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Submission ID: 200828

Organisation: N/A

Location: *Location redacted*

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 45561.734236

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

Native forest logging is unsustainable and a key driver of climate change. Logging native forests reduces biomass. Logging native forests removes valuable food sources and habitat. I helped save old growth forests in the 1990s. I was a young mother. I was saving them for my grandchildren intergenerational equity. Now I am a grandmother and the unsustainable industry is logging more now than they were last century. Estimations by FCNSW are consistently over estimated. Fire risks and threats are increased by logging native forests. Fires burn hotter. There is more fuel load. Water is life and intact catchments provide healthy waterways. Logging native forests reduces the water quality including streams and rivers.

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

Our globally significant and rich biodiverse forests have intrinsic value for all life forms. Logging of our public native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage. More than a hundred species rely on hollows for dens and nests. Hollows are only found in mature trees which take at least 100 years to form their first hollows. Hollows are homes that our precious fauna need to survive. The mature native trees are critical for pollinators and play a vital role in pollination across the landscape. My family and our ancestors depend on the native forests for cultural practice and knowledge. Native forests hold spiritual value for me and my family. First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests. Native forests provide connection to place, and are a great source of mental fitness and recreation.

Mature healthy forests

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

I live near a regional sawmill on the mid north coast of NSW. The mill has an abundance of logs stacked in the yard. A huge pile of woodchips, numerous stacks of pallet timbers and tomato stakes created from our native forests. Surely in a biodiversity crisis and climate emergency our native forests are worth more standing. Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported for wood chip. In 2024 it is no longer necessary to decimate native forest and turn it into wood chips. Pallet timber can and should be replaced with recycled plastic composite boards.

The market and demand for native forests is rapidly declining; the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from Native forests is a fine example.

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

Plantations already supply over 90% of Australia's log production. Under the strictest conditions, harvested logs from Private Native Logging should only be allowed if selectively logged for high-end and luxury native wood products. Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the

FCNSW is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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

I reside within the footprint of the proposed and planned Great Koala National Park. Both Coffs Harbour and Bellingen have eco tourism destination stays by the NSW Government. Eco tourism and the Gondwana World heritage National Park have real and tangible benefits to the entire economy of NSW. People come to our region to see the tall trees, biodiversity and fresh clean waterways. Lets keep it that way by ending native forest logging and providing greater tourism opportunities and carbon storage and abatement.

The people of NSW should not be propping up the timber industry with millions of dollars from the public purse to actually destroy our biodiversity and critical habitat for threatened species. Our regional towns and LGA's should not have to foot the bill for the timber industry wearing out our bridges and roads within our Shires. The logging of our native forests is costing us millions of dollars each financial year as the unsustainable native logging industry continues to run at a loss. The waterways, biodiversity, communities and our future all pay the price. Its a losing game logging our native forests. It is time to stop.

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

In NSW alone, native forest logging is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually. Logging native forests reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half the original value. If native forest logging was to end, previously logged forests would have the opportunity to regain lost carbon and thus make a significant contribution to our emission targets.

Our intact forests that have not been logged are way more resilient to to the catastrophic fires that we are now experiencing due to climate change. Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continuing to log our native forests is exacerbating that risk.