various committees/ working groups/ government programs & the like involving Indigenous leaders they can NOT reject or veto environmental decisions they do not agree with? Essentially their voices are silenced & thus they are powerless. Logging devours ecosystems &

habitats while 260 nationally listed threatened & or endangered species suffer. The pleas of first nations leaders, seeking protection of under threat species are again dismissed.

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

Logging accounts for only 9% of log production in Aust (2023). Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of total 25million cubic meter for the year. Half of the logs taken from Native forests in 2023 were shamefully exported for wood chips. Hardwood logs make up 8.5 million cubic meters & just 8% were saw or veneer logs. Nearly 90% of hardwood plantation logs are exported for wood chips something we ALL should condemn. Hardwood sourced from NF plantations are no longer necessary for any significant uses. Sawn & treated softwood timber (trees) are composite timber products made from softwood that can substitute ALL current uses for NF timbers. Even "Essential Energy" Corporation is moving away from power poles made from NF timber. Finally other more eco friendly fibres are rapidly growing in popularity like hemp & bamboo products. Both used without chemicals & are certainly more Eco friendly & sustainable.

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

Softwood plantations provide approx 91% OF AUSTRALIA'S log production. Exporting wood chips should be prioritised for saw or veneer logs from non native timbers. Subsidising NF logging at the public expense, is non competitive and removes markets from profitable or expanding softwood plantations. NZ stopped their NF logging 2 years ago.

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 role of State Forests needs to be seriously overhauled. What is Plan B, as Plan A certainly has been a disaster.? The value of our unlogged native forests has an important & vital role to not only the benefits to our ecology & its long suffering wildlife, but to our economy. NF hardwood operates at a loss & runs into millions of \$ \$\$ forcing NSW tax payers to get them out of the red. Forestry Corp has made a loss of some \$95 over the past 14yrs. Forestry Corp also gets equity injections recently receiving \$24 million. An average of \$15 million is lost to NSW tax payers annually. Regarding social outcomes it will, be cheaper to STOP native forest logging & re train and re skill the current few forestry workers. I ask the question to Governments ever seriously listen to indigenous leaders who regularly plead for more power a final say in deliberations? As I stated above they have no veto power. I notice that you have not given a question surrounding illegal logging activities.??

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 area of the north coast (Nth of Hunter River) totals 8.5 million hectares, of this 4 million hectares has been cleared, so the question of carbon emissions rings loud & clear here. ABARE FIGURES SHOW HARDWOOD PRODUCTION REDUCED from 1.9mill m3 in 2002/23 to only 0.9 mill m3 due to over logging. We know climate impacts greatly on Koalas /Yellow Bellied Gliders & Greater Gliders. NF logging emits 3.6 million tonnes carbon EACH year. Carbon stands in native forests now has been reduced by 50%. Furthermore, when areas are over logged rezoning is allowed after 2018 140,00 hectares for clear felling was granted, an increase of intensity of 25%.

Public submission

Regrowth has no time to recover , where mature trees have a chance to grow. These small trees would be cut down yet again.If governments were genuine about reducing carbon emissions they would STOP native forest logging ASAP. The EPA recommended that unburnt forests should be protected for over 20 yrs. The NSW govt ignored this advice from scientists & extended commitments to the logging industry for a further 5 yrs ??Ending logging operations is equal to removing 840,00 cars from our roads each year. Climate change is increasing our risks to forest health & forests NOT logged are more resilient to our changing climate & intense fires that governments have ignored to date ?