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Submission ID: 204250

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/11/2024 8:00:34 PM

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

I work in the industry. Native forest harvesting is sustainable. Periodically looking to reduce or lock the resource, as was the result of the RFA's, won't add to sustainable management. In my time I have seen log supply become more scarce and of poorer quality. Not because management is poor, because the best resource was placed into the reserves in the 1990's. The best use of our forests for all values is to responsibly harvest, supporting the regeneration of the forests.

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

Locking the forests, suppressing fire, and not actively managing, cost the National Park estate 18% of its canopy cover in the 2019 fires. The decimation of habitat was discussed all over the world. The best faring forests were on private land. The forests on private land are managed under government policy to protect the values, as are state forests. The difference? Private forests are more likely to be managed, national parks are underfunded and are not.

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

The demand for timber has increased. The market will not cool with the constant drive for more construction. The forest cleared for housing developments and infrastructure should be managed for timber extraction first regardless of the original tenure of the land. This may help with the timber needs for the construction of the homes, or at least not see the resource bulldozed and not utilised.

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

Plantation supply is at capacity. Whilst the cry to replace native forest timber with plantation timber seems fair enough, there needs to be understanding that timber from different species and grown for different end uses can't be used for all applications. I've milled hardwood plantation timber thinnings. The end product from the mature plantation will be sawn product, but now, at age 20 the wood is only good for making pallets.

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

Carbon is stored in state forests, in fact regenerating forests sequester more carbon than old forests as they're actively growing. Animals aren't picky about if their habitat is in a state forest not a national park. The land tenure label is void as the function of the forest is the same. The additional value of a state forest is timber is harvested from state forests, providing a valuable resource.

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

Why would the carbon or biodiversity values of state forest be worth less than a National Park?
The ongoing management of state forest for timber means society can forgo the environmental cost of steel and other alternatives and logging international tropical forest and the related energy cost of shipping the wood around the world.