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

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Hello Independent Forestry Panel. Thank for the opportunity to comment on this very important topic.

I can only give my opinions on the native forest timber operations, through my experience and observations of forty five years of having NSW State forests [under the management of the Forestry Commission and currently Forests Corp] as my neighbour. Since the late 1970s I have seen the changes in State Forest harvesting practices and observed it's impacts on timber production and natural landscapes.

The Forestry compartment Coup 44 in the Brooman State Forest was my neighbour. This compartment was an outstanding example of a well managed forest with a great mix of tree species of various ages and with weed free mid and ground cover species. It also had healthy creek lines, riparian zones, and an endangered Myrtle on the fringes of rainforests. It was alive with what are now threatened species.

It was logged extensively in the years 2002/03. It produced huge amounts of timber for construction hardwood with the greater amount sent to the chip mill and also used as firewood. For a forest to reach it's full sustainability in terms of timber production it was generally agreed that a forty year turn around between cuts was standard.

It was extensively re logged in 2020. The greater percentage of all that was cut was pulped. The forest could not regenerate itself and timber quality and size were sub standard.

Since the start of industrial scale logging using timber harvesting machines and basically clear felling, leaving only prescribed buffer zones on creeks etc, it has changed the landscapes not only to the sustainability of timber production but altered the entire landscape in many negative ways. This is a typical example of forestry practices in Forestry compartments on the entire South Coast of NSW

I therefore believe that under current forestry practices there will be no future for sustainable hardwood forestry within our state forests. The export woodchip industry's voracious demand for pulp should ensure that high quality construction timber will become a thing of the past. The forestry compartments under the management of Forest Corp NSW have become mono cultures full of fire thirsty flora species.

As a fire fighter for thirty years operating at a level of experience in roles such as Divisional Commander I have witnessed first hand how fires in and emerging from logged Forest Corp managed forest compartments were very problematic.

There were many examples in the fires 2019/20 of State forest fires being very problematic due to the amount of fuel left on the ground, windrows and "slash" burning with such intensity that scarce resources were tied up for much too much time simply trying to manage these "waste" piles.

I observed fires emerging from logged forestry compartments during extreme weather were super charged from horizontal ground fuels and became dangerous and uncontrollable.

In that fire season I witnessed on many occasions intense and super hot fires emerging from logged forests.

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

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Using the the above Example of Compartment 44 in the Brooman State Forest NSW.

Prior to logging event in 2002/03 this compartment had two healthy colonies of Gang Gang cockatoos, Yellow Bellied Gliders, Greater gliders, feathertail and squirrel gliders, Masked, Sooty and Powerful owls and platypus in creek.

With the destruction of habitat, both yellow bellied glider colonies disappeared and other the species mentioned went into decline.

Ground soil and mid story vegetation was altered to point where only fast growing species such as black wattle flourished and dominated.

The landscape dried out and the forest became very fire prone.

After the second cut, 15 years later, it altered the landscape to a degree where there were few native animals left with an increase in feral animals and weeds taking advantage of the open country.

Environmental values within State Forests are not a priority.

Cultural and heritage values such as healthy environments for native animals flora are not a priority for Forest Corp.

Throughout the history of forestry in NSW, Indigenous cultural heritage has been systematically erased. Either bulldozed ,buried or burnt.

Aboriginal cultural heritage was deliberately destroyed.

There are many documented examples of this. A couple I know of are.

A highly significant sacred site to the Yuin people amongst boulders on Mumbulla Mountain were bulldozed to make way for a comms tower.

At Tumbarumba ,Forestry deliberately destroyed a culturally significant indigenous place called the Stomping Ground ,a place of ceremony and corroboree for the Ngarigo People.

Aboriginal cultural heritage values within State Forests has hopefully improved however the destruction of habitat and landscapes is not caring for country.

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

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Demand will be strong and has to met by plantations on land that has been already been cleared

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

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Hardwood and softwood plantations must play an important part in supply of timber products.

## **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**

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Forest Corp NSW has failed in it's charter to to deliver a range of environmental, economic outcomes.[The hardwood industry continues to be subsidized by the taxpayer and is not economically viable]. Social and healthy natural outcomes are not positive under Forest Corp management. Indigenous fire management, where available is the best option.

## 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**

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There are many positives in simply managing our forests landscape with careful fire management to produce oxygen and earn carbon credits.

Climate change mitigation is the absolute priority.

Once again thankyou for the opportunity to comment.