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

I would like to point out to begin with that current Forestry practices are unsustainable as we see with recent losses in the vicinity of \$10m and propping up of the Industry by NSW Government (ie the taxpayers of NSW) with regular financial support and subsidies. So yes there needs to be change to current operations.

So we need to look hard at what is being done now and to avoid or minimise these practices and be realistic as to what is a future picture for Forestry operations in NSW.

Given our breathtaking rate of increasing threatened and endangered species of nature we need to prioritise the consideration of this in a 'future plan' as well as the ever increasing impacts of change of climate. This needs to be area specific. For example here on the Mid North Coast (coastal) increasing flood risk and erosion needs to be taken into account. Also waterway health and pollution. Other forests (non coastal) will have increased bushfire risk given what practices in management are used and what species planted after logging. Current clear fell logging is totally inappropriate (although convenient for machinery) in our forests here.

The weed invasion particularly from clear felling here on the North Coast is incredible and what is more so is the amount of poisons used to 'remedy this' with resultant run off into local waterways. Also the practice of wind rowing with huge piles of 'debris' (probably koala food trees), from operations left to burn for days. Not particularly good for the environment. Not sustainable

With the removal of protections in 2018 there has seen an acceleration in intensive logging both Private and State.

In particular the logging of Native Forests has seen loss of carbon storage, loss of biomass and a huge decrease in the amount of hollow bearing and potential hollow bearing trees that many of our endangered species such as greater gliders and powerful owls rely on for housing.

The fact we lost Billions of species (including insects) in the Black summer bushfires of 2019-20 has not been taken into account with logging practices at all and it should have been by now near 5 years on.

I have seen data outlining declining yields and that logging native forests is not financially sustainable. I think plantations that can be managed sustainably and that be 'true' plantation, not 50 plus years old with a healthy biodiverse forest environment supporting a range of threatened and endangered species. The use of cleared farm land for the agricultural model of practice of a planted forest should be the way of future, in my opinion.

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

Forests, particularly state forests should be there for all people to use in a manner of way that causes minimal disturbance to the flora and fauna.

For example camping, mountain biking, tourism, bush walks, citizen science surveys all help connect people to the forest and enjoy its benefits.

An intact forest, particularly a mature one, generate a cooling landscape, helps create clean air (remembering the basic transpiration process as to how we get oxygen to breathe) as well as sound buffers in noisy environments.

In fact the trend of 'forest bathing' to help invigorate and restore oneself is on the up and up in this modern world with so few chances to connect to nature and breathe unpolluted air.

I cannot speak for indigenous persons per say, but from my understanding of their culture, connection to country is extremely important as to your very being. For some nations, revival of cultures and practices or others continuation of, needs

to be acknowledging the many thousands of years of Aboriginal people have been here before 'white settlement', and their use of so called land management practices. Practices need to change to reflect this. For example with Fire management in forests, including state forests. Obviously the environmental value of a forest is one that is intact. Mature forests and Native forests need to be left intact to do their thing and house all those species including those threatened and endangered.

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

I think here is the spot to highlight the fact that a HUGE amount of what is actually logged ends up as wood chips and probably biomass. From 50 to 90%. This is such a terrible waste with so few of high value logs being salvaged from destructive forest logging operations.

I live near a mill and as I pass by on an almost daily basis I see the piles and piles of logs (many hollow). Then mountains of firewood piles. What happens when it rains (which it does constantly here) and/ or it's a warm winter and supply is exceeded. It rots or if processed soon enough gets turned into wood chips. The waste is excessive. I believe we export almost half of native hardwoods logged as wood chips and almost 90% from hardwood plantations.

So timber demand from state forests needs to address the huge wastage issue with careful logging of proper plantations and Private Native Forest with monitoring from organisations such as a revamped EPA to supply 'timber needs'.

In fact 'timber needs' are changing as other products such as recycled hard plastics, bamboo and hemp could easily take some pressure off demand and help the environment in the process.

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

It is not sustainable to log old forests, native forests or those with biodiversity that have been shown to connectivity for native fauna within it. Plantations such as Pine Creek Compartment 14 should never have been clear fell logged and with it the Koala Hub that now no longer exists. It was a mature forest and had healthy pockets with bio diversity within it and evidence of koalas using it. Hardwood plantations should be assessed on the basis of their environmental worth first. Surveys need to be properly done to show this. The practice of clear fell logging should cease.

Private hardwood forests under supervision may be able to provide additional needs. RFA's need to be more realistic and should never have been pushed through when they were, with the yields targeted, especially in light of the black summer bushfires. Future agriculture plantations of both hardwood and softwood opportunities exist and I am perplexed as to why this is not being promoted as it seems an obvious choice. This being 5 years after the fires.

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

The big drawback for the Mid North Coast here is nature tourism and we have healthy forests here just waiting to be explored, intact not trashed. Keeping native forests and biodiverse mature plantation intact will also reduce species extinction in the process. It will also help with carbon storage. Economic losses from logging could be minimised and less species killed or homeless during logging operations. In fact it appears currently we are paying to have our forests trashed. The Aboriginal ranger programme is a very worthy programme and should be rolled out on a larger scale. Also as previously discussed fire management from first nations people to be incorporated in management. As also discussed wide ranges of forest uses could be promoted more with community involvement. For example our local forest has horse riders, mountain bikers, hikers, citizen scientists and picnickers.. Forests can be used for bees for pollination and probably many other non impacting uses.

'Cross cultural' projects with community working with local first Nations people with knowledge sharing with Wildlife rangers such as was done at Muurrbay with the 'Bat Roost project' are the way to go. How wonderful was it to know that the roosts are in use for the intended occupants. Native forest in particular should be left intact to do its thing. Helping with water yields, retaining carbon storage and biomass loss as well as providing protection, housing and food for our threatened and endangered species,. Plants, animals and insects no less.

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

The current practice of logging native forest actually releases several tonnes of carbon per annum. So stopping it makes sense just for this reason. If native forest logging is stopped carbon will be retained and there is more of a chance for us to meet the climate targets by 2025. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and help reduce the impacts of climate heating. Left intact they are our insurance for future disasters. The use of burning biomass for electricity production should be banned. If the biomass residue wasn't created in the first place from wasteful logging practices, then it wouldn't be even considered. In fact here in parts of the Mid North Coast our forests should be protected as we were one of the few in NSW not to have suffered in the black summer bushfires. The practice of large scale industrial Clear fell logging also needs to be banned in this era of climate change. It is wasteful, has a high impact on environment and species, and is dangerous in regards to fire risks.

Logging should only be selective and well considered in this changing climate.

Maybe Forestry operations just need to be scaled down to consider the environment with a realisation that things are not what they used to be and the environment is unable to cope with those practices now. A reality check.