

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205244

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** Redacted

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:18:55 PM

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

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I believe all evidence suggests that logging in native forests is not sustainable. Healthy forest ecosystems require a diverse age class and logging native forests removes the older trees, removing hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, such as the Koala and the Great Glider. Due to continued logging, disturbance, and fragmentation of native forests, this will likely contribute greatly to the extinction of forest dependent wildlife. It is particularly important to protect unburnt forests that survived the 2019/20 fires, as these areas have become refugia for many species and this has made the case for ending native forest logging and forest protection much more urgent and serious.

The NSW Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support, and is facing continual legal action and fines in NSW courts.

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

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As discussed above, native forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on undisturbed, mature, intact, connected and unfragmented forest areas.

The future of NSW State Forests is to provide important services for the environment and regional communities, including managing and regulating water quality, providing large tracts of native habitat / ecosystem function, and providing important recreational and tourism activities. These forests also have cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities. For these reasons, NSW State forests have far more value left intact and protected for future generations, and left to mature and become richer in ecological diversity.

Recently, there has been a lot of money spent in replanting key Koala tree species in previously disturbed areas. At the same time, NSW state forests are continuing to be logged, including in areas where mature and ecologically important tree species exist. This does not make financial or ecological sense. NSW taxpayers deserve to know that efforts to save endangered or threatened species are being as effective as possible and are not counter-productive. If the NSW government is serious about Koala conservation, it needs to follow through with commitments to create the Great Koala National Park and cease all logging operations within the proposed park boundaries.

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

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There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. It has been proven that plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber product needs. Shifting to plantation timber reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry practices. The building industry has also evolved in its diverse use of sustainable alternatives to native forest timber, including many engineered and natural alternative products. Shifting away from native forest logging would further develop and create a diverse and innovative plantation industry. This includes forcing the paper product industry to search for alternatives to forestry woodchips, such as hemp products.

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

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Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. Further investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future and provide ongoing and expanding employment opportunities. Also, ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands. As discussed above, timber product alternatives, such as hemp products, have been proven to be far more sustainable.

#### **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**

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Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, job creation, recreational opportunities and carbon capture.

The NSW Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations.

Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal burning methods, can enhance the cultural and social value of intact 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**

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Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change.

Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support critical government commitments and climate goals.

Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.

By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.