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Submission ID: 205196

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 9:28:53 PM

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

I believe that the continued logging of our Native Forest Estate is unsustainable and that it is up to our State Government to show leadership (particularly in relation to the issues we face in terms climate change in 2024) to take the immediate step of ceasing all logging and associated activities within our native forest estate.

The release of carbon into our atmosphere is one of the drivers of climate change and our governments have committed to reducing those emissions into the future to net zero by 2050. The continued logging of our remnant forest estate, fundamentally reduces our available biomass and thus our environments' natural capacity for carbon storage. Biomass is the most effective carbon sink available to humankind. The loss of trees and other growth due to native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year, quite clearly reducing the amount of stored carbon and our capacity to store it into the future.

Forests that have not been logged or compromised through logging activities, are much more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires and other weather events such as droughts and flooding, that are occurring as a consequence of the changing climate.

The continued logging in native forests is in fact exacerbating all of the risks factors inherent to Climate change and global warming.

Ending native forest logging would make a significant contribution to meeting those emissions targets as set by our governments.

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

The erosion inherent to logging activities reduces the function and health of our waterways and landscapes, it adversely effects the productivity and retention of our soils, allows for the penetration of weeds and other invasive species across our landscapes.

Logging also removes the habitat and food resources needed for our unique wildlife to flourish. However, with the removal of mature or hollow bearing trees, that wildlife's capacity to protect their young is severely compromised. 174 species of our unique Australian Wildlife species in NSW, rely on hollows in aged trees for their dens and nests.

Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. Mature and unlogged native forests are also critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests.

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to humans (local and visitors alike) and are a source of connection to the natural world, each other and themselves. These remnant forests also provide a huge potential for tourism, education and scientific and medical research.

Of the 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW, 150 are directly impacted by logging activities in The NSW native forest estate.

Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018.

Logging has intensified since then.

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

From tourism to medical research, carbon storage to fitness/wellbeing activities, native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW. The remnant native forest estate covers an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impacts on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in rivers creeks and reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars per year. They operate this loss at the expense of the NSW public. Not only are the people of NSW paying financially, we are also paying with the loss of the forests and all the benefits inherent in leaving them standing.

We the people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for our threatened species

Our native forest estate has a much higher economic value when allowed to function naturally and without logging. Leaving them standing can only bring benefits to our communities now and into our future. Benefits that will far outweigh any individual benefit that might be found in logging them.