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Submission ID: 204157

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: Attached overleaf

Submission date: 10/11/2024 4:39:00 PM

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

I am vehemently opposed to the ongoing logging of our native forests. This practice is not only unsustainable but the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees. 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests. Australia is already the leader in mammal extinctions and so many of our precious creatures are on the brink of demise. The destruction / removal of more of our native forests will seal the deal for so many of these species. And once they are extinct that's it, they are gone, forever. Australia advertises itself as a haven for nature and its wildlife but the reality is that the animals and ecosystems here are suffering and the native logging industry is destroying the little habitat that is left for so many of these animals and birds. Native forest logging also reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers and increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species.

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

Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity. 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.

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

When we look at the facts, half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchips and exported. A travesty, Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year. 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

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

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.

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

Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species.

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year.

Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.

