

**Submission
No 183**

**INQUIRY INTO LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND
FUTURE OF THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY**

Organisation: Nature.Net Pty Ltd

Date Received: 30 May 2021



Long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

On 2-Feb-21, I emailed the Commissioner of the NSW Natural Resources Commission, thanking the NRC for their work generally, but asking for an update, saying “Your 2020 NSW ‘Carbon Balance of NSW Forests’ study is central to our case-study planned for the Eden/Southern RFA Region. Mid-last- year we were told to expect your NRC report “by year end”, but your NRC December ‘Forest MER Update Report’ removed any timeline estimate. Can NRC please provide a ‘best estimate’ of when we might expect copy of NRC’s ‘NSW Carbon Balance of NSW Forests’ report?”

Last week I had a conciliatory call from the NRC advising that their latest 2021 NRC Forest Update Report (of unstated exact title) was provided to NSW Government, and therefore we must all now wait for the Government to release it. In fairness to this Upper House Inquiry, we will make a final submission after sharing NRC’s latest Forest Update Report.

After millions of years of evolution, Australia’s unique wildlife is suddenly struggling to survive ‘on our watch’. Jobs are thriving in Regional NSW, based on nature-based tourism. ‘Timber Towns’ became ‘Tourist Towns’. Plantations ‘good wood’ already provides 90% of Forestry Jobs and Australia’s timber and fiber requirements.

Recently the Australian Government took another tentative step towards embracing global carbon markets by advertising for “Expressions of Interest” from organisations interested in linking online exchange facilities. Meanwhile, the UN Conference of Parties (COP26) keeps drafting a ‘Forest Rulebook’ & ‘Market Mechanisms’.

Nature-based Solutions can seek 100-Year Forest Carbon Credits, with Wildlife & Aboriginal Jobs co-benefits. As a member of both the Australian Carbon Market Institute (CMI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), I was motivated to launch a new worldwide LinkedIn Group

“Australia/Land/Forests

... 100-Year State Forest Carbon Credits + Wildlife & Jobs as co-benefits

Purpose is to facilitate honest ‘Nature-based Solutions’ in carbon-dense & biodiverse State Forests, to reduce huge daily emissions from logging, burning & wood-chipping. By leaving those trees in the ground for another 100-years we increasingly create significant low-cost Forest Carbon Capture & Storage (Forest CCS) ‘negative emissions’ draw-down.” First priority are the most carbon-dense forests on Earth. Most of these centuries-old hardwood Eucalypt State Forests are managed under Australian Government bilateral Regional Forest Agreements. These RFAs operate in four States (NSW, Victoria, Tasmania & Western Australia).

“Alps-to-Coast”(A2C) is a vision spanning Victorian & NSW State Forests currently being logged. A2C starts with the existing ‘Australian Alps’ National Heritage Parks listing in Victoria and NSW. Victoria can add the Great Forest National Park proposal and connect East Gippsland to their Australian Alps. NSW ‘Kosciuszko-to-Coast’ (K2C) builds on a 2017 case study for Forest Carbon, Wildlife & Aboriginal Jobs.

LinkedIn Industry keywords: Accounting, Government Administration, International Trade & Development.

“Politicians have a duty of care over climate” was a headline in the Sydney Morning Herald 28-May-21, and it went on to quote a federal court judge saying “the Great Barrier Reef will die along with the east coast’s eucalypt forests should climate change not be halted”. We therefore commend our 2 relevant attachments:

1. NatureNet 17-Apr-20 NSW Fire Inquiry submission
2. NatureNet 28-May-21 TIMELINE NSW Southern Forest Nature-based Solution 2021-2023





Nature.Net submission to independent expert 2019-20 NSW Bushfire Inquiry

Dear Professor Mary O’Kane and Dave Owens,

Thank you for your commitment. We wish you both well in historically important work over coming months. Scientific and other facts will sustain your credibility after your independent expert NSW **Bushfire Report**.

Summary of our Nature.Net submission: **NSW ToR : Causes and contributing factors**

i.e. 'The causes of, and factors contributing to, the frequency, intensity, timing and location of bushfires in NSW in the 2019-20 bushfire season, including consideration of any role of climate change, weather, drought, fuel loads and human activity'.

18-Mar-20 in Batemans Bay, ‘**Climate Change**’ was clearly the unwelcome ‘*elephant in the room*’ when two Royal Commissioners from the Australian Government’s ‘*Black Summer*’ Bushfire Inquiry met our six community representatives face-to-face for two hours. The Commission Chair, along with his anonymous ‘PM Adviser’, discouraged our majority view that our local fire experience matched scientific advice *climate change is the ‘underlying cause’* of unprecedented catastrophic 2019/2020 Forest Fires in South East Australia.

Nature.Net is addressing our ‘*Kosciuszko-to-Coast*’ landscape, 80% in *State Forests & National Parks*:

1. **Diverse climate change** across ‘K2C’ spans from Australia’s highest peak to South Coastline Forests.
2. Fire Agencies’ GIS Data *proves National Park fuel loads are a minor problem beyond ‘Built Assets’*.
3. ‘**Human activity**’ logging, Eden wood-chipping & burning makes our *State Forests more fire prone**.
*30-year logging & fire history from Professor David Lindenmayer (*Canberra University 18-Feb-20*). Logging opens the canopy, dries out the understory & results in densely packed ‘stick-like’ regrowth. Forest Corp. says 80% of our Eden & Southern Forests burnt last summer, 75% started by lightning.
4. **State Forests today** are our biggest source of GHG emissions & smoke pollution in South East NSW. Nature.Net is developing a K2C ‘**100-year State Forests Carbon Credit**’ Proposal to the NSW Govt. *First*, stop logging emissions & deliver ‘carbon capture & storage’ in our *publicly-owned* native forests. *Next*, pay private landowners to invest in ‘Carbon Forestry’. *Both* may deliver ‘**Zero Emissions by 2050**’. **Jobs** (e.g. *Youth & Aboriginal*) can be funded by the *Carbon Credit* in each K2C Local Government Area.

Nature.Net’s principal consultant, Mike Thompson has relevant experience in above, *including*:

- Former IBM Australia executive (15 years), then became independent Business Strategy consultant.
- 2013 Minister Hunt invited Mike to a ‘Train-the-Trainers’ *Carbon Farming Initiative* workshop.
- Member of Australia’s *Carbon Marketing Institute* (CMI) & meets Ministers at Carbon ‘Summits’.
- Member of Australia’s *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC Social Chamber) - *Carbon Forestry* focus.
- Member of NCC’s *Forest Working Group* & NPA(NSW) rep. for Far South Coast & K2C Executive.
- Organiser of *EDEN VISION Event* 27-Jan-19, with Eden LALC & Business/Tourism supporters.
- Organiser of 4th ‘*Australian Forests & Climate Action Forum*’ at ANU (next date to be confirmed).

Recommendation #1: Please provide bi-partisan leadership from our Australian Governments on ‘global climate action’ to address the ‘underlying cause’ of Australia’s 2019/2020 South East Forest Fires.

Recommendation #2: Fund jobs via our NSW/K2C Land/Forest Carbon Credit ‘Nature-based Solution’.



Jobs, Wildlife & State Forest Carbon nature-based solutions* [THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL]

'Great Southern Forest' (Eden & Southern RFAs) / 'Kosci2Coast'(K2C) / SOUTH COAST Forests

Background page 'Helicopter View' of 6-Level program design & early TIMELINES (2021-2023)

Events, data, websites & contacts connect 6 Geographic Levels (Earth/Australia/State/Region/LGA/Locality):

Level#1. EARTH (Global)

- 1.1 *UN 'Make Peace with Nature' Report 18-Feb-21 promotes Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) → COP26 Proposals
- 1.2 IPCC AR6 (6th Assessment Reports) #1. Physical Science, #2. Mitigation, #3. Impacts, etc May-Oct 2021
- 1.3 Key Global NGO "Influencers" & Event Sponsors (e.g. Birdlife International, FSC International, WWF, etc.)
- 1.4 ## UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (**COP26 'Outcomes' from Glasgow?**) **1st-12th Nov 2021**
- 1.5 UN 'Synthesis Report': AR6 due by July 2022 to inform UN '1.5C Review' & 'Global Stocktakes' in 2023

Level#2. AU (Australia)

- 2.1 2020 τAI "Climate of Nation" Launch Speaker **Matt Kean** **... refer 2017 'Southern Forest Carbon Credit'
- 2.2 NSW & Royal Commission 'Fire' Reports & review with Prof. Andrew Macintosh + updates to 2017 Report.
- 2.3 Carbon Market Institute (CMI) Australian Emissions Reduction Summit, NSW Gov. Sponsor, 24&25-Jun-21, - with **Matt Kean** ** as 'Opening Keynote Speaker', and Federal Minister **Angus Taylor** is 'a Keynote' on Day Two!
- 2.4 Lobby GovAU on UN 5-Yearly Plans for **minimum Forest Emissions** + **max. F. Biod. & F. Carbon 'Stocks'**
- 2.5 **Jobs Data** from ABS, plus complementary sources.(e.g. NSW NRC Native Forests Jobs data due in "early 2021")
- 2.6 Organise 4th Australian Forests & Climate Action (AFCA) Forum @ ANU (ACF, AYCC, TAI, TWS, WWF) Feb 2022

Level#3. NSW

- 3.1 **KOALA & **'Carbon Balance of NSW Forests'** Reports (- incl. Reply to 2-Feb email to NRC Commissioner) **June 2021**
- 3.3 Organise NSW State Forest Forum @ Sydney Town Hall (Sponsors AYCC, NCC, NPA & WWF - tbc) Feb 2023

Level 4. SOUTH COAST

- 4.1 **'Kosci2Coast'(K2C) Southern Forest Recovery Plan...CARBON, JOBS, KOALA & hollows-dependent TS/SoS**
- 4.2 **4 LGA's Community Strategic Plans (CSPs) & 2nd 'South Coast Forest Forum'@Batemans Bay by Feb 2023**

Level#5. LOCAL 5 'LGA modules' or tailored 'Postcode Units' within the NSW Southern Region/South Coast:

- 5.1 **SNOWY VALLEYS**
 - 5.1.1 e.g. **Jobs: Tourism, NRM/Forestry & other LGA/CSP priorities; incl. Forests, Tumut, Tumbarumba, etc**
- 5.2 **SNOWY MONARO**
 - 5.2.1 **Jobs: Tourism**, Snowy2, KNP, Pests & 'K2C NRM & Visitors' ideas; incl. Cooma, Jindabyne, Delegate
- 5.3 **BEGA VALLEY**
 - 5.3.1 **Wildlife / Koala Recovery Plan (LGA Pilot) involving Bega-based community Koala Action Network**
- 5.4 **EUROBODALLA**
 - 5.4.1 **Mogo Mountain-Bike Track (LGA Pilot 'Derby Model')** 1st Draft is Eurobodalla Shire's 2020 Proposal
- 5.5 **SHOALHAVEN**
 - 5.5.1 **State Forest 'Nature-based Solution' (Nbs) and 'Unspoilt NSW South Coast' Tourism (LGA Pilot)**

Level#6. TOWN (e.g. 'Locality' in Eden-Monaro electorate = Earth / AU / NSW / South / Bega_Valley / Eden)

- 6.1 **'EDEN VISION'**= proud 2nd bi-annual **Australia Day week ... 2022 'kick-off' event.** 10am Tue 25-Jan-22

John Blay's new book "Wild Nature ... walking Australia's south east forests" is our highly recommended 336 page constant campaign companion. [****Matt Kean** hopes to launch a celebration of John's book Wild Nature in September]

