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Supporting materials uploaded: Attached overleaf

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

Please see attachment below pertaining to the environmental disaster of stopping logging in NSW.

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

Unmanaged forests cause uncontrollable fires that result in an enormous amount of deaths and destruction not only of native animals and flora but of people's homes and lives.

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

Demand remains strong and having the renewable supply of timber over non- renewables is paramount.

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

This must continue to sustain the building industry and to be environmentally responsible by not having to use plastic composites and steel which are multiple times worse for the environment.

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 need adequate funding to manage and sustain forests via maintenance of fire trails and burning off excess fuel loads BEFORE unmanageable levels of fuel build up.

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

It is well known that forests absorb carbon dioxide and also provide sustainable building products. To my knowledge more trees are planted each year than are harvested, no difference to any other crop grown.

Avoiding perverse environmental consequences from shutting down NSW native forestry

Sarwood Timbers & Building Supplies are leading suppliers of sawn F27 structurally graded timber. This hardwood can be produced from a number of different species.

Based in Alstonville NSW, we also stock other building materials and offer expert advice to all of our customers in Ballina, Lismore and across the Northern Rivers which requires a comprehensive understanding of not only F27 locally harvested hardwood but substitute products such as steel, plastic/fibre composites and timber imported from countries with dubious environmental credentials.

The family owned business has 10 full-time employees and three part-time contractors. We do employ First Nations people and our commitment to Australian heritage is also reflected in some of the community engagement and sponsorship activities which are as diverse as flower shows, local swimming club and competitions and Rugby League teams.

Over the past 10 years or so I have seen a steady change in customer demand, driven mostly by disinformation about environmental issues relating to hardwood harvesting. The number of people enquiring about plastic/fibre composites and steel has increased despite the negative environmental consequences of using these products.

Steel vs Timber. Recent (2024) published research into a *Comparison of Embodied Carbon Footprint of a Mass Timber Building Structure with a Steel Equivalent* concluded that the mass timber construction saved 19% in carbon emissions and additionally stored 2557 tonnes of CO₂e presenting further benefits of timber construction (www.fpl.fs.usda.gov/documnts/pdf2024/fpl_2024_hemmati002.pdf)

Composites vs Timber. The major concern with composite materials that are often used because of their mechanical properties and durability, is their complex end-of-life management. Composite material, unlike timber is not recyclable, and the separation of elementary constituents is very often impossible. Disposal is generally as landfill or incineration with consequent micro-plastic pollution. (*Aluminium Trihydrate-filled Poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA/ATH) Waste Powder Utilization in Wood-plastic Composite Boards Bonded by MUF Resin*. In : *BIORESOURCES*, vol. 15, n° 2, p. 3252–3269, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.15376/biores.15.2.3252-3269>)

Imported F27 Merbau vs Australian timber. Merbau which is sometimes called ipil or kwila, (genus *Intsia*) and also known as Borneo teak, and Malacca teak is a southeast Asian native tree renowned for durability, termite resistance, and an attractive appearance. Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Malaysia, are the three main exporting countries for merbau. While the timber industry in these three countries is regulated there is no enforcement of regulations (unlike Australia) and the States are unable to regulate the yields and sustainability of forestry operations. (*Forest Trends (2006). Logging legality and livelihoods in Papua New Guinea: Synthesis of official assessments of large scale logging industry. Vol: 1 – 3.*) Back in 2005, A UK, not for profit environment group, The Environmental Investigation Agency found that smuggling of illegal timber from Indonesia to China was a billion dollar trade threatening the last remaining intact tropical forests in the Asia-Pacific region and that merbau was the main target of illegal loggers in Papua - every month enough stolen merbau was being shipped out to produce \$600m worth of flooring. (<https://eia-international.org/news/eia-at-40-the-billion-dollar-trade-in-merbau-ravaging-indonesias-last-intact-tropical-forests/>) New Zealand is sensibly attempting to substitute old-growth tropical timbers, which may not be sustainably harvested, or which may be more difficult to source in future with locally grown timber. ([Import Substitution Project Interim report](#) Authors: Karen Bayne; Jonathan Harrington; Colleen Chittenden; Russell McKinley; Rosie Sargent Scion July 23)

Stopping sustainable and highly regulated native forestry in NSW will not change the demand for F27 structurally graded timber or its less environmentally sensitive alternatives. The supply will come mainly from unregulated, or regulated but unenforced, logging and deforestation sources in Indonesia and PNG. This is one of the perverse environmental outcomes from stopping sustainable hardwood harvesting in NSW