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

Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel, This is a submission to your inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

I hope the panel will recommend that native forest logging be brought to an end in NSW as that's what I believe should happen. Native forest logging is a loss-making industry that is costing the taxpayer millions of dollars every year. There are far better ways to spend public money.

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

Native forest logging is driving species like the koala and greater glider to extinction by destroying their habitat. These forest-dependent wildlife need intact and healthy forests to thrive and survive.

Native forest logging causes more destructive bushfires. Older forests are more resistant to bushfire, and for forests to grow old we have to stop logging them.

Traditional Owners continue to raise concerns about how logging destroys First Nations cultural heritage. This is an important opportunity for government to manage forests in ways that recognise Traditional Owner rights and aspirations.

Protected forests provide greater benefit to more people, and we need NSW's forests to be managed for the benefit of the community, not just a handful of vested interests.

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

I do not condone the continued destruction of native forests just because there is a demand for the wood. That's why ivory trade is banned. This is the same!

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 only way forward.

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 native forests steals from future generations. It exacerbates global warming as the lungs of the planet are destroyed. However plantations are the opposite. They generate carbon sinks as the new timber stores carbon for generations.

Thank you.

Regards

Michael Sargent