

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205311

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 11:41:43 PM

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

It is time to convert the remaining state forests to national parks.

I support an immediate end to native forest logging and a future industry based on sustainable plantations.

Logging native forests is not sustainable: not for the trees, not for other species that depend on trees, and not politically.

Like most voters, I believe the science. Experts tell us our Forestry Corporation consistently over-estimate harvestable timber. The yield from public native forests has been declining, even though politicians outrageously removed protections from old trees and more in 2018.

Moreover, logging native forests reduces critical habitat for our increasing number of threatened species. Outrageously, the extreme fire season did not stop our Forestry Corporation from logging refuges that the fires had spared. And shamefully -- for the politicians who allow it as well as the Forestry Corporation executives who execute it -- the declaration of the Great Koala National Park has intensified logging of the areas the Park should protect.

We have seen both big parties continue pander to the Forestry Corporation. By allowing our Forestry Corporation to intensify logging in areas we expected the Great Koala National Park would protect, the Minn government has betrayed the trust of voters who value our precious environment for many reasons other than their extractive value.

Besides the corruption of integrity in politics, logging native forests is not sustainable economically. The entire industry depends on tax payer subsidies, helping mills modernise, paying compensation to millers for inability to supply, buying back commitments from millers for timber that never existed, and buying timber from private land to meet unrealistic commitments.

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

Those trees are our Countrymen.

What we cannot replace, is invaluable.

We must learn to look after Country here, or our future and our children's future is bleak.

Many voters know this and feel it. We also know that our Forestry Corporation lies repeatedly in its surveys of hollow trees, Greater Glider dens and more.

In the face of such deceitful business practices, we are increasingly willing to put our lives on hold and to risk our personal comfort, our safety and (ha!) our economic security to stand up for Country. To put our bodies on the line. That is how we value forests.

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

NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail do not depend on logging native forests nor on plantation hardwood. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for most current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example. Most of what we log in our native forests is turned to "pulp products". Native forests contributed less than 10% of log production in Australia in 2023. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips!

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

There is no future in logging native forests. Most voters agree that the logs harvested from native forests and also the trees we turned to pulp products were worth very much more standing and growing, as habitat, including for endangered species, and in its contribution to the air and water we depend on.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land, and under strict conditions.

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

Our forests are precious. They are essential to the biodiversity and environment on which we depend, and on which our children and theirs should be able to depend. Forests also have cultural values that put our Forestry Corporation to shame. Intact forests also support many other economic activities besides the timber industry.

First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape.

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 in a native forest releases huge amounts of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Intact forests are also more resilient to climate change. And intact forests are essential for safeguarding much of our biodiversity.

Much more than any short-term and illusory value from heavily subsidised wood production, forests are valuable for their critical role in carbon storage, the water cycle, providing critical habitat, reducing fire risk, recreation and spiritual connection.