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Submission ID: 205039

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 5:25:55 PM

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

Native forest logging is not sustainable. As this logging and clearing of bushland occurs in areas which provide the habitat for several threatened species of native animals, the survival of these species is consequently being impacted severely by the degradation of native forests and vegetation removal. As a result, native animals' continued existence is severely threatened or nearing extinction. Other extremely negative impacts of native forest logging are: that this activity often relies on Government subsidies which could be contributed to plantation forests which are sustainable; re-planted native forests which have been logged are far more inflammable as was found in the recent Black Summer bushfires.

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

Native forests have high environmental value for threatened species which rely on these habitats to continue to flourish for their well-being and existence. Also these forests have highly significant cultural heritage significance for First Nations Australians.

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

As the logging of native forests is not sustainable, its value for employment opportunities is being less year by year. Most sawn wood stock comes from plantation grown timber while products of native logging have traditionally been of low value both in practical terms and as a contributing factor to housing, e.g. used for wood-chipping, paper pulp (alternative materials are available for this) and for packaging materials, for which viable alternatives are available.

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

Experience with bushfires in recent years has shown that re-planted native forest areas are highly inflammable and have burnt very extensively, showing that a faster growing and more prolific source of timber for housing and commercial building is required to meet demand. Plantation grown timber meets these requirements far more productively than re-planted native forests which have been logged. Plantations need appropriate and high standards of management, to maintain timber stock supplies and this is achievable but must not be located on parts of native forest land as this obviously leads to the further depletion and degradation of these forests areas.

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

Various management practices advocated for by forest industry organisations and native forest logging industry groups, including thinning of native forests and Forest Gardening, which these advocacy groups claim lead to reduced risk of fire, lower risk of fires spreading and can actually

improve these forests as they increase the re-growth after logging. Empirical evidence has disproved these claims and First Nations groups have stated that these practices do not improve the state of forests and amount to nothing better than traditional logging practices which destroy valuable habitat for native species and damage culturally significant sites.

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

Forests which are not degraded by logging store significantly more carbon than forests which have been subjected to logging. Also, as recent Government audits have shown, there has been widespread rorting of carbon trading schemes by companies professing to replant trees in sufficient numbers to replace the carbon destroyed due to their own industrial practices. Native forest logging generates very high volumes of carbon emissions. The bio-diversity benefits of keeping native forests intact are well documented and provide the strongest arguments for stopping the destructive practice of logging in these highly valued places.