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

Native forest logging is not sustainable. Over half(29 m ha) of pre1788 native forest and woodland has been lost. Of the remaining 25 m ha, 9 m ha is estimated to be degraded.

To quote from David Lindenmayer 's book, "The Forest Wars",

"The fact is the native forest industry is not saw-log driven; it is dominated by cutting trees for pulp to make paper and box-liners, or woodchips for export. The proportion of sawlogs will only decline as remaining places left to cut are more and more marginal areas of low productivity forest.

Only 4% of biomass from native forests ends up in the sawn timber stream. The amount of native timber in the average house in Australia declined by almost 90% in the last 20 years, and is still declining. Other materials have replaced native timber in the average house, including plantation timber, which is far better suited to modern construction."

Furthermore, it is common knowledge that FCNSW is a loss-making enterprise propped up by injections of tax-payers dollars. I point you to the study of native forests in NSW by the Blueprint Institute "Branching out- Exploring Alternate Land use Options for the Native Forests of NSW". In the executive summary they write

"Our findings demonstrate conclusively that there is no economic case for continued logging of native forests in North Coast of NSW."

This report is in fact full of valuable information on all aspects of this issue.

So we are slowly destroying our forests for wood chips and paper pulp, and it's not even economic; and driving an extinction crisis with our forest-dependent wildlife, as well as seriously undermining the vital functions of our forests as water stores, carbon stores, and islands of coolness. Seems like a no-brainer to me!

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

I was only going to write about 1 and 6, but I feel I need to speak up for our wildlife here. Viewed in a certain way, you could say our wildlife are being traded off for wood chips and paper pulp. That is an awfully poor deal for us and them. Wildlife are part of the net of life, every part is important. When you take parts out, you weaken the net. I would say the net of life is already severely challenged, to our detriment as well as other life forms.

Imagine the world with no wildlife, how incredibly sad that would be. I urge you to open your heart here, acquaint yourself with some koalas and gliders, and owls and quolls, get someone to take you on a spotting expedition one night. Gliders are truly extraordinary creatures, gorgeous, and quite unique.

The fact is FCNSW are very hard on wildlife. I understand this, it must be very frustrating for them . But it doesn't make their breaches ok.

And you probably have the well being of the Forestry workers in your mind. And I understand that too. But like coal workers, climate change is forcing the change, and resisting this change must be

quite painful, wondering when it's all going to end. I'm sure you will be aware of Frontier Economics study re transitioning Forestry workers and capital. It's a bit like ripping off the bandaid! Best to get on with it. Thank you.

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

Ending native forest logging, and allowing forests to regenerate is a powerful stand we can make against the climate change effects we are already heading into. Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 m tonnes of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent of removing 840,000 cars from the road every year. Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half the original value.

In the government's own NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, we are warned of likely significant climate change impacts, even under a low warming scenario of 2 degrees- Disasters on average annually triggered by extreme weather events, costing \$15.8-\$17.2 billion by 2060-61;

Sea-level rise exposing 39000-46000 NSW properties to erosion and inundation by 2060-61;

Loss of 700,000-2.7 million working days due to heat waves by 2060-61.

And so on.

You have at your fingertips the power to improve the lives of all beings by ending the logging of our native forests, and freeing them to powerfully perform the natural functions they do best.

How can you not?