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Submission ID: 205265

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:37:54 PM

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

By my estimation, current practices of logging in public native forests have not been sustainable since over two decades. That is the result of over-estimation of supply and unsustainable supply agreements, under-estimation of degradation, reliance on subsidies, value-negative wood-chipping, and no resource rent or accounting for external costs to society from poor management. It is nonsense to call current practices 'renewable'.

There needs a complete rethink using real data and taking account of what is now a burgeoning private plantation industry supplying wood products, as well as new non-timber construction products.

Most State Forests should be considered for inclusion under environmental conservation tenure. That which does not qualify should be managed as plantation, with proper valuation of this public resource as finite, not infinite as in the past.

Perhaps revisit the small-operator model, as many of the problems have arisen since the corporatisation of state forestry, with accompanying mechanisation and centralisation and loss of small business benefit.

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

The potential for forests to sustain these values are myriad and well known. Poor forestry management degrades that potential. Most State Forests should be protected under environmental conservation or NSW will not meet its existing biodiversity targets, let alone sufficient to compensate for desired future population growth.

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

By any measure, you must avoid a siloed mentality. Much demand can now and is being met by plantation timber and alternatives to timber.

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

Plantations should be the focus. I understand that their production already nearly meets Australia's needs for sawlogs, and greatly outperforms production from public forests. Woodchip export is excessive, potentially depriving us of log supply. Stop subsidising logging in public native forests and incentivise value-added production from plantations.

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

In view of the degradation caused by historic forestry practices in State Forests, I do not understand the idea of 'maximising the delivery' of the nominated outcomes and options. Are you intending to review practices so that truly positive outcomes can be delivered?

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

We rely on healthy forests for numerous such opportunities, including carbon sequestration, conservation of rain water, protection of catchment water quality, temperature moderation. Sequestration will be fastest and maximised by ceasing logging, protecting standing trees as well as encouraging new.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.