

Public submission

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205184

Organisation: *N/A*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/13/2024 9:11:54 PM

Submission template

Your submission

1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

The native forestry industry in NSW is both environmentally and financially unsustainable: the NSW Forestry Corporation operates at a loss despite receiving \$246.9m in taxpayer-funded grants since 2019/20.

Meanwhile, NSW has lost tree cover at over 3 times the national average between 2001 and 2023 (3.01 Mha compared to national average of 1 Mha). While fire represents the greatest driver of this lost tree cover, it points to the importance of protecting native habitat through putting an end to logging native forests.

Remaining native forest should be left untouched in order to protect old-growth trees essential to our unique fauna – such as koalas, greater gliders, glossy black cockatoos and other key species.

Instead, the forestry industry should focus on harvesting plantation timber from already cleared land and considering using of alternative revenue models, notably carbon credits.

Sources:

Arnold, S. 'NSW Forestry Corporation is losing money, risking the environment, yet logging continues', Michael West Media (<https://michaelwest.com.au/nsw-forestry-corporation-is-losing-money-risking-the-environment-yet-logging-continues/>)

Global Forest Watch, Australia dashboard
(<https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/AUS/>)

Marsden Jacob Associates, 'New South Wales Nature-Based Outdoor Economy: Key estimates and recommendations'
(<https://www.skillsiq.com.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/MarsdenJacobs/NSW%E2%80%99s%20Nature%20Based%20Outdoor%20Economy.pdf>)

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

From an environmental perspective, habitat loss is a major contributor to our threatened species: 'Seventy threatened species impacted by continued logging, now have 50%, or less, of their habitat remaining.'

It is clear that looking at native forests as an environmental and cultural assets, rather than a resource, better meets the contemporary needs of NSW.

Sources:

Submission template

World Wildlife Fund, 'New Research Shows 54% Of NSW's Forests And Woodlands Are Gone' (<https://wwf.org.au/news/2023/new-research-shows-54-of-nsws-forests-and-woodlands-are-gone/>)

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

Investment in the plantation timber industry (as opposed to the native forestry industry) can and should meet NSW's commercial and residential timber needs. Ending native forest logging will have minimal impact on these given that an astonishing '86 per cent of native forests are felled for low-end products such as woodchips, paper pulp and box liners'.

Source:

'Native forest logging back in the spotlight in NSW after changes in Victoria', *Sydney Morning Herald* (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/native-forest-logging-back-in-the-spotlight-in-nsw-after-changes-in-victoria-20230528-p5dbus.html>)

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

I support the continued development of plantations on already cleared land to meet timber supply needs.

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 billions of dollars that nature-based outdoor activities contribute to the NSW economy point to the shifting value that State Forests can provide. Investing in outdoor recreation and tourism in these areas will provide a far greater and more sustainable return for communities.

Conversely, unsustainable subsidisation of the NSW Forestry Corporation redirects funds from more environmentally and economically sustainable operations.

Sources

Marsden Jacob Associates, 'New South Wales Nature-Based Outdoor Economy: Key estimates and recommendations'

(<https://www.skillsiq.com.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/MarsdenJacobs/NSW%E2%80%99s%20Nature%20Based%20Outdoor%20Economy.pdf>)

Submission template

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 support developing appropriate models to use existing native forests as part of carbon and biodiversity markets. However, these models should not be a cover for logging by another name – for example the ‘adaptive harvesting’ proposal put forward recently by Forestry Australia which would still allow logging under the guise of increasing carbon storage.

Source:

David Lindenmayer, Brendan Mackey and Heather Keith, ‘Industry push to earn carbon credits from Australia’s native forests would be a blow for nature and the climate’ <https://iced.s.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/industry-push-earn-carbon-credits-australia%E2%80%99s-native-forests-would-be-blow-nature>

After filling in this submission template, please upload the completed submission to our online submission portal, linked [here](#). When you upload your submission successfully, you will receive a confirmation email from us. If you don’t receive a confirmation email, please check your Junk Email folder. If you have further issues, please email forestryiap@ipcn.nsw.gov.au for assistance.