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Submission ID: 205231

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:09:50 PM

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

It is by any reasonable standard unconscionable that the people of NSW, via the NSW State Government, should be made to pay many millions of dollars to prop up a failing industry, the logging of our native public forests, carried out by the Forestry Corporation - when this industry, in addition to being physically and economically unsustainable, is having dire effects on the natural environment, is contributing to the likely extinction of threatened species and to global warming, and is unnecessary in view of adequate timber supplies from other, plantation, sources. It appears that currently our native public forests are being mined for all they are worth (the yield from State Forests has decreased by 40% since 2010, and theoretical protection for mature trees was removed in 2018). This is unsustainable use. The native forests are far more valuable unlogged for their environmental, climate, and social benefits than for a dwindling resource the retrieval of which is economic nonsense.

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

Unlogged, healthy forests provide for maximum biodiversity, are essential for efficient pollination, and locally affect climate by cooling and cleaning the air and enhancing rainfall. There are also health and social benefits to people visiting these forests, and they are obviously of particular importance to First Nations people. Native forest logging inevitably adversely affects the ability of ecosystems to support the many threatened species across the many habitats covered by NSW native forests. Mature forests provide food sources and old tree hollows and hollow logs which are crucial to the survival of a number of such species.

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

By far the major part of Australia's log production (91%) is provided by plantation timber, and this could be higher if more useable timber was retained instead of being exported as woodchips. A better use of public money would be for the NSW Government to subsidise plantations on already cleared private land instead of propping up the Forestry Corporation.

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

Please see above.

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

State Forests can maximise the delivery of a range of beneficial outcomes for the environment, the State's economy and recreational opportunities by stopping the logging in the first instance.

First Nations Ranger Programs have proved successful. The emphasis should be on protection and enhancement, rather than on developing a range of exploitative opportunities.

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

Logging native forests reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half and is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon in NSW every year. Unlogged forests are better able to adapt to a changing climate and effects such as fire and flood.