

# Public submission

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 203595

---

**Organisation:** *N/A*

---

**Location:** *Redacted*

---

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

---

Submission date: 10/9/2024 5:24:35 PM

# Independent Forestry Panel Submission

Topic:	Issue:	Response:
Topic 1	Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forestry Corporation of NSW has managed State Forests sustainably for the past 100 years the link to this information is listed below</li> <li>-</li> <li>- <a href="https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/sustainability">https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/sustainability</a></li> <li>-</li> <li>- 1% is harvested in any given year. Many of my past generations have worked in the timber industry and sustainably supplied ongoing timber supplies to Australians to build homes and many other products that rely on the State Forests timber source for the past decade.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Native forestry in NSW is highly regulated, to sustain economic and environmental interests.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Our country provides sustainable local timber for the needs of the NSW and Australian community, this being far more important than importing timber from overseas. We need to invest in providing more timber in our own country and continue to, as we have for the past 100years.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Harvesting of hardwood timbers in Australia is strongly regulated, where it is not regulated like Australia in other countries and when our demands are not met here, this is where the timber supply comes from.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- The need and demand for Hardwood in Australia grows each year and I believe a local product far out ways imported products which is an unsustainable approach to rely on imported timber which produces more carbon emissions to get the timber here.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Hardwood Timber in Native Forests is harvested selectively and only a small percentage of the timber is harvested to keep in line with maintaining a natural structure with trees of different species and ages naturally germinating and growing side by side, some of which are set aside for habitat, biodiversity and waterway protection and others of which are periodically harvested for renewable timber.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Forestry operations in NSW, including NSW State forests, are managed and certified. Having forests certified encourages those who don't hold certification to gain it, ensures that they can benefit from the many forest products that are produced now, while ensuring these forests will be around for generations to come. Forest certification places equal emphasis on environmental, social and economic aspects, which meets the definition of 'true' sustainability.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- The links below outline Timber volumes &amp; modelling, the market dynamics in the Timber industry:  <a href="#">Forestry Corporation - Timber volumes and modelling</a>            &amp; DPI website - <a href="#">2018 NSW Regional Forest Agreement Review and Renewal</a>).            - <a href="#">(3. Market Dynamics in the Timber Industry – Parliament of Australia (aph.gov.au))</a>.</li> </ul>

<p>Topic 2</p>	<p>Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Native forestry in NSW is closely regulated by Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) to protect the environment, including water quality, soil health, and habitats for endangered species.</li> <li>- The industry already follows these existing regulations.</li> <li>- Suppliers should talk about using specific species to support heritage industries.</li> <li>- <b>Whenever possible:</b></li> <li>- Include numbers or percentages related to Indigenous employment.</li> <li>- Older mills should mention how long they've been in operation, especially regarding their heritage significance.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- The State Forest estate uses a system called Forest Management Zones (FMZ) to protect sensitive areas and tailor management practices to the environmental needs of each zone. This system is more flexible than the land use rules for National Parks and can lead to better long-term outcomes for threatened species, particularly those affected by disturbances. These threatened Species which require disturbance as part of their life cycle are often better managed within State forests and with their Ecology teams this ensures the protection of these species and exclusions when harvesting.</li> <li>- NSW forests are home to many threatened species, including koalas, thanks to current management practices.</li> <li>- Selective harvesting is carefully planned and monitored to limit short-term impacts on koala populations, and efforts are made to protect important habitats like riparian zones, rainforests, and old-growth forests.</li> <li>- Aboriginal cultural heritage is increasingly valued, with efforts to support Aboriginal forest management models.</li> <li>- Sustainable forest management and the survival of threatened species depend on flexible, active practices, which aren't possible in the National Park model.</li> <li>- Studies by independent researchers and National Parks suggest that koala populations in State forests are similar to those in National Parks. Some even indicate there might be more koalas in State forests because of the availability of young Eucalypt leaves which they prefer to the older established Eucalypt trees.</li> </ul>
<p>Topic 3</p>	<p>Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Australians use products made from wood and its components every day with an ever-increasing shortage due to the Harvesting impacts that the Forestry Corporation State NSW Forests must deal with continually. Especially our housing industry where we have so many homeless people and a shortage of housing.</li> <li>- As a Nation, there is an ever-demanding requirement for these sustainable products. Australia's native forests can and do support sustainable timber harvesting to which they have been doing for the past 100 years, supplying our local communities.</li> <li>- When you look at the State Forests year to year, they are still thick and lush more than ever, I don't see a reduction in trees, there is more trees and wildlife than there ever was.</li> <li>- Stopping native forest harvesting will lead to more timber imports, higher carbon emissions from shipping, increased local living costs, and no environmental benefits compared to our current forest management practices.</li> <li>- NSW and Australia's population has grown significantly in the last 45 years, increasing the demand for hardwood products.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hardwood production have declined, and they now depend on imported hardwoods like Kwela and Merbau to meet this demand, which as we know is unregulated and again has to be shipped to Australia.</li> <li>- Durable hardwoods from North Coast NSW State forests are vital for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Utility poles</li> <li>- Marine piles</li> <li>- High-quality housing and restorations and may more products</li> </ul> </li> <li>- A reduction in native forestry operations would heavily impact the availability of hardwood timber, essential for infrastructure, transport and mining.</li> <li>- The World Bank predicts that by 2050, the global need for wood will increase four times.</li> <li>- The rising cost of living is making it harder to access native forests, which will drive up timber prices and reduce availability.</li> <li>- A report from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry suggests that the amount of hardwood logs from current sources will likely be more than what is needed by 2050.</li> <li>- ABARES estimates that softwood wood imports will have to double from 2020 to 2050 to meet the growing demand.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Forestry industry needs to be spread out across different areas. This helps support various businesses and communities while allowing certain sites to recover and regenerate.</li> <li>- Replanting efforts are important and happen regularly to ensure sustainability in timber production.</li> <li>- Private Native Forestry (PNF) is key for meeting the demand for hardwood timber, but it can't replace public native forests.</li> <li>- Plantations have room for growth, but their expansion is limited by factors like available land, suitability for planting, low financial returns, and the long time needed to grow commercial timber.</li> <li>- A federal government investigation found that hardwood plantations won't be able to provide as much hardwood sawlogs as native forests until 2050. Since that report, the area of hardwood plantations in Australia has actually decreased due to the failure of the Managed Investment Schemes that were meant to increase planted areas. This means it will likely be long after 2050 before planted forests can meet the country's hardwood sawlog needs.</li> <li>- While most plantation areas are replanted after harvesting, a small portion is changed to other land uses each year. In recent years, this has exceeded new plantings, leading to a decline in the total plantation area (Snapshot of Australia's Forest Industry, Linden Whittle).</li> <li>- Logs harvested from native forests, hardwood plantations, and softwood plantations can't always replace each other. This is due to differences in tree species, age, and growing methods, which affect the wood's properties and uses. Hardwood plantations often use a limited range of species because many trees grow too slowly to be economically viable in plantations.</li> <li>- If native forests are protected and harvesting is stopped, essential products like poles, piles, and girders would either become unavailable or their supply would be greatly reduced. These products are valuable and are mainly used for structural purposes, including utility service poles, pole frame homes, foundation supports for wharves,</li> </ul>

		<p>boardwalks and buildings (piles) and support beams in bridges (girders).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The advantages of these products include their durability, cost-effectiveness, long lifespan in various conditions, high strength, resistance to fatigue, easy to handle and their ability to store carbon.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Managing forests in different ways, including using Aboriginal methods, can balance economic and environmental goals.</li> <li>- Communities benefit the most when State forests are managed with long-term goals in mind, not just yearly profits.</li> <li>- State forests help with things like economic growth, jobs in regional areas, and taking care of the environment.</li> <li>- Aboriginal forest management practices can protect cultural heritage and help with sustainable forest use.</li> <li>- Timber industries are very important for jobs in regional areas, helping keep local economies stable.</li> <li>- State forests can offer many other benefits, like beekeeping, cattle grazing, trail biking, horse riding, 4WDing, free camping and dog walking, which aren't as well supported in National Parks in NSW. Studies have shown that these activities bring in much more economic and social value to the community than if the same area were a National Park.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Locally produced and sold products have a much lower carbon footprint compared to those imported from other countries. It's important that timber production forests are spread across the state to keep this carbon footprint low.</li> <li>- Importing timber from places with bad environmental practices or far-away countries, like tropical forests, can cause more deforestation and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For example, bringing in timber from these areas adds millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, similar to what big fossil fuel-using nations like India release. The kind of wood, how it's transported, and how it's processed all affect the carbon footprint.</li> <li>- Using timber from local sources or places that manage forests sustainably has a smaller carbon footprint because of less transportation and better forest management, including replanting trees and sustainable harvesting.</li> <li>- (<a href="#">IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative</a>)(<a href="#">Committees - UK Parliament</a>) (<a href="#">Allen Press</a>).</li> <li>- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that forests managed for timber, while keeping trees growing and storing carbon, provide long-term help in fighting climate change.</li> <li>- Wood has a much smaller carbon footprint compared to other building materials like steel, aluminium, and concrete. This makes responsibly-sourced wood a great option for reducing the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>- Planet Ark, an Australian not-for-profit, has teamed up with Forest and Wood Products Australia to encourage using responsibly-sourced wood in construction as a way to combat climate change. You can learn more at <a href="http://makeitwood.org">makeitwood.org</a>.</li> <li>- In NSW, forest management is focused on keeping the environment healthy and contributing to carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection.</li> <li>- Forests and wood products help fight climate change by storing carbon, and this is recognized in carbon markets, but we need to give it more attention to get the most out of these benefits.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sustainable forestry practices, like thinning trees and controlled burning, are important to lower the risk of big bushfires, which are getting worse because of climate change.</li><li>- Relying too much on imported timber should be avoided if Australia wants to reduce its carbon footprint and avoid price hikes as global competition for timber grows and supplies shrink.</li></ul>
--	--	--