

Public submission

MARIUS HEYMANN

Submission ID: 203364

Organisation: *Newell's Creek Sawmilling Co*

Location: *New South Wales*

Supporting materials uploaded: *Attached overleaf*

Submission date: 10/9/2024 6:28:36 AM

Submission template

Your submission

1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

Forestry in NSW is one of the most regulated industries in Australia. For more than 100 years this industry has been operating with balanced economic and environmental outcomes. Public forests undergo selective harvesting, meaning no clear felling occurs. There are 26 million hectares of forest in NSW; of this area state forest only manages two million hectares, of this 1.2 million hectares is protected due to environmental restrictions (old growth, riparian zones, rainforests and other), of the 800,00 hectares left, less than 0.1% is harvested annually.

The area harvested is based on single tree selection with basal area restrictions in place. Once the area is logged it then grows on and over the next 50 years this area will recover and produce a new crop. It is proven Koalas and other wildlife thrive under these conditions as enough vegetation and habitat trees are left to sustain them and at the same time young regrowth comes back to replace the trees removed. The forest industry contributes \$2.9 billion to the NSW economy and employs close to 9,000 people directly.

The future of this industry should be based on factual and historical data and not on fabricated stories. Koalas are not endangered. Koalas are thriving in the state forests of NSW. Recent studies by the CSIRO and the Department of Primary Industries Forest Science Division have proven this.

Forest operations in NSW are beneficial to the protection of the forests, helping to prevent extreme forest fires through the maintenance of fire trails, controlled burning operations, heavy harvesting equipment that RFS uses to open fire breaks and the removing of dangerous trees during fire events.

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

Forest management and operations are regulated under the CIFOA, and these regulations take in to account environmental management and cultural values, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Planning harvesting operations ensures minimal impact to threatened species and the protection of critical habitats like riparian zones, rainforest and old-growth forests. Seasonal studies are done prior to harvesting operations and incorporated into the harvest planning to make sure fauna and flora are protected.

There are high priorities around Aboriginal cultural heritage values and outcomes promoting Aboriginal forest management models.

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

The Newell's Creek Sawmilling Company runs a sawmill in the Bulahdelah area. The company also harvests timber and provides haulage and logistics services to customers. We produce decking and flooring for homes. Hardwood for home building. Commercial construction timber, pallet timber, fencing, mining timber, railway sleepers, oyster farm timber, firewood and wood chips for landscaping. An onsite sub-contractor is using some of our pulp to produce biochar and generate electricity.

Submission template

The company has 120 full time employees.

It's a workforce with years of experience that includes truck drivers, our qualified harvesting machine operators, skilled manual workforce in the mills, the management team and administration. Occupational health & safety training is provided for everyone and we make sure that all of the employees understand and comply with all the relevant government regulations and laws.

80% of our employees live in Bulahdelah and 20% live in surrounding districts.

Our products are mostly distributed by wholesalers in Sydney, Newcastle, local districts and to the Hunter Valley mines.

Timber sales account for 70% of annual company income and biproducts, harvesting and transportation services around 30%.

40% of our annual operating expenses are payments to local businesses and employees.

The dollar value of our business spending in Bulahdelah is more than 10 million dollars each year.

Global demand for forestry products is projected to quadruple by the end of this decade. There is a shortfall of hardwood and softwood across Australia and even more in NSW due to the number of new dwellings being built. A recent report from Master Builders Australia and the Australian Forest Products Association estimates that the NSW timber shortfall will be equivalent of 250,000 house frames by 2035.

Timber is a natural, sustainable resource and its demand is likely to increase as it remains the material of choice across many industries. Durable hardwood for poles are not easy to replace and using composite material just adds to the carbon footprint, as it has to be made from material that is not carbon neutral but extremely detrimental to the environment. Timber is lower in emissions and has a cleaner supply chain, requiring less energy. Timber is a sustainable renewable resource.

A reduction in native forestry operations would heavily impact the availability of hardwood timber, essential for infrastructure, transport and mining. Lower grade timber is widely used in the mining industry to support underground mining operations.

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

Hardwood plantations have the potential for expansion but can never replace the nativeForest Industry due to limitations of available land, low financial returns and long growth cycles. Private Native Forestry is important to supplement the supply from public native forests but can never replace it. Similar environmental rules apply to private native forests as public native forests.

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 have managed public native forests for more than 100 years and the forest health has not deteriorated but is now broadly better due to strict environmental and forest management practices, all whilst maintaining sound economic outcomes.

Submission template

State Forest and National Parks could and should be managed as a tenure neutral entity. This means we manage the land (all public forests) sustainably.

Currently, public forest (state forests) is managed separately from National Parks. During the 2019 bush fires, most of the fires burning in National Parks had devastating consequences, as some of these areas had not maintained their fire trails, had locked gates (no access), had areas taken over by noxious weeds (lantana etc). If we manage these areas as tenure neutral, we can have better outcomes to suit all: environmental protection, timber harvesting, fire trails, utilising the resource for fire prevention, road and bridge maintenance, camping areas and the input of the Traditional Landowners in fire management.

The greatest benefit to the community will be the management of the land (SF and NP) for the future and not short-term financial outcomes. It should be focused on economic development, regional employment and environmental sustainability and focusing on diverse management models incorporating the Traditional Owners, enhancing both cultural heritage and sustainable practices.

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

Forest management in NSW is aligned with ecological sustainability, contributing to carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection. Forestry has a role to play in mitigating climate change through carbon markets. Sustainable forestry practices and land management by managing the land for all the people of NSW. A tenure neutral landscape incorporating National Parks and State Forests with sound forest management and environmental management practices and a sound economic outcome.

After filling in this submission template, please upload the completed submission to our online submission portal, linked [here](#). When you upload your submission successfully, you will receive a confirmation email from us. If you don't receive a confirmation email, please check your Junk Email folder. If you have further issues, please email forestryiap@ipcn.nsw.gov.au for assistance.