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

The NSW Government has empowered the Forestry Corporation of NSW and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority to manage the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW and have done this for many years. They regularly monitor operations in the Native Timber operations and update protocols that they need to continually improve the operations. If you refer to the "Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Agreement" (Coastal IFOA) document - especially the document titled "Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval Approved Monitoring Program 2019-2024" - March 2020 - a document that sets out the rules for native timber harvesting in NSW coastal state forests and it establishes environmental outcomes that must be achieved. It is clear that the NSW Government has its own departments sustainably managing the native forests of NSW not only for the present but for the future.

It is obvious that the NSW Government continually monitors harvesting operations on the Native Timber estate in a manner that is working well and the many protocols under the Coastal IFOA sets out Administrative requirements, planning conditions, operational conditions, mapping requirements, regeneration requirement and monitoring conditions.

The Native Timber harvesting operations are heavily controlled and have been for many years thus ensuring the sustainability for now and the future.

Forests are managed to be harvested and regrown with a view of continuing the timber supply over a "100-year period to ensure an ongoing sustainable yield" (ref: Forestry Corporation web site)

The Native Forest harvesting operations are also controlled under Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) - thus another layer of monitoring and securing the future of our working native forests. Governments should stop politicising the Native Timber Harvesting Operations to gain votes and realise they have a well-managed and well-controlled by its own Departments and stop playing on the emotions of the residents, causing stress for the hard working people in the Native Timber operations.

All logging operations in Native Hardwood Forests work under a "Forestry Corporation of NSW, Hardwood Forests Division, Harvest Plan" - these plans are extensive, providing Harvest Plan Location Map, Harvest Plan Operational Maps, Site Safety Plan, Medical Emergency Evacuation Plan, Post-fire Harvest and Haul Plan. Natation is made of the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Agreement Requirements.

I am sure, that the Panel, have access to all the documents currently being used which support the sustainability of the forestry operations in NSW.

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

In regard to controls within the Native Hardwood Forest Harvesting estate, current management practices allow and plan for selective harvesting with the aim to minimise the effect on threatened and endangered flora and fauna and protect critical habitats - all part of the Coastal IFOA protocols.

Forestry Corporation states on their website information that they employ an "Aboriginal Partnerships Liaison Team" to work with Aboriginal communities through NSW. They say "Our team strives to conserve the qualities and attributes of places that have spiritual, historic, scientific or social value" - They also say that "Forestry Corporation has been working with local Aboriginal communities throughout NSW to carry out cultural burning as part of our regular hazard reduction burning program."

What more do you, or the NSW Government want, their requirements are already being met.

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

It is a well known fact that NSW (Australia) has a vast shortage of houses for rental use and ownership and a lot of communities now have homeless people living in tents and out of their vehicles. Hardwood timbers are particularly significant and are highly required for power poles and high-quality housing materials. The housing market seems to maintain a high demand for timber, in construction, hardwood timber is highly used in frames, floors and internal products put into homes.

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

With such a shortage in houses and units for our communities, softwood and hardwood plantations have a place in the NSW timber estate as does Private Native Forestry

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 offer local communities with well managed native hardwood forests which can be used for more than hardwood harvesting operations. The amount of harvesting which occurs in NSW forests is minimal in comparison to the State Forest Estate which is looked after by Forestry Corporation. Localised communities are able to use the forests for many recreational activities, like bike riding and bush walking.

If you stop Native Forest Harvesting then a lot of communities (towns) within the Bega Valley Shire and Snowy Monaro and Eurobodalla Council areas you will destroy the heart of many of them. The Harvest and Haulage operations working in the Native Forest harvesting operations employ locals, purchase parts, fuel, oils and many more products thus adding vast amounts of money into the towns, employees use their wages thus supporting the towns they live in and keep students in our schools, keep sporting clubs being able to field teams by working and living in these towns.

If you stop Native Forest Logging in NSW you will destroy many towns and if you think tourism and National Parks can take up the displaced workers, and pay compensation to businesses that the NSW Government will force out of jobs and expect them and their employees to re-train and get other jobs you have to be joking. A lot of families have mortgages and other commitments to the towns they live in - don't take the heart out of where we live - NSW is not just about City living.

More notice needs to be taken by politicians to regional / rural communities and they should understand what is being lost. The Native Hardwood Forests are the blood of some of these areas and all Government Ministers need to remember that NSW is not just about the city dwellers.

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

What a Joke -Carbon Dioxide is absorbed by growing trees and that carbon dioxide continues to be stored even when the trees are turned into furniture, floorboards and house frames. The Governments trendy word is "footprint", well I am sure you will acknowledge that wood has a smaller "footprint" than other building materials like steel and concrete. Responsibly harvested wood plays a big part in the tackle against Climate Change.

It is recognised already that forests and sustainably harvested wood products reduce Climate Change through carbon markets. Thinning and controlled burning help to manage fuel loads thus helping reduce fire severity and protect ecosystems.