

The role of the forest industry in meeting Australia's carbon and biodiversity targets

Libby Pinkard | 17/10/2023





- Crossing boundaries increases risk of large-scale abrupt or irreversible environmental changes
- Understanding the interplay is important





commitments

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - Low carbon economies

Global

– Carbon neutral



- CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - Conservation and restoration 30% x 2030
 - No net loss, nature positive





Recognition of risks and dependencies

- Economies, livelihoods and wellbeing depend on nature
- We have failed to engage with nature sustainably
- This is endangering our prosperity
- Our economies are embedded within nature, not external to it
- Change how we think act and measure success
 - Increase supply of nature relative to current levels
 - Change our measures of economic success
 - Transform our institutions and systems



Plisks 23		WEF Global Risks Perception survey 2022-23
	1	Failure to mitigate climate change
	2	Failure of climate-change adaptation
	3	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
	4	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
	5	Large-scale involuntary migration
	6	Natural resource crises
	7	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
	8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
	9	Geoeconomic confrontation
	10	Large-scale environmental damage incidents



Australia's response

UN convention on climate change

- Limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C
- Compensate nations for loss and damage
- Adaptation and mitigation

Australia's climate change responses

- Net zero by 2050
- Emissions Reduction Fund
- Energy transitions
- Sustainable finance taxonomy
- TCFD disclosures

Forests and climate leaders partnership

- Halt deforestation
- Maintain forests
- Restore degraded lands
- Expand agroforestry
- Sustainably use forests
- Build green value chains

CBD global biodiversity framework

- Conserve 30% and restore 30% of terrestrial & marine ecosystems
- No further loss of important biodiversity
- Require transnational companies to disclose their impacts on biodiversity

Australia's nature positive plan

- 30 x 30 EPBC Act
- National environmental standards
- Regional plans for environmental restoration
- Nature repair market
- National EPA
- Environmental Information Australia
- Environmental economic accounts
- TNFD disclosures



Role of forestry in path to net zero



- Longevity
- Emissions from operations
- Climate risks

Source: CSIRO 2022. Australia's carbon sequestration potential



Role of forestry in the path to nature positive

Figure 16: Four high-impact restorative and regenerative actions in forest production



Protect and restore areas of significant biodiversity and carbon value

Reintroduce native or endangered tree species adapted to climatic conditions



Preserve and establish connectivity between habitats



Preserve and enhance carbon removals in soils and forests



Forest Sector Nature-Positive Roadmap Phase I: A shared definition of nature-positive



7 summers to 2030 – rapid change





Risks

- Energy and nature positive transitions
 - Competition for land
 - Biodiversity/carbon markets
 - Offsets
 - Alternative products eg SAF
- Regulatory environment
 - Environmental credentials
 - Risk disclosure

Opportunities

- Engaging in transitions

 Role of forestry
 - Multiple benefits
- Partnerwith other sectors
 - Eg MLA CN30
- Farm forestry/agroforestry
 - Climate resilience
 - Benefit stacking (C+B+)
- Demonstrating value
 - Natural capital accounting
 - Risk reporting (eg TNFD)



A future vision?

Transition

- supporting energy and nature positive transitions that are supporting environmental outcomes and building wealth and security for the future
- Industry-wide approach to risk management and disclosure

