

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205255

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:27:46 PM

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

Native forest logging in NSW, as elsewhere in Australia, is financially unsustainable and is a financial burden to taxpayers. This is evident by the published annual subsidies provided to the industry in NSW (e.g. \$250 million in 2020) and the losses that the industry makes e.g. \$30 million (2019-2020). The majority of timber we required for construction and industry comes from plantations so logging of hardwood native species is not needed.

It is financially illogical and irresponsible for a government to support an industry that makes no money, costs the government money, employs very few people and does not provide the goods that we use (with the bulk of our native trees being turned into woodchips and exported).

If for none other than financial reasons, the native forest logging industry should be rapidly shut down, as it has been in other States, and current workers supported to transition into the plantation industry or other areas.

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

Native forest logging directly harms, kills or otherwise reduces the environmental and cultural values of the logged forests. It is a major cause of decline of hollow nesting fauna species with many of these now listed as threatened. In southern NSW numerous breaches of protocol during logging have exacerbated the situation and indicate the inadequacy of regulation.

Further, fire sensitivity and severity is much greater in forests that have undergone logging and this places regional towns and communities near State Forests at increased risk during dangerous fire seasons. As demonstrated by the impact of the Black Summer fires, the environmental, financial and social burden of such fires are severe and long lasting.

Additionally, the presence of logging activities seems to be having a negative impact on tourist perceptions of our area and on their view of Australia's commitments to the environmental (this opinion is based on visitor comments about the amount of logging trucks on the roads in southern NSW 2024).

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

Native forest logging does not supply much wood to the construction, mining etc. industries, and could cease without disruption to these industries. The vast majority of timber we require for housing, construction etc. comes from plantations, and this is also where the bulk of timber workers are employed. The plantation timber industry should therefore be fully supported to develop and carry out best practice management. Further, careful siting of plantations should take place so that NO current native forest and NO quality agricultural land is converted to plantations.

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

As for answers in Questions 3 & 4.

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

Evidence indicates that various alternative ('diverse') active management models being advocated or trialed (such as thinning trials and 'Forest Gardening') are ill founded and/or do not improve the environmental outcomes for the forest. In particular, thinning makes forests much more vulnerable to fire.

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

Intact unlogged forests contribute much more to mitigation and adaptation measures and they sequester much more carbon than logged forests. Therefore, the cessation of native forest logging would greatly contribute to our obligations to meet various climate change targets and reduce emissions.