

MARTIN DORROUGH

Submission ID: 205030

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 5:13:54 PM

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

Roads and the facilities within Forests need to be maintained with new sites developed so that the public can visit them. As the population of NSW grows, so should the forest operations group to keep up with demand. I am in charge of a small church-based group of kids that use the forests for regular weekend camping. Unfortunately, I see roads not being reopened after rain and facilities not being maintained.

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

Threatened species are important to manage so that we avoid extinction and hopefully they can recover to increase to a sustainable level or even flourish. What I don't like seeing is the whole state being shut down because one incident happens in a particular area. This happened with a glider incident on the South Coast yet logging in the whole state stopped.

Not enough is being done to eradicate foreign pests and plants. Locally there are wild deer that come out the state forest and cause accidents on the road and damage within the forest itself. This is only one example of a massive problem.

Forests are a natural resource that should be utilised in a sustainable way. They are owned by all Australians, not just the various groups. They should never be locked up and the community should be encouraged to visit them.

I would actually like to know the real state of the Koala population. After the 2019 bushfires the green groups used distressing pictures of burnt animals to make a case that Koalas would be extinct by 2050 if this continued. Well we would all be extinct if those fires kept going but they haven't and the CSIRO reports that the Koala population is on the increase so why hasn't this made the news and a Statement about the 2050 Koala extinction statement been corrected? Before recently retiring Aboriginal cultural heritage was well documented with legislation at State and Federal level in place. I cannot comment on how effective these laws are being followed but hopefully ongoing talks with the local Aboriginal groups take place and sufficient resources are in place to properly monitor these laws.

Following the bushfires in 2019 there was a lot said about the need for scheduled burn offs to minimise the build-up of undergrowth. I noticed that this hasn't been happening around where I live. Where is the program to burn off the forests and how is it tracking? Can this be made available to the public please. We were recently in the Northern Territory and burning off is standard practice up there in Winter.

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

Timber supply requirements in NSW should be based on the demand. I would suggest that the actual demand for timber is not readily available and would be under constant change but there should be estimates available to the public. Consideration to the lack of housing in the state, and nationwide, should be included in calculating future State requirement. As our population grows,

and more houses need to be built, more timber will be required going forward. It should be noted that other Australian states are closing down their timber industries and NSW are supplying them. Importing timber from other countries when we have sufficient timber here doesn't make sense on a number of levels.

1. We are trying to outsource our forest management to foreign governments, in much poorer countries, rather than take on this responsibility ourselves. Just like we tried to export our waste to foreign countries. It's not morally right.
2. Importing timber equals exporting Australian jobs. As we import more timber, we lose work here which affects regional communities. Once timber skills have gone, they are not easily resurrected.
3. Australia shouldn't be reliant on foreign countries for raw materials such as wood. Haven't we learnt anything from the supply chain issues that the COVID pandemic highlighted? Calculate how much timber we need; how much we can sustainably produce and only import timber if needed to meet the shortfall.

If the timber industry is 'locked out' of the state forests, then this would be devastating to rural and regional communities. Proper remuneration would need to be paid by the State Government, i.e. NSW Taxpayer, to the employers and employees and the other industries affected for lack of income going forward and the cost of their equipment which would be rendered useless overnight.

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

There needs to be a balance between having the ability to log forests and maintaining an environment where native animals and trees can flourish. The need for wood will only grow with population growth and a backlog of unbuild houses. I.e. There is a massive need for plantations but also a need for the ongoing responsible harvesting of State forests to meet current and future demands. Hardwood plantations take forever to grow, are subject to bushfires and the quality of wood is not the same as naturally grown forest timber.

Plantation softwood forests are not native forests. Too many pictures of these "forests" being harvested are used by green groups to falsely accuse the timber industry of mass clearing and destruction. These plantations are just like farms i.e. Trees planted for mass harvesting. Groups who incorrectly use photos in these ways should be held accountable.

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

State Forests needs to be properly funded and staffed to manage the requirements placed on it:

- need to be kept healthy
- need to keep providing wood in a sustainable manner.
- need to be available for the public to visit and utilise.
- have to follow legislation including Aboriginal heritage
- more roads and facilities need to be developed
- roads and facilities need to be maintained

Forest management should never be included with other portfolios such as Environment as this will change its focus on meeting all of the needs we require from this precious resource.

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

Just under 50% of a tree is made up of carbon. If you remove a tree and use it in a building that carbon stays in the wood. In the space left a new tree will grow and more carbon from the atmosphere will be stored. So harvesting and building with trees is actually good for carbon storage.

Forests are already doing their job in assisting with carbon and green house emission. Trying to market this is misleading as it could never be measured accurately but I am sure you will try.