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Submission ID: 203789

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/10/2024 1:25:12 PM

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

Current NSW State Forest logging practices are not sustainable. Forest structure and floristic diversity continue to degrade. Logging must stop.

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

Species that are sensitive to disturbance, and the removal of hollows continue to diminish. I am a professional ecologist. I have lived in north east NSW forests for 45 years. I have watched species like the greater glider continue to decline in number and range. Greater gliders do not, and cannot persist in logged forest.

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

The vast majority of timber products in NSW already come from plantations. Subsidies for public native forest logging should be diverted to further plantation establishment, and the development of engineered wood products to replace any residual native forest product demand.

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

More plantations need to be urgently established on cleared land. They must be planned, planted and protected with long term wood supply in mind, not for ill designed tax rorts. Forest Corp staff, resources and expertise should be diverted to conservation management, plantation management, and the planning and policing of PNF.

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

All current State Forests should be converted to National Parks, with funding and management to suit.

Tragically, indigenous management practices in NSW forests have been largely forgotten, or have been contaminated by practices and philosophies introduced from elsewhere. I have recently inspected some logging operations in central Victoria that are claimed to be "Forest Gardening. In my opinion they are simply modern industrial logging operations, dressed up as "Aboriginal forest management models". That relabeling is corrupt, ecologically destructive, and patronising. The practice must not be duplicated in NSW.

Public submission

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

If you find yourself getting stuck in a hole, the first step is to throw the shovel away. An easy, obvious, and cheap carbon abatement action is to stop logging public forests and allow them to sequester the carbon that has been historically released from them.