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Mr JUSTIN FIELD: If we were going to transition to plantations, that is going to take a bit of time. We have heard today that that has not been very successful in the past, probably more through lack of planning rather than being unable to be done. If it takes us 30 or 40 years to grow plantations to a harvestable level, would you be okay and supportive of an expanded role for private native forestry whilst that transition to plantations occurred?

URSULA da SILVA: Absolutely. I think we can use degraded farmland and rehabilitate it using such practices. At this stage we have already put ourselves in a softwood shortage, so we do not have much of a choice but to use the next 20 to 30 years to regrow a supply that we once had but have lost due to mismanagement.

Dear Committee,

I would like to amend this statement. I was referring to utilising degraded farmland to grow plantations or for agroforestry and am adamantly against private native forestry. This transition to plantations should have already happened as it has been discussed for decades.

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URSULA da SILVA: It was in 2020. It was not documented. We went up there and saw that there had been logs that had been cut down. Prior to that I think it was 2017, and before that it was the generation before me fighting it 20-odd years ago.”

Dear Committee,

I would like to clarify the statement that no documentation of logging in Ourimbah State Forest in 2020 occurred. On the ground logging had occurred in compartment 6 of the forest. Forestry Corporation had no documentation of this. I lodged a GIPA which wasn't fully clarified until after the inquiry that informed me that they had changed the compartment numbers. The correspondence is attached in email (GIPA Compartment Boundaries Forestry Corp).