

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

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To The NSW Government,

02 October 2024

There is a way forward, but it will take some courage, dedication, and education. We have been perpetuating the misuse and destruction of forests my whole lifetime, sadly we are still not acting fast enough to maintain and preserve our forests as important places. We need to preserve forests for the health of our global environment, its people and animals.

I fully support an end to native forest logging and a future based on sustainable plantations. We must act now to ensure we have healthy forests.

- Logging of native forests is leading to the extinction of species, such as the Greater Glider and Koala and therefore cannot be described as sustainable.
- Logging public native forests is costing the taxpayer millions and leading to permanent damage to our forests.
- We need healthy forests to hold carbon, clean our water, to provide habitat, to provide cultural and spiritual connection and recreation. Continuing to log native forests will harm any chance of us achieving this in the future.

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

Logging in native forests is not sustainable. Our current practice of Logging native forests result in the removal of key habitats. Removing the older trees, their hollows and habitats that are essential for the survival of forest wildlife, such as the Koala and the Great Glider will result in the eventual extinction of these animals.

The Current levels of logging are not sustainable, If we continue to log these Forests we will cause the extinction of forest-dependent wildlife, plants, insects and birds .

The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious and are an even greater reason to act now to give these places time to

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

Forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests are becoming rarer. As someone who lives among forests that are logged, it is evident the destructive impact logging is having.

Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as:

- Water quality and flow regulation; water quality provides a healthy environment that sustains native animals and ecosystems, farming, fish and ocean health.
- Cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.
- Recreational values for locals and visitors. Including tourism and fishing.
- Habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

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

We must support Plantations, which can supply our high-quality and composite timber product needs. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. Shifting to plantation timber reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry best practices.

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

It is time to End public forest subsidies, we cannot keep spending government money on the destruction and unsustainable management of our Publicly owned natural resources. This would boost sustainable timber plantation and production on private lands.

We need to support Investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared lands, this would supply timber products into the future, and Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs.

It is environmentally criminal to allow government money to subsidise the logging of old-growth forests for woodchip and low-grade use. We must stop this now before we ruin the remaining ecosystems.

5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes. Options for diverse management models, including Aboriginal forest management.

Healthy native forests provide essential water resources.

Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities.

The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations.

Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests.

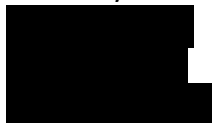
6. Opportunities are many; to realise carbon storage and Healthy biodiversity, to support carbon storage and biodiversity markets, to mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of the different uses of forests, and the assessment of climate change risks to forests.

Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change. Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals. Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.

By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.

These factors must be understood by governments and managed to protect forests and the environment we all rely on.

Sincerely

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