

PHILIP SPARK

Submission ID: 204874

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 2:26:22 PM

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

I am aware that the logging of public forests has been heavily subsidised for a long time to prop up the industry and keep dependent towns viable. We have seen that timber towns don't die when forestry operations end, which is what happened after many forests were converted to National Parks estate following the regional biodiversity assessments in the 1990's. Walcha is a good example of a timber town that survived mill closure.

The interests of the public of NSW would be better served if forests were managed for biodiversity conservation, climate change refugia, catchment protection, carbon sequestration and tourism. Removing subsidised timber from the market would likely result in increasing the value of high value timber products from plantations and private native forestry.

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

Public forests provide habitat for over 200 threatened plants and animals that are known to be declining. Logging practices deplete the habitats required by the majority of those species over time, thereby contributing to the sixth mass extinction event that is occurring globally. Stopping logging will allow regrowth forests to mature to regain old growth structure that will dramatically increase the hollow habitats required by a large number of hollow dependent species such as the owls and gliders. Such old growth forests have a spiritual benefit to both indigenous and non indigenous people.

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

The demand for recycled composite products is increasing for cladding, decks, and joinery, and steel, concrete and alloy products are increasingly being used for construction, transport and mining.

Currently only 9% of native hardwood production comes from public forests the remainder comes from private native forests and plantations.

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

It is estimated that 91% of current hardwood production is being met by hardwood plantations and private native forestry. Removing subsidised production from public forests will likely improve the economic viability of those plantations and private forests. There will likely be an expansion of plantations and private forestry to fill the gap if the longterm viability of timber production is more secure.

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

State Forests objective to deliver a range of benefits is being compromised by logging practices that are increasingly degrading the public forest estate over time.

Current logging practices result in immature forests that provide less environmental benefit, are less attractive for tourism benefit, and less spiritual benefit for both indigenous and non indigenous people.

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

These opportunities are the significant benefits that State Forests can provide. Stopping logging will enable increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement, that can be traded on the world markets for economic return. Enabling forests to mature will reduce fire risks and improve climate refugia for both plants and animals. Stopping logging will reduce erosion and the ingress of weeds and feral animals into forests. In general managing public forests for conservation will make them more resilient to all other threats including climate change. These positive benefits from stopping logging are what the public must be informed about.