

BARBARA ELLIOTT

Submission ID: 204235

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/11/2024 7:14:57 PM

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

Native forest logging is unsustainable and we have already lost an unacceptable amount of forests.

Estimations by the Forestry Corporation of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently over estimated and there needs to be regulatory oversight in regards to this

The yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010

Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. This was an appalling decision and the devastating impacts are clearly evident. Mature trees are essential habitats and provide cover for new trees and animals. Given our horrific extinction rate, this needs to be a significant factor

Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees. Seeing as 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests, which builds on my above point.

Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. 60,000 years of Indigenous environmental management and current scientific research teaches us this

Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers. Considering the disasterous state of many of our rivers and key waterways, this is of paramount importance.

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

Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity. The fact that the impact on First Nations people even needs to be specifically addressed is offensive and highlights the need for educated and informed laws, policies and practices to be written and implemented.

Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air, which is important to all living things.

150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. Is it not bad enough that we already lead the world in extinction rates??

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. Our bees are struggling enough as it is. They need to have healthy, native habitats in order to regenerate their populations.

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place. Most international tourists come to Australia because of our unique environments, and the revenue they bring is extremely important.

Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people. First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes

are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge. Stories, songlines, dances, totems and all other cultural practices rely on protecting our native forests, seeing as so much has already been lost.

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. We cannot afford any further extinctions or threatened species

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

While we will always require timber products, hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section and should be stopped immediately.

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. This is a most horrifying and shameful statistic and we need to do better.

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.

Plantations exist for this purpose and are a far better option than logging native forests.

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.

Thankyou Essential Energy for moving in the right direction.

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

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production and are a carefully planned usage of land and materials.

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips

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. These conditions should include generational regeneration under legislated and enforced laws.

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

Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW, and the biodiversity of the whole country.

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. Imagine the constructive and beneficial things this money could be spent on instead!

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. Do we want to be leaders or laughing stock???

Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging, which is fairly obvious. Any natural feature grows best without interference and destruction.

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. First Nations Ranger projects need to be rolled out a lot more extensively across NSW and the rest of the country, if we are serious about environmental and forest protection

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. This has disastrous consequences of many levels.

Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year, and is plain common sense when we have plantations as a legitimate alternative. 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.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence. Seeing as traditional burning has been abolished in most areas, this is a huge risk to tens of thousands of people.