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Submission ID: 204831

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 1:26:26 PM

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

Undisturbed native forests are an invaluable national asset that maximise oxygen production, soil fertility, ground stability (erosion minimisation) and provide crucial habitat for many threatened and unique species.

In addition, our native forests are among the most efficient carbon absorption ecosystems in the world. For all these reasons, it is simply madness to cut down these already depleted vital ecosystems.

Future forestry operations should not touch native forests at all. They instead need to be based fully on plantation forests that are planted according to carefully designed, scientifically-based practices in other areas that are ecologically less valuable or of lesser agricultural value.

Setting aside isolated protected areas of native forests is not enough. Logging must cease in all state forests across NSW.

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

As noted above, undisturbed native forests are an invaluable national asset that maximise oxygen production, soil fertility, ground stability (erosion minimisation) and provide crucial habitat for many threatened and unique species.

In addition, our native forests are among the most efficient carbon absorption ecosystems in the world.

Thus, an immediate moratorium on logging in areas of high density Koala and Greater Glider populations must be implemented while the panel process is underway.

From the Aboriginal heritage perspective, First Nations designed reserves that value Traditional Custodians' self-determination and cultural knowledge and exclude all industrial extractive activity should replace 'state forest' land categories and protect forests in an enduring way.

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

There is no social licence for native forest logging.

This is consistently demonstrated by ongoing community protests across NSW.

The NSW government could look at the precedent set by the Victorian government in January 2024 and refer to the Victorian government's forestry transition program to design their own rapid transition roadmap.