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

Forestry in Native forest operations in NSW run at a major loss subsidised constantly by taxpayers. This is economically irresponsible for a non essential commodity and with very long term rehabilitation issues that do result in local extinctions of species from direct logging effects and also due to the micro climate and biome changes caused both by logging and by increased fire hazard in regrowth forests. Water quality and ability of the forest to retain water are reduced increasing risk to communities downstream from logged areas of flash flooding. I have seen the effects of flash floods in burnt out forest areas in Victoria.

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

Forests that have never been logged have a very different and complex environment compared to regrowth areas, that are much more difficult to walk through, have fewer plant and animal species that can be seen, tend to be drier and hotter than original forests and have far better values as recreational areas. In the 1960s my family was looking for a farm and thought SW Victoria could be a good place to look, in dairy country near the Otway ranges. However, with research we found that the dairy industry there was in difficult times due to logging in the Otway ranges that had dried out all the prime dairy country and made it far less viable. I similarly in the late 1960's was told by a forestry ranger at Bombale, SE NSW that pine plantations no longer grew as well as the Mist Belt had moved with increased native forest logging and the pines did not grow as well. This could also have been due to climate change as the modelling predicts that SE Australia drying out would occur.

Aboriginal heritage and cultural values are present in native forests and should be respected, logging the forests is one of the most culturally destructive activities that can be undertaken. Cut down the forests and you endanger whole cultural connections and the ecosystems that are part of that culture, which we are unfortunately far too unaware of.

The importance of preservation of old growth forests cannot be overstated. It is the receptacle for most of our threatened species, critical for maintaining water quality for the ever increasing populations on the coastal fringes of Australia and an irreplaceable recreational resource.

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

Very little timber grown in NSW is used in building, less than 10% of the timber is used in construction, the rest is made predominantly into woodchips for cardboard, paper and chipboard. Its a huge waste of a valuable resource and a serious distortion of the timber industry market to unreasonably subsidise an unnecessary and declining demand industry which stops profitable softwood plantations from thriving as an alternate industry.

Softwoods can substitute and in many ways are a preferred product for building as that can be more easily grown, treated and processed for construction than hardwoods. Demand for hardwood building timber is now limited however logs should not be sold into the woodchip

market but value added as veneer and saw log products. Subsidising an industry to produce a low value product when high value products could be produced is not good economic management.

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

Highly sought after native timbers, which were being totally trashed in Tasmania when I worked there, should always be harvested from private land only, selectively and sustainably. The current way forestry is usually conducted does not allow for recovery of valuable timbers before destructive logging to make low value heavily subsidised woodchips.

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

The value of old growth forests as a recreational resource and an aboriginal cultural resource is far more than a loss making venture kept going for no sensible economic reasons. protection of the forests, rehabilitation of damaged areas, better fire management, improvement of water quality and reintroduction of locally extinct species to create a healthy balanced ecosystem is what could all be done by the relatively few people employed in the forestry industry. in conjunction with aboriginal rangers, who have a better understanding of how to manage forests than Forestry NSW

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 of native forests releases huge tonnages of carbon each year and regrowth does not take up that carbon from the atmosphere within our lifetimes. Damage to soils also take centuries to stabilise, with some Mayan sites, in what is now jungle, still having a different soil characteristic from the effects of logging and clearing than natural old growth jungle after about 500 or more years. We have no answers for what we need to do to offset the damage done for subsidised old growth forest logging to produce the lowest value product possible. What we do know is that speciation of plants and animals is often dramatically reduced, water quality deteriorates and fire risk is far higher. Logging of native forests is an irresponsible activity that has no economic justification and has a highly negative effect on the whole quality of life of future generations.