

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 204774

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 11:40:43 AM

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

There are two elements to sustainability, sustainability of the industry and sustainability of the inhabitants of the forests. On both counts I rate Forestry operations as a failure.

This industry is completely dependent on tax payer subsidies to survive, that is just not sustainable. The softwood plantation sector is profitable and does not rely on government hand-outs. Softwood plantations are the future for Forestry. The faster we transition to it the more secure timber jobs will become and the less endangered animals we lose. NZ stopped logging their native forests in 2001. In 2022 they exported \$6.4 billion worth of timber. By clinging to native forests logging and not moving to pine Australia is a nett importer of timber, only managing to export \$2.46 billion whilst importing \$4 billion. This is not sustainable for Australia's forests of for the countries we are importing the timber from. Transitioning to softwood plantations would make us sustainable.

Forestry operations are in no way sustainable for the vast number of inhabitants of our forests. 176 species are dependent on tree hollows. Hollows take 100+ years to form. Logging rotations of 30 year cycles means we have lost and continue to lose many essential hollows. Greater glider numbers have plummeted by 80% in the last 20 years. This is not sustainable.

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

The environmental values of forests barely seem to rate any consideration by NSWFC. The current situation where NSWFC does their own ecological surveying is akin to Dracula in charge of the blood bank. There is ZERO incentive for Forestry to find things that would inhibit their ability to log. It is well known that the "ecologists" Forestry uses to do surveying find what their employers pay them to find. If they find too many things that would cause problems for Forestry they would be replaced by someone with less scruples. There has to be fully impartial flora and fauna surveys, this just does not happen now. Perhaps there should be financial incentives to find endangered species. The fact that Forestry used to conduct surveys for Greater gliders, a completely nocturnal animal, they conducted these surveys in the daytime. The fact the EPA, the alleged watchdog for Forestry when confronted with this daytime survey farce tried to just eliminate the need for doing glider surveys altogether just goes to show how derelict the EPA is in being any type of watchdog. It was only after a huge public outcry that the EPA reinstated some (albeit extremely inadequate) surveying requirements. It has been estimated that the current surveying techniques will find less than 5 % of the endangered gliders den trees.

Two trees, *Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* both critically endangered are likely to become extinct in the next decade at the current rate of decline due to their susceptibility to myrtle rust. Their only hope is if a specimen with resistant genetics can be found. This makes every specimen alive now extremely important. There are virtually no large trees of either species alive any more, they exist only as seedlings and root suckers. The only protection that is offered in state forests for these trees is for specimens over 3m and 15m. This means there is essentially zero protection for these trees despite their imminent extinction. In the Bulga Forest there are

about 40 *Rhodamnia rubescens* that are on a track about to be bulldozed without a second thought. This is not in any way good stewardship. If a plant is critically endangered every specimen should be protected.

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

The great myth of needing hardwood timber for housing still exists. The fact is apart from a bit of high end hardwood flooring virtually all houses are made out of plantation pine these days. Apart from being cheaper it is the fact you can easily use a pneumatic nail gun on pine and you can't with hardwood that has resulted in the almost universal use of plantation pine for construction.

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

There needs to be as much greater investment in both softwood and hardwood plantations. This will secure all timber jobs currently relying on native forests logging. By hardwood plantations I mean using surplus already cleared farmland, definitely not just converting current mixed species native forests into a an industrial monoculture. The current techniques where NSWFC convert native forests into monocultures results into a biological desert that provides little to no habitat for almost every species that used to live there. As for Private Native Forestry this needs to be massively more regulated. Huge areas of high value ecosystems are being destroyed with hardly a second glance. Landowners should be able to more easily access carbon credits and the like for preserving high ecological value forests. Yet again more plantations are the best long term solution.

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

For State Forests to maximise economic outcomes they must simply stop the loss making logging of native forests. To maximise the environmental and social outcomes they must simply stop logging native forests. The massive loss in tourism potential with each logging cycle is difficult to fathom. The Great Koala National Park that was promised has 13 active logging operations currently underway. This could have been an extremely valuable tourism attraction generating billions of dollars over time but at the rate it is being logged there will soon be little to no tourism value (or koalas). I am fully supportive of all Aboriginal forest management models that benefit the forest. I am wary of it being used as a backdoor entry by loggers to continue logging our forests.

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 am fully supportive of any credible scheme that implements full and complete protection for our forests. There have been many schemes that have offered sham protection in the past and I would hope we could learn from these mistakes. Climate change is another essential reason to end native forests logging. In the upper catchments intact forests keep the rivers in a healthy state, allowing the soil to remain stable and moist. Logged forests make the area hotter, drier and windier. These are the three main factors that drive fire intensity. Science has shown conclusively now that logged forests burn more intensely than unlogged forests. As climate change continues to drive temperatures higher the need to end native forests logging also grows.