

SUSAN BROWN

Submission ID: 202868

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/6/2024 4:09:34 PM

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

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Logging in native forests is not sustainable:

- Public native forest logging cost NSW \$9 million in the last financial year and \$19.6 million in 2021. Plantation forest logging by contrast earned \$47 million in 2021 and 2022.
- Years of destructive exploitation and the changing climate mean that there is a massive shortfall of harvestable trees for any high value use and native forest logging ran at a loss of \$28 million over the last 2 years - a huge cost to NSW taxpayers.
- Logging native forests removes older trees which provide more hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife including koalas and great gliders.
- Continued logging is likely to contribute to the extinction of forest dependant wildlife.
- The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more serious and urgent.

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

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- Forests provide refuges for many threatened species that need mature, intact trees,
- They benefit regional communities and the environment by maintaining water quality and water flow regulation,
- Forests provide recreation values for locals and tourists.
- They are of great cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.

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

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- There is no longer any need to log public native forests for house building.
- Plantations can supply high quality and composite timber products.
- There is about 5,000 hectares of land on the South Coast that could be used for plantations, and there are about 1,000 jobs across the state that need to be transitioned into plantations.
- Transferring to plantation timber not only reduces pressure on native forests but supports sustainable industry practices.

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

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- 91% of Australia's log production is already provided by hardwood and softwood plantations.
- Investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared land would ensure the supply of timber products for the future.
- New plantations could provide whatever kinds of timber are needed in the future.
- Ending subsidies to public forestries would encourage timber production on private lands.

**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**

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Assessing the net benefits of multiple use native forest management in Queensland found that State Forests managed for multiple uses in South and Central Queensland delivered additional benefits and superior social outcomes over the Long term when compared with benefits provided by national parks.

**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**

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Forests take in carbon from the air and store it in wood, plant matter, and under the soil. Restoring them is an important option for combating climate change.

- Healthy native forests provide essential water resources'.  
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