

Public submission

MTHEW PARKER

Submission ID: 204429

Organisation: *M&M Timbers*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/12/2024 1:35:44 PM

Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW.

M&M Timbers has been contracted by FCNSW from September 2011 to harvest Native Timber in State Forests on The Mid North Coast of NSW.

M&M Timbers were one of the last manual hand falling crews to transition to mechanical harvesting here on the mid north coast of NSW and is a specialized crew primarily working in the steeper state forests.

I am the owner and principal contractor of M&M Timbers. I operate the Feller Buncher on the crew. I manage and supervise my team of highly skilled staff. This occupation is not for the faint hearted and a passion and appreciation for the Forest is essential. For me this passion comes from 118 years of generational family history in the Timber industry and continues through to my children.

On top of their machinery accreditations my team of employees need to achieve competencies in the following mandatory courses.

Biodiversity and silviculture

Soil and water conservation

Cultural heritage

Coastal Integrated Forest operations and

Work Health and safety Regulations

They are then supervised by me and the Forestry staff to comply with all of the regulations set out in the above accreditations and are audited consistently on their compliance.

State Forests are diverse, and each compartment has its own unique make up, even within a compartment we see a range of differences. This is difficult to explain in a submission and given the opportunity I would welcome each panel member to come and see for themselves exactly what I mean by visiting our current operation or one of our completed operations.

The planning conducted by FCNSW is extensive and critical to recognize these diverse attributes. FCNSW have continuously updated their technology to make the process of harvesting compliance clearer. The protection of critical habitats for wildlife, including threatened species, and safeguarding of vital ecosystems like riparian zones and old-growth forests are all included in the meticulous planning before any harvesting takes place and monitored throughout the harvesting process.

Forest management ensures that biodiversity is maintained while providing resources for economic development. I would welcome the opportunity to be more involved in the silviculture practices post-harvest.

This is a sustainable industry and continues to provide crucial economic growth for regional towns. It's not only the people in this industry that benefit from it, but it's also the local schools, hospitals, grocery stores, mechanics, tyre suppliers, fuel suppliers, charity events, local shows and many more. M&M Timbers sponsors as many projects within our shire as we possibly can. We have been donating to our local Dorrigo show for many years now.

The phrase "use it or lose it" is a reality in a small town. Small towns cannot survive on tourism alone. It is industry that is needed and the timber industry being 100% renewable is a valuable sustainable resource.

Although since the 2020 bushfires it has been publicised that FCNSW have received help from Government funding, people don't think of the economic contribution from the business involved in the industry, harvesting crews, haulage crew, sawmills, firewood businesses and every other business that supply a service to those businesses. The perception portrayed by people feeding off those publications is an extremely limited and ignorant view. Unfortunately, many of those misconceptions are in the submissions that have already been publicised.

The Future sustainability relies on the promotion of our practices in harvesting as the misconceptions funnelled through social media from the anti-logging minority is all the public are hearing. This is where the government and FCNSW need to really make a push to have forest management out there for all to see.

Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and aboriginal cultural heritage values.

As previously stated, my team participate in a course on cultural heritage and take the guidelines seriously. The provisions set out by the CIFOA to retain giant trees, dead standing trees, hollow bearing trees, Glossy Black feed trees, Glider trees, Glider sap trees, Nectar trees, Den trees and Koala browse trees and to retain a basal area during harvest, protect environmental values and threatened species of the forest. In addition to these, rare and endangered plants are mapped when found in the ecological studies and mark up of the harvest area prior to harvesting. Forestry goes a step further by retaining a certain number of seed trees for natural regeneration after harvesting.

Every prescription as mentioned above is followed to the upmost best of the ability of the team and if any accidental damage occurs to one of the marked trees during harvest there are set guidelines to replace the tree with one of comparable species and values,

in some cases this leaves the existing marked tree and the new marked tree standing for environmental purposes.

There is no evidence of waterways being adversely affected due to harvesting native forest and mapping ESAs (Environmentally significant areas) and operational zones pre harvest, prevents this. Set protocols for snig track drainage and road drainages help to prevent run off and degradation.

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

The demand for timber products is high in

Housing and Construction: including, but not limited to; framing, flooring, decking, fencing, form work and landscape.

Mining: including, but not limited to; props, supports and pegs

Transport: including, but not limited to; Railway sleepers, Bridge transoms and Girders, Bridge decking, Piles and Jetty Timbers, perimeter fencing and let us not forget Highway roost poles and fauna crossings are also made from Native Timbers.

Retail: including, but not limited to; Shop fronts, Shelving, infrastructure.

Timber Pallets make up a large volume of products as most transported by trucks, planes, trains, and ships is at one time or another on a pallet and can this be included in all the points made above.

Timber is also in remarkably high demand in regional areas in the supply of fencing products to our farmers.

Harvested logs received by sawmills and not only sawn into these higher priced products, but the residual product from sawn logs is also used widely for firewood, sawdust in agriculture, biofuel, and woodchip for landscape. Nothing is wasted.

Lower grade logs are commonly turned into a higher quality product such as Masonite, cladding, chipboard and MDF.

Australia imports billions of dollars' worth of timber each year from countries which in many cases do not have the high environmental standards in which we work to here in NSW. This shows again the demand for Timber remains high.

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

Increasing plantation timber would certainly help meet some of timber supply needs, however the time and area needed to establish more plantations is just not available.

Softwood plantations are crucial to in the supply structural housing timber, but Hardwood Plantation timber presents some limitations and needs to be supplemented by Native Hardwood Timber. Most hardwood plantations do not contain the high quality, durable species required for high end structural timber such as Bridge girders, utility poles or marine piles.

Private Native Forests also play a significant role, but many landowners are hesitant to harvest due to their lack of understanding of the rules required. In many cases their land is more valuable to them for food and farming production and to their credit, that is their speciality.

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 economic study conducted by Ernst and Young in February 2023 found that NSW Hardwood Timber contributes \$2.9 billion dollars in gross revenue and \$1.1 billion dollars in value add to the NSW economy, employing 8900 FTE people of which 5920 of those jobs were directly in the timber industry. M&M Timbers participated in providing employment and financial data to this study. The study showed more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the timber supply is coming from Native State Forests.

https://nenswforestryhub.com.au/upload/documents/reports/articles/230219220855_NSWHardwoodTimberIndustry-EconomicContributionStudy-Final-20Feb2023.pdf

State Forests are critical to regional and rural areas just in employment alone! This flows into the social outcomes within the communities, as unemployment and mental health issues can certainly go hand in hand.

With such diverse forests there comes a range of diverse management, providing a range of uses for our forests, Timber production, tourism, bike riding, horse riding, camping, hunting and firewood collection.

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 an assessment of climate change risks to forests.

I do not have a lot of knowledge on this topic, however the knowledge I do have is up until 50-60 years old a tree sequesters more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than an older trees. And once trees reach a certain age, they omit more carbon into the atmosphere than they sequester.

I appreciate the opportunity to take part in this submission process and would welcome the opportunity for involvement in the next stages of the Industry Action Plan.

Yours sincerely

Mathew Parker 