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

Native forest logging impacts disastrously on the hydrology of our regions. Evidence has been presented to show that forests logged by today's industrial extraction methods increase the risk of fire.

Therefore native forest logging impacts disastrously on the water security of human populations. In the places where heavy rain fell after the 2019 wild fires NSW and Victoria, drinking water was undrinkable as it raced through the thick ash covering the ground.

Fortunately the big, tall moist Gondwana forests didn't burn in the 2019 fires. These forests became the only refuge for all species, including humans. They must be protected from all logging.

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

Looking up the into the hills and mountains I often watch first hand the cycle of rain falling on the forests thereby creating local low hanging mist which rises to become clouds again cooling the land, cleaning the air. We are very privileged to witness this high functioning ecosystem in our local area

I have begun to learn Gumbaynggirr language and the critical importance of the forests, the rivers, the sea and all the life that lives in it are of fundamental importance to First Nations culture and identity. But as a non-First Nations person I live beside gaagal (the ocean), near bindarray (the river) and am neighbour to Pine Creek Forest. This gives me and my community a strong cultural connection to all the environment in which we live.

For example, when I talk to my neighbours the conversation invariably turns to whether they went for a walk on the beach, fishing in the river or a walk or drive in the forest or just our keen observations of the weather, which birds we have seen or heard or perhaps what is flowering or fruiting at the time.

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

All economic arguments that I have heard to defend logging our native forests for timber products have been proven to be indefensible. It is widely acknowledged now that the clear felling of forests here on Gumbaynggirr country become nothing better than the lowest of the low products. For example the making of pallets! My friend recently has a delivery made to him on a pallet made from recycled plastic. A clear example of alternatives available. Housing and construction haven't been using timber from our forest for quality work for years so let's be honest here about the supply and demand arguments.

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

Please read my submission to point 3 for my response to 4.

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

There is ample evidence that Forestry Corporation's industrial scale, extractive logging practices are disastrous on many levels. The fact that Forestry Corporation continues to not only clear-fell but targets the very coups which they know they will be shut out of IF the NSW state government does actually get its act together to create the election promised Great Koala National Park. I think that the Forestry Corporation contracts should be paid out and that NSW government . I am not qualified to design implementation of the change required but the change should definitely include First Nations Ranger Programs which have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. These programs can show how First Nations knowledge and skilled management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape. We should be focussing on native forests that are not logged for their real and tangible benefits to greater tourism industry opportunities, carbon storage/abatement and the entire ecology. Tax-payers should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of the land on which we live and rely on for a healthy life.

At the expense of the NSW public! - the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars! AND it regularly receives tens of millions of dollars.

Leave the forests standing! They have a much higher economic value when they to function naturally without logging.

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

I'm not proficient at quoting statistics but I would like to be clear that I 100% support an end to native forest logging. This is to achieve the widely acknowledged and scientifically proven benefits of mitigating climate change, promoting a cleaner environment and developing clean tourism industry and perhaps even a respectfully and sustainable pharmacopeia industry. In conclusion, I think we can all see that the days of exploitative, extractive logging are coming to a close. BUT, I URGE THE PANEL TO ACT QUICKLY, to ensure the protection of our incredible Gumbaynggirr and statewide forest environments, that they are saved before the targeted logging destroys their integrity. The alternative, if logging continues as it has and is doing so now, is one sad, failed excuse for a Dysfunctional National Koala Park. Please ACT IMMEDIATELY TO STOP LOGGING NATIVE FORESTS.