

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 203981

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/11/2024 10:03:56 AM

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

In my opinion, based on my 12 years working in the Forestry industry, Native Forest Harvesting is sustainable, current models and practices will certainly change due to the GKNP, but my hope is for the industry to survive in some form for future generations. If the 'Greens' get the outcome they're hoping for, not just calling for an end to Native Forest Harvesting, they'd like to see an end to plantation harvesting as well, Australians will be forced to import all timber products from other countries, countries that don't have many, if any environmental standard's to adhere to. This will certainly have a lesser environmental outcome for the planet. Areas of NSW state forests have extensive harvesting history, which up until 30 odd years ago, most harvesting was undertaken without many restrictions, despite this, you will find a greater diversity of flora and fauna in NSW state forests than any other tenure, including National Parks. From my experience and knowledge, locking areas up doesn't have a positive effect at all, on the contrary it has a detrimental effect. Add to this the the 'well intentioned' green rules preventing the routine burning practices that these areas need to remain healthy and you end up with a unhealthy forest with an overgrown understory that burns under the worst of conditions, creating a devastating crown fires that decimate all life in the forest and takes decades to recover from. Australian forests evolved with fire, Indigenous Australians burnt the landscape routinely for tens of thousands of years, yet now we think we know better and we have to 'protect' our forests by keeping fire out, it's insane and needs to change, I fear a worse fire season in the near future then the 19/20 season because we're not getting areas burnt that desperately need it. Getting back to sustainability, I have been involved with harvesting native forest for 10 years, I realise a recently harvested area can look confronting, but I have seen how harvested areas recover and I can confidently say that Native Forest Harvesting is a sustainable and renewable practice. NSW Native Forest Harvesting operations are the most regulated harvesting operations on the planet, if Native Forest Harvesting is to survive, the regulator must change its attitude and approach and try to work with Forestry to achieve REASONABLE outcomes for both parties.

It is my opinion that the hard 'greens' have very good intentions, but limited to no understanding of the forest or forestry operations and management. Their beliefs are fueled by their emotions and an idealistic perspective of the world. They ignore the facts and knowledge presented by people who have spent a lifetime learning the subject matter and dismiss legitimate studies and surveys because they don't align with views and ideals. It's a shame that this small group of people put no end of pressure on the Forestry regulator and the government and seem to be getting their way at every turn.

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

There is great environmental value to forests in NSW, there is tremendous diversity within our tenure, Forestry know more about these areas, study, document and map more of these areas than any other organisation. Hopefully this continues into the future and forests don't just get locked up and forgotten about.

The cultural value of NSW forests cannot be overstated, there are many known areas of cultural significance, and I'm sure there are many more to be discovered, if the forests are locked up and 'protected' these areas will likely never be identified. I believe that no matter what decisions are made regarding NSW forests, moving forward there should be more indigenous involvement in the management of NSW forests. This would surely have a positive impact on indigenous communities and their land. Keeping the forests available to be accessed is vital for indigenous communities, getting out on country and continuing the oldest culture on earth. This wouldn't happen if the forests were locked up and 'protected'.

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

The demand for timber products will continue to grow as long as the population continues to grow, there is a housing shortage that will continue into the foreseeable future. There is a move at the moment to composite power poles, I predict this will fail miserably within a decade, time and fire will prove to much for the composite pole, I believe the timber power pole to be the greener and better option.

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

There should be significant investment from government in expanding softwood and hardwood plantations in NSW, depending on decisions made there will be either a lot less area available for native harvesting or none at all, plantations will need to be expanded to fill the gap in demand, but importantly to note, if we acted swiftly, there would still be a 30 year wait until we started to see the gap filled by the plantations, what do we do in the meantime? A majority of plantations in the past were planted with non durable species, planted under carbon credit schemes and when the paper/pulp seemed a viable option. Unfortunately this idea didn't go as planned and the majority of current hardwood plantations aren't suitable for filling the gap of diminishing native forest harvesting. Urgent funding is required to replant current plantations with suitable durable species as well as expand hardwood plantations in NSW. The continuation of Private Native Forestry Harvesting is important to help keep up supply, but it is limited and can't be relied on to fill any significant gaps.

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 believe State Forests could be successful in a range of uses, including being sustainably harvested, which creates timber industry employment, environmental tourism and indigenous tourism, general public use and enjoyment and creating indigenous employment opportunities and developing partnerships with indigenous communities and implementing indigenous forest management.

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

The expansion of hardwood and softwood plantations would put more trees into the landscape, using up carbon and creating oxygen, timber is the ultimate renewable. More trees in the landscape will have a positive effect on climate change.

Public submission

Forests need to be burnt at the right time under the right conditions and this needs to happen often, this is the greatest defence our forests have against climate change. A low intensity fire will clean up the undergrowth without harming the crown of the mature trees while also promoting regeneration.

The amount of carbon released during a hot and devastating crown forest fire is much greater than a low intensity fire, and then the after effects of a crown fire last for many years even decades before the forest health improves to close to prior to the crown fire. Turning much less carbon into oxygen while recovering.