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

My comments are in relation to my experiences with Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry). My property has a several kilometers of boundary with Forestry. NSW Forestry are the 'neighbours from hell'. There are about 2000 property owners like myself with land adjoining NSW Forestry in the Bathurst, Oberon Orange area alone. The Forestry land that adjoins me was once picturesque cattle grazing paddocks when I first purchased my property and now is a noxious weed and feral animal- infested breeding ground ! Forestry allowed cattle grazing in their land adjoining me and their wild cattle played havoc with boundary fences. As Forestry are exempt from the provisions of the Dividing Fences Act, it was left to me to repair and in places replace, the ruined fences. Their pine plantations are a breeding ground and harbour for wild pigs, rabbits, foxes and kangaroos which freely trample and ruin our fences. This is an unsustainable situation which must be remedied. Firstly, NSW Forestry MUST be brought under the provisions of the Dividing Fences Act for a start.

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

Again, I am restricting my comments to NSW Forestry, which has been the basis of my experience. As outlined in Item 1. Forestry are hopeless land managers and their pine plantation land requires a complete overhaul. They are grossly ill-equipped to control and eradicate noxious weeds and feral animals which pervade their lands. Weeds such as blackberry and serrated tussock are rife on their land and only token spraying is ever done to control them. If the environmental management by Forestry is to be improved, they must be compelled to comply with the same weed and noxious animal controls as is required by we, adjoining farmers.

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

It is certainly unsustainable, the way NSW Forestry go about their property management, as outlined in Items 1 & 2. If NSW Forestry were compelled to properly manage their land, as we landowners are required, then their softwood timber production would be unviable economically. Much of their softwood produced is destined for use in the housing industry. Most of this timber goes into house frames which can be produced from steel in any case. The mining and steel industries in Australia could handle this supply.

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

I believe that the NSW Forestry softwood plantations are not environmentally sustainable nor viable under their present property management regime.

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

As outlined in other Items, The State Forests softwood industry is unsustainable environmentally and economically, should they be compelled to manage their land responsibly. Currently, their pathetic neighbour relations with adjoining landowners is appalling, resulting in very adverse social outcomes.

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

We now have NSW Forestry getting into bed with the wind turbine lobby, creating even more negative social impacts for near neighbours. Not only will we property owners have to watch the wild pigs, foxes and rabbits coming out of their Forests and through our fences, we'll have to view their giant wind turbines as well ! In no way should NSW Forestry land be used for wind farms, which is currently being proposed for the Canobolas State Forest and the Mullions Range State Forest.