

ZOE MCINNES

Submission ID: 205260

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:32:15 PM

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

The practice of logging native forests has a huge impact on the environment. Natural native forests are vital for a healthy diverse ecosystem. The value of this ecosystem for Australians is huge. Unspoiled native forests have a huge value to communities. In my field of occupational therapy there is a growing bank of evidence of the importance of being in unspoiled natural environments for mental health.

The moisture holding qualities of a multi layered forest with old growth trees, younger trees, a healthy understory of shrubs, and a ground cover of ground plants or mosses: has a far higher moisture holding ability than forests that had been damaged by logging. This moisture holding quality the risk of severe droughts and the risk of serious bushfires.

If important rainforest areas such as Bulga state forest have their ecosystems damaged by logging, the flow-on effect will include lower rainfalls in the region

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

State forest are an important government asset which should be used to support all in the state to be safe from our biggest threat of climate change.

Protecting state forest such as Bulga state forest will help lock in a moisture bank which serves to keep rainfalls higher, reducing the risk of drought and severe bushfires. Large old growth trees also store far higher amounts of carbon than newer forests, so our state forests must protect them to reduce our carbon output.

NSW's natural environment and wildlife that native state forests home are an important aspect of domestic and international tourism. Logging these forests will have negative impacts on these industries and flow on to negative impacts on regional economies.

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

State forest should be protected for their high carbon capture ability, high moisture holding ability, and therefore their productivity quality against climate change.

Logging for timber should therefore only be conducted in new forest, planted on previously cleared land. As this will create opportunities to store more carbon in these areas.