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Submission ID: 200686

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 45561.450972

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

The logging of native forests is not sustainable. The majority of NSW State Forests have been over logged and the quantity of trees suitable for sawlogs is minimal. In recent years over 50% of timber cut from public forests has been chipped.

The changes to the soil ecology following industrial scale logging is very significant and successful regeneration of forests is often not occurring.

Industrial scale logging results in regrowth that is highly prone to fire limiting forest resources into the future.

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

About 150 threatened species rely on NSW forest for habitat. Current logging is causing a rapid decline of biodiversity at a time when we should be increasing the area of habitat for our wildlife species.

Industrial scale logging is having a significant negative affect on our water resources.

Aboriginal groups have taken legal action to protect public forests. Aboriginal people clearly oppose the industrial scale logging that is occurring.

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

The demand for timber products can be met by plantation timbers - specifically pine plantations which operate at a profit.

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

There is no justifiable argument for the continuation of the logging of native forest.

The Government should be encouraging land owners to protect their forests so that they remain habitat for wildlife species.

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 should close down the native forest unit and only run the pine plantation industry which is profitable.

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

Professor Lindenmayer has indicated recently that Australia could meet carbon mitigation objectives by ceasing the logging of native forests. Old growth forest continue to take up enormous quantities of carbon and as forests regrow there is a massive sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere.

The high risk of extensive and intense forest fires following industrial scale logging will only contribute to climate change