

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 203323

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/8/2024 8:35:43 PM

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for an end to native forest logging. It absolutely needs to be ceased in NSW. With acknowledgment and thanks to Sue Higginson MLC for submission information.

- Native forest logging is unsustainable. It cannot regenerate at a pace fast enough.
- Estimations by the Forestry Corporation of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently over estimated
- Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified so there is no doubt Forestry Corp has taken more trees than its agreed quota
- Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees
- 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests
- Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species
- Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers

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

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- Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to all life
- Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air to somewhat counteract the effects of continuing to burn fossil fuels
- 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. NSW knows how many species have become threatened or extinct.
- Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests
- Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place
- Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people
- There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.
- NSW Gov simply cannot propose a 'Zero Extinctions Framework' without viable old growth forests and a healthy environment elsewhere

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

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Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported

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- Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. This is SHOCKING and deplorable.
  - Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for most uses
  - Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods
  - The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

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#### **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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- Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production
- Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry
- High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

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#### **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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- Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW
- Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement
- The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections
- The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species
- Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging
- First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

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#### **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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- Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year
- Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year
- Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value
- Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets
- Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk

## Public submission

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- Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence