

SARAH SUTTON

Submission ID: 205056

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 5:58:07 PM

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

Due to the unsustainable practices being utilised by NSW Forestry, I am recommending that the current and future operations of NSW forestry are unsustainable.

This determination is based on recorded threatened species management issues, including insufficient buffering standards around nesting sites (such as 100m buffer around a coastal emu nest when it should exceed 1km), significant threatened species habitat losses, illegal forestry operations, and significant to overwhelming public disapproval of the nature of operations.

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

Native Forests play a key role in irreplaceably housing threatened species such as Koalas, Greater Gliders and Coastal Emus. Current standards within NSW Forestry are not sufficient to ensure they will not become extinct in the coming decades.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values have been inappropriately limited to artefacts and objects and do not sufficiently consider 'connection to place' that should actually supersede artefacts and objects.

Many of the legislatively recognised objects and artefacts have been damaged or removed by colonial takeover processes, therefore cultivating significant covert systemic disadvantage for Indigenous stakeholders and stakeholders that value indigenous cultural heritage in communicating Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

This needs to be updated for there to be any meaningful representation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

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

It is my understanding that while timber is a valuable resource in our society, the timber being harvested in NSW forestry operations isn't being appropriately utilised, and significant inappropriate resource waste and misuse is occurring that does not result in resourcing NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail sectors with timber. This is unacceptable.

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

It is my understanding that Private Native Forestry is not efficiently conducted to yield resources, and not appropriately regulated to adequately consider the needs of threatened species, habitat connectivity and climate change mitigation through forest retention.

It is misleading under the current practices to consider it a sustainable agent in meeting timber supply needs.

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

NSW Forestry has demonstrably failed in every aspect of this, environmental, economic, social, and cultural, and cannot claim to perform in these roles.

This is especially so while relying heavily on government subsidies and demonstrably damaging native forests with unsustainable industrial practices.

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

Intact and protected forests provide superior carbon sequestration and biodiversity continuity. The practices of NSW forestry (recorded clear-felling, burning all material, and broad spraying herbicide to result in war zone scenes within our native forests), do not represent these outcomes nor support their possibility.

NSW forestry has proven an irresponsible land manager where carbon and biodiversity outcomes are sought.

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change risks would take a demonstrably huge pivot of practices to be dramatically more selective and sensitive than the industrial form of destruction that is being recorded.

Community trust in NSW Forestry as a land and resource manager has resultantly dropped very low.

Climate change risk to forests is exacerbated by the practices of NSW Forestry, and this must be considered in the context of threatened species recovery and the threat climate change imposes to their limited ability to respond to and survive climatic flux within their narrow population and habitat positions, further limited by increasing habitat loss and sub-standard management protocols.