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

The Native Forest industry operates a very small portion of NSW Forest. 88% of NSW Forest is already in national park and conservation reserves completely protected. State forest operated by Forestry Corporation NSW (was NSW State Forest) controls just 12% of forest and 0.3% of that is open for harvesting each year.

Very detailed planning and mapping are used and created to ensure that forestry remains sustainable. All machines have digital mapping with GPS tracking.

With the use of drones to check for endangered flora and fauna (E.g. koalas, greater gliders etc.) before the beginning of harvesting. Due to the EPA and Forestry NSW being very strict within the harvesting requirements we must be very careful to sticking with the requirements. The EPA can turn up without notice to check the work we are doing. They do turn up and we don't mind the scrutiny as it is important to continue the correct sustainability of native forest harvesting.

With more introduction of technology, it would make forest harvesting safer, with the use of lidar mapping of forest areas before harvesting begins will ensure that harvesting is only in regulated areas.

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

P & T Lonergan is a family-based business, with our children working with us and gradually learning the business to hopefully one day inherit the business. For that to happen the forest of NSW need to be in good health and stay sustainably managed.

With making sure habitat trees, young and old growth tree remain standing in place within the harvest area is important for the forest to regenerate naturally and allowing food and shelter for the flora and fauna. This is what our company always strives to do. We want the ability for our children and their children to be able to work within a sustainable forest for generations to come with wonderful biodiversity.

The EPA and Forest Corporation instruct and mark where we can harvest after they have surveyed a coop of forest and ensure the areas of animals and water passages are protected. We always ensure to double check those areas before starting work.

As a company we are always respectful of First Nations cultural heritage areas, Forestry Corp always indicate where known heritage and cultural areas are and what must be protected. Within NSW Forestry Corp Soft wood all employees must have training in Cultural heritage sites and must have some knowledge on how to recognise and protect these sites. All 4 employees within the Hardwood are trained within this course and utilise this training when harvesting in any environment.

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

Based in Gloucester on the mid North coast our company P&T Lonergan Pty Ltd does hardwood and softwood harvesting. We have 6 full time employees. 4 are working in the hardwood business

and 2 on the pine plantations. The 4 hardwood employees are living in [REDACTED] and the 2 softwood employees have homes in in the [REDACTED] area.

All our operators must have accreditation to drive the harvesting machines. Employees who use chainsaws have tickets. All of us must do CIFOA environmental training and log grading tickets in the hardwood. In the softwood they also must do environmental, cultural training as well as be accredited to drive the machines.

Around 40% of our operating expenses, in the hardwood, are paid to local people and businesses every year. 60% of our operating costs go to businesses and organisations that are outside of Gloucester. The same % would be spent in Oberon for the softwood.

We selectively work in native bush in State Forests on the lower north coast, making sure we are always complying with the rules. There are over 2000 rules we need to comply with. Here we are producing power poles and saw logs for home flooring and decking and mine props. Our hardwood goes to a number of NSW mills but mostly to mills in Bulahdelah and Pentarch at Herons Creek. The pulp, the residue, mostly goes to Weathertex in Heatherbrae to produce external timber home cladding. In the softwood our wood goes to Visy for cardboard in Tumut and Borg in Oberon to make Polytech board for cupboards and kitchen benches.

Timber harvesting is highly regulated and controlled in NSW and Australia. But the potential alternative overseas wood suppliers in Asia are not regulated and do clear felling that destroys large rainforests. Are some people in NSW only worried about the local environment I wonder? Timber from overseas is much more expensive which means building houses and flats in NSW and Australia, would become more expensive too. Global demand for forest products will quadruple by 2050, and the current trade deficit in imported timber products of \$4.1B will blow out.

It is important to remember that on the north east coast of NSW, the native hardwood forest industry employs nearly 5,700 people and generates \$1.84B in gross revenue for NSW. The impact of closing the industry down or severely restricting the industry will have devastating impacts on small rural and regional towns. We cannot afford to lose schools, health care, other businesses and services.

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

We need more pine and hardwood plantation forest to ensure the timber supply for NSW and Australian housing construction 20 to 30 years from now. This is a big thing that the authorities need to get on and do because Australia's population is growing fast. Although plantations will never deliver the timber supply that is needed on its own nor will private native forestry.

It is important to remember that for softwood plantations they require 25 years of growing time and hardwood plantations require 40-50 years before you can harvest timber. What do you do with the mills while waiting for a supply? Plantations will never be able to supply completely what is needed.

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

Forestry Corp could improve the sustainability of NSW Forests with improved planning and time lapse with getting plans to the EPA for approval. The EPA could also help with the sustainability of forest with approving plans in a timely manner.

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 know how important it is to manage the way climate change affects our forests because of the 2019-2020 fires burning down our office, workshop and the forest we were working in. Our house was nearly burned down as well. We had to move the business to Gloucester and Oberon afterwards.

I think that the sustainable forestry practices we have in NSW help to reduce the impact of catastrophic bushfires on forests and timber workers help to protect the forests and people's homes when big fires do break out.

Our work thinning the pine forest in the Oberon area helps to reduce the fire risk within those plantation forests. With the selective harvesting within NSW native forest, it helps also helps reduce the fire risk with the areas of the native forest.

The residues left after harvesting should be used for biochar and biofuels creating a market and reducing the fuel load on the forest floor.

There is a view that for carbon benefit, the forest should be locked away, but within managed forest there are always young growing trees to absorb carbon that is then locked away and stored in the older tree and timber products. As the trees get older the slower, they can absorb and store carbon. Young growing trees will absorb 3 time the speed of carbon than of an older tree. With the continuation of sustainable logging, it allows for more younger growing trees to absorb and store more carbon.