

MICHAEL BURNS

Submission ID: 204343

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/12/2024 9:21:56 AM

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

Ongoing native forest logging is unsustainable, given it is continuing from an open slather mentality, never to backward in taking without an eye to the future, to the point where Forestry Corporation estimates of harvestable timber are generally overestimated. The yield has declined by 40% since 2010, and native forests have come under further unsustainable pressure since mature tree protections were removed in 2018, having the intended effect of further depleting an already shrinking resource. Of course, such activities diminish biomass and carbon storage, as well as valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees. The latter matters bear down on the ability of wildlife to find both nourishment and shelter - 174 species are involved. There is also the damage logging causes through increasing the fire threat, growth of weeds, as well as harming our waterways.

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

Healthy, sustainable native forests have cultural implications for First Nations people, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. Some 150 threatened species are involved with native forests, which also play a significant role with pollination across the nation: one would have thought this would be a major consideration given one of the main pollinators, European bees, are being wiped out by the Varroa mite. Then there are recreational and health concerns, all of which depend on a sustainable environment.

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

Logging in native forests supplies only 9% of logging output in 2023, and so are scarcely necessary for modern purposes, especially when measured against the amount of damage done to so many other aspects of Australia today: cultural, environmental, climate, health endangered species - both flora and fauna.

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

Plantations are the main source of timber in contemporary Australia, and should be used as saw and veneer timbers rather than being exported without any real value added as wood chips. There is a case for native Australian hardwoods for use for creative/high end craft work, such as furniture and sculpting items exhibited at the Bungendore Woodworks.

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

Unlogged native forests cover an extensive range in NSW (c.2 million acres) and have significant ecological and economic benefits for many towns, including water quality, tourism benefits as

well as carbon storage. Alongside these tangible, cost free benefits, the Forestry Corporation runs at a loss being paid for by the residents of NSW, rendering any claims to doing anything worthwhile illusory. Why do it at all?

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

Native forest logging inhibits carbon associated developments to statewide, national and international climate and general environmental detriment. The carbon advantages from ceasing native forest logging are such that recovering growth alongside regrowth would greatly assist Australia achieve its climate ambitions, something which seems to be under constant challenge as I write. Further, unlogged native forests are more resilient to the perils of climate change, including wildfires and floods.