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Submission ID: 204546

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/12/2024 5:50:57 PM

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

- Figures makes clear that logging native forest neither profitable nor sustainable.
- Forestry Corporation over estimates the amount of harvestable timber on a regular basis. There has been a significant decline in yield since 2010.
- In 2018 we saw important protections for mature trees removed & logging intensified in an attempt to get more wood from native forests.
- This removal of mature trees takes essential hollows & food sources for our iconic wildlife. In NSW there are 174 species that are known to absolutely rely on hollows for dens and nests for their survival. The number of hollows that are & will be created in native forests is seriously reduced by logging.
- It significantly reduces the biomass & carbon storage of a forest.
- Logging our native forests provides conditions for increased risk of fires & a significant increase in fire intensity. Invasive weed species quickly take over an opened canopy, especially Lantana known to add even more heat & intensity of a fire.
- . Logging our native forests causes erosion of our waterways, causing silting & pollution. It significantly reduces the health of our rivers & streams.

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

- Native forest logging has an adverse impact on many of our ecosystems & habitats throughout NSW. With over 1000 species of flora & fauna at risk in NSW, there are 269 nationally listed threatened wildlife species & it is worrying to see 150 of those threatened species being directly impacted by logging native forests.
- Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the function of the whole environment. They generate rainfall, cool the landscape & clean the air.
- Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests
- Healthy and unlogged forests are also critical to the well-being of both First Nations & non- indigenous peoples. They give us improved health outcomes & recreation for the local communities, visitors & are a big draw to overseas tourists. Native forests are & should be an important source of community pride & connection to place. They are our life support system.
- First Nations people & communities have an ongoing connection to native forests. This cultural & spiritual value is an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge. A strong feeling that I share.

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

- There is no longer a necessity to source hardwood timber from native forests or plantations. It is no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section. It is a tragic waste of an important resource.

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- Figures show that logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributed less than 2.5 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year
 - Of all the hardwood logs taken from native forests in 2023, half were turned into woodchip & exported
 - Of all the hardwood logs taken from plantations - 8.5 million cubic metres, only 8% of these logs were saw & veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips.
 - Sawn and treated softwood logs & composite timber products made from softwoods can perfectly well replace all current uses for both native forest & plantation hardwoods.
 - There is a rapid decline in the demand & market for hardwood from native forests. Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example of this decline.

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

- Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. Rather than wasting on low value products & exporting them as wood chips, a higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw & veneer logs.
- The subsidising of logging of public native forests by NSW Forestry Corporation is unprofitable & non-competitive. It distorts & detracts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry
- Strictly selective harvesting under strict conditions on private land should satisfy the market for luxury native hardwood.

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

- NSW State native forests cover an area of 2 million hectares & have a significant impact on the living conditions for many towns. Water quality in reservoirs & catchment areas, greater opportunities for the eco-tourism industry, & provide important carbon storage & air quality.
- Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW, whereas the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation, despite receiving tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections, still operates at a loss at the expense of the NSW public purse that runs into tens of millions of dollars.
- I am offended that the people of NSW are expected to pay millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state & critical habitat for threatened species. Plus reduce our forests ability to store carbon.
- Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging
- Restoration of native forests damaged by logging can be done. I have been very impressed by the First Nations Ranger Programs, hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. I saw first hand how the Githabul Rangers used their knowledge & good management to restore the native forests

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

- Logging a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.
- It is estimated that native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Whereas stopping native forest logging would not only avoid those emissions but remove the equivalent of 840 thousand cars from our roads every year.
- Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate & consequent catastrophic fires. Once we end native forest logging, this will make them more resilient & also allow previously logged forests to make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.
- As we see our changing climate driving increased risks for forest health, it is counter productive to continue logging in native forests, exacerbating that risk