

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 202985

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/7/2024 12:28:55 PM

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

The definition of 'sustainable' requires an activity to maintain itself and the environment around it in a way that allows future generations to not only enjoy forests, but also benefit from its continued economic potential.

Forestry NSW is definitively failing on both fronts.

While it can be appreciated that there have been improvements on Forestry's general systems and activities, time and time again we see it in trouble for breaking the law, being deliberately negligent in regard to endangered species present in logging areas, or assessing healthy diverse native forests as being 'low ecological value' etc.

And then we as tax payers are footing the bill on a monumental scale through subsidies that are costing the government a lot of money and PR points.

On both the environmental and financial level 'sustainability' is failing under Forestry NSW.

If we add a 'Social' context to this triple bottom line, we are seeing public areas in state parks being obliterated for a very limited workforce within Forestry NSW.

A classic example of how ill-conceived the idea of sustainability is for Forestry NSW is their approach to the Great Koala National Park, rather than organising ways to transition local workers to become forest stewards and in a new and sustainable role, we are seeing a rush from Forestry NSW to extract as much timber and as many dollars from the parks borders before the election promise is finally delivered on.

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

Forests provide us with so much beyond timber and carbon points.

We need them for a plethora of reasons, many of the reasons are not easily quantifiable within government contexts or are considered economically insignificant, and therefore ignored. But this is the failing of our governing systems, not the insignificance of the point.

I.e. as we lose yet another koala population, how does this impact the happiness of current and future humans in Australia? How does the removal of forests on the landscape affect general well-being of Australians? Is our national epidemic of depression linked to nature deficiency?

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

Plantation timber provides the overwhelming majority of our needs, it's important for us to finalise that last step towards plantation timber only, so that the last few remaining tracts of native forest (especially old-growth) is allowed to thrive for future generations and the fauna it supports.

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

We need change - it is clear the system is failing.

It's also clear the legislation around Private Native Forestry does not really support the overall flora and fauna acts - there are too many loop holes.

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

We should be pushing towards indigenous lead management, and allowing their philosophy to shape legislation.

An example is the Great Koala National Park that stands to become a great source of eco-tourism economy.

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

This is forward thinking if we are able to generate economy from planting trees, it is surely better than an extractive and unsustainable industry.