Independent Forestry Panel

Public submission

MARIANNE KEARNEY Submission ID: 204287

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

Native forest is unsustainable, and should be stopped.
We need o preserve native forests in order to stop erosion, preserve ecosystems, and waterways. After the Black Summer of 2019 - 2020, where forests were devastated, and whole regions dried out, we should be increasing native forest, not destroying it. Destroying more native forests will increase the risk of future catastrophic fires.

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

Native forests protect waterways, soil, prevents climate disasters and preserves micro-climates and supports native animal habitats. According to research from the ANU this logging of nativeforests is putting 150 species at risk of extinction.
Ward, M., Ashman, K., Lindenmayer, D. B., Legge, S., Kindler, G., Cadman, T., Fletcher, R., Whiterod, N., Lintermans, M., Zylstra, P., Stewart, R., Thomas, H., Blanch, S., & Watson, J. E. M. (2024). Shifting baselines clarify the impact of contemporary logging on forest-dependent threatened species. Conservation Science and Practice, 6(9), e13185. https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.13185

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

Half the logs taken from native forests were turned into woodchips according to Nature Conservation NSW. This is just such a waste of a valuable resource. Native forests protect waterways, soil, prevents climate disasters and preserves micro-climates and supports native animal habitats. According to research from the ANU this logging of nativeforests is putting 150 species at risk of extinction.
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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

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry, and is insane. If the logging is not sustainable without accessing public forests, then they need to move into other business models.
High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

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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

First Nations rangers have a lot to teach us, particulary in relation to fire management and preservation. These are important mechanisms for First Nations people to connect to country and to show us non-Aboriginal people about their culture.
Forests provide massive tourism and economic benefits when they are preserved. Connecting with nature through being in forests is important for mental health.

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

As the Inter-government panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says forests and reducing desforestation is critical for reducing the impact of climate change. Deforestation is not only a significant contributor to the current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions problem, protecting and restoring forests could play an outsized role in the solution.
Deforestation and peatland degradation contribute most of the 13% of total human-caused CO2 emissions attributed in the IPCC report to agriculture, forestry and other land uses. But because growing forests are also a carbon sink, this net number, the result of subtracting sequestration from gross emissions, hide their potential role in mitigation. The IPCC concludes with 'high confidence' that the mitigation potential of reduced deforestation is closer to the gross emissions from the land sector overall, about one-third of total global emissions. According to the report, 'reducing deforestation and forest degradation rates represents one of the most effective and robust options for climate change mitigation, with large mitigation benefits globally.'
Given what we've just witnessed in the US over the past few days, with climate disasters, rapidly becoming uncontrollable and beyond anything witnessed in US history,such as flooding in inland North Carolina, or a storm going fromCategory 1 to Category 5, in 11 hours, we and earth is at a tipping point. The NSW government should do everything to reduce the impact of climate change, given it has just approved 3 climate wrecking mines, which will blow Australia's carbon budget to keep global warming within 1.5degrees.
The effects of forest cover change on the local climate of surrounding areas can be more significant than global effects.
While much attention is appropriately focused on keeping global temperature rise well below 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F), consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement, the IPCC report makes clear that we should also pay attention to forests' impacts on local and regional temperatures and rainfall. For example, the report finds that forests consistently diminish heat extremes. While it's tempting to think of this effect in the context of the recent record-breaking heatwave in Europe (plant more trees in Paris!), just imagine what deforestation means for people living in the tropics, where temperatures are already hotter and access to healthcare is more limited.
5. Forests' impacts on climate aren't just about greenhouse gases.
The IPCC report explains how forests affect local, regional and global climates through multiple pathways, beyond just storing carbon. Deforestation can contribute to warming or cooling by changing the albedo, or how much sunlight is reflected; reducing evapotranspiration, which cools the air; affecting the release of aerosols and biogenic volatile organic compounds, which can affect cloud formation; and changing the roughness of Earth's surface, which can affect wind speed. A useful graphic illustrating these effects can be found in Tropical Forests and Climate Change: The Latest Science. The combination of these factors and their interactions is complicated, and end results depend on the scale of the forest disturbance, latitude and

seasonality, and environmental conditions like temperature, available moisture and snow cover, which in turn will change with a changing climate. Earth system models do not agree on the magnitude ,or even the direction, of changes in global temperature due to these combined biogeochemical and biophysical effects of deforestation, but overall, their effects are likely to be dominated by GHG emissions.