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

Current fire and forest management practices need improving on private land, in State Forests and National Parks.

We own some forest country ourselves - coastal grey box and spotted gum - and grow commercial trees and we manage our forest to minimise the risk of fires.

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

The idea of harvesting a forest, in respect to PNF, is that you begin with a forest, you finish with a forest. There are a variety of harvest methods with their own pros and cons for environmental values, we use single tree selection - identifying where the forest growth has stagnated due to overcrowding and thinning these areas to enable trees to grow on healthily. We also remove any sick or diseased trees from the forest that are not habitat material. Harvesting the forest can improve forest health and increase native biodiversity.

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

We are ██████ based hardwood timber harvesting contractors who work mostly in the Casino and Northern Rivers districts.

The 25 year old company supplies 2 mills with timber harvested from private land.

We only do private land work because private forestry gives you more sales and marketing options. You have a bit more flexibility as a contractor.

Most of our poles are going to Queensland. ██████ buy the logs. Most of the sawn timber is going to Sydney and Brisbane. Some of it is exported.

Our business has 2 full time employees and use sub contractors for haulage. It's a small team but we have lots of experience and skills that include accounting & administration, vegetation planting for vegetation management and timber harvesting. Plus we do our own mechanical and workshop repairs.

There is a fair bit of work around in private forestry and, if there was more certainty about the future of the hardwood timber industry, we would employ more people. But I would not invest in the timber harvesting business at the moment because there is so much change and uncertainty about.

When we are busy, around 70% of our business spend goes to local businesses, including salaries and fuel and the royalty payment to the land holders we are working with.

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

Private Native Forestry in NSW could supply a lot more hardwood but you would need to provide incentives for better management of private land forests and I am not sure of how you would do it.

The hardwood we get from PNF is good quality.

PNF has stepped up in recent years. The pressure to supply has increased because of the supply issues State Forests have had since the fires of 2019.

But in our area, I don't know if PNF can even maintain the current supply levels in the years ahead because the management of private land is variable.

PNF could not supply enough hardwood to replace the timber harvested in State Forests because there are not enough hardwood trees growing on private land.

The state government will need to develop new incentives if they want to significantly increase the amount of hardwood supplied from private land.

Hardwood plantations take around 50 years before they can supply timber and at the moment there are not many hardwood plantations supplying the NSW market.

If the government wanted to increase the amount of hardwood supplied by plantations, they would need to develop some incentives and reform the planning rules to give plantation owners certainty that they will be able to harvest the wood when their plantations are mature.

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 work with Local Land Service who help to develop the Private Vegetation Plans and the Forest Management Plans. The LLS imposes exclusion zones around historical sites, Aboriginal heritage sites, the habitat of endangered plants and animals. Then, if the plans get approved, the LLS provides us with an electronic map of the property which shows where we are allowed to harvest. Every dedicated forestry job will create another job - whether at a local shop or business in town, in the LLS or service sector.

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

Not enough is known about this yet.