

# Public submission

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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## **Sustainable Forestry in NSW: A Positive Outlook**

### **Introduction**

Sustainable forestry in New South Wales (NSW) is a critical component of environmental conservation and economic development. By balancing ecological, economic, and social needs, sustainable forestry practices ensure the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems.

### **Environmental and Cultural Values**

Forests in NSW are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including many threatened species. They also hold significant cultural heritage values for Aboriginal communities. Sustainable forest management practices are committed to protecting biodiversity and cultural heritage while allowing for responsible resource use.

### **Economic Importance**

The timber industry is a vital part of the regional economy in NSW, providing high-quality, skilled, and secure jobs. The demand for timber products, particularly in housing, construction, mining, transport, and retail, underscores the importance of maintaining a sustainable supply of forest products.

### **Regulatory Controls and Opportunities for Improvement**

Current regulatory controls in NSW aim to balance the need for timber production with environmental protection. There are ongoing opportunities to improve these regulations to enhance sustainability and performance in the forestry sector.

### **Role of State Forests**

State forests play a crucial role in delivering a range of environmental, economic, and social outcomes. Diverse management options, including Aboriginal forest management models, can maximize these benefits. Production forestry and biodiversity management are compatible and synergistic activities.

### **Climate Change Mitigation**

Forests play a significant role in mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon. Sustainable forest management practices optimize multiple values, including providing a reliable source of carbon-positive materials. This approach not only supports carbon and biodiversity markets but also helps mitigate and adapt to climate change risks.

### **Conclusion**

Sustainable forestry in NSW is a multifaceted approach that balances environmental conservation, economic development, and social well-being. There will always be consumer demand for timber in Australia and by continuing to improve regulatory controls, embracing diverse management models, and recognizing the role of forests in climate change mitigation, NSW can ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for its forests and communities. This must be a better outcome than importing timber or manufactured timber from overseas where practices are potentially not as sustainable and very much not under the control of rigorous

sustainable practices in NSW, not to mention the carbon footprint to import these products. It is naïve at the end of the day that consumers are not going to use timber or that alternate products are more environmentally sustainable.