

NAME REDACTED

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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

(Previously submitted comment for this Item contained errors).

Plantation timber operations should be encouraged to meet sustainable standards in their supply of timber and if wanted these operations could accept the risk/benefit of entering additional markets such as carbon or biodiversity in addition to the provision of timber.

Native Forest logging operations should be ceased and these areas should not participate in any economic markets for a variety of reasons.

It is of societal benefit to dispute the idea that "everything needs always to be about money"™ and to recognise that value cannot always be measured and quantified into monetary terms.

Forests and their biodiversity should be realised to have intrinsic value, along with the multiple benefits they provide outside the economic system.

Value for the Australian population stems from increasing national pride in protecting the perpetuation of our unique biodiverse ecosystems, and this supports unification in our cultural and societal Australian identity. Additional value comes from supporting ecological services provided from intact Forests, including supporting biodiversity, nutrient, carbon and water cycles on which human society depends.

Other objections to participating in these markets is the recognition that there is an inability to adequately and accurately assess the ecological interactions and processes with currently available scientific measures. The dynamic nature of natural processes and increasing climate variability brings additional risks to participating in markets, such as the carbon or biodiversity markets.

Predicted increasing drought and catastrophic fire occurrence may lead to increased economic risk if participating within a market structure.