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

Timber harvesting in NSW native forests is one of the most highly regulated and best managed forestry operations in the world. Catchment-scale water quality monitoring in NSW over the past 60 years has consistently shown that impacts on sediment transport, turbidity and other nutrient loads are relatively short lived when they do occur, and often the impacts do not exceed expected background variability.

This is due to the use of environmental controls to maintain water quality during and after timber harvesting. These environmental controls include: the retention of riparian buffer strips along the streams, limiting the area harvested, prescribing harvest return times to spread the impacts over time and space, and applying rainfall seasonality, slope, soil type, and wet weather restrictions (Alluvium 2020 Review of the current state of knowledge for the monitoring of forestry impacts on waterway health in NSW coastal forests. Report for the Natural Resources Commission. Pp 1-33. December 2020.

Australia has a serious wood shortage and is a net importer of timber, to the tune of almost \$6 billion per annum. A large proportion of this timber is imported from countries that unlike NSW, have very little regulation or environmental controls in place resulting in severe degradation of waterways. It makes no sense to put further pressure on these already stressed environments overseas by further restricting timber supplies from well managed native forests in NSW.