

DEBORAH MOHR

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

The current forestry operations in NSW are evidently unsustainable. And it would appear there is no real moves to improve sustainability. Mature trees are important to the ecosystem. Even once they've died, they continue to serve the forest through the provision of habitat and the decomposition of the wood that feeds the forest.

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

The process of logging is destructive on a number of levels. Obviously for the trees that are then used for timber, but also the surrounding plants and animals that are damaged and killed or lose their homes through the process.

Time and again, logging efforts move into areas where there is evidence of critically endangered species. Yet money speaks louder than the forest bird and wildlife chatter.

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

Timber demand peaked a number of years ago and with new technologies offering alternatives to what was once "only possible" with hardwood (eg. enabling the use of engineered soft woods and recycled plastics), there is no reason to continue native forest logging when it clearly causes so much destruction.

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

Of course, we need a solution to our timber requirements and plantation forests are the best means of servicing the industry.

We do not need to log native forest for timber. We do not need to clear native forest to create more plantations.

We do need to protect the biodiversity offered by our native forests.

And we should also support biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in the plantation forests. It is possible to support wildlife and serve the needs of the industry - it is achieved in many places in Europe.

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 is a servant to the people of the state and the country. As a government service, it must consider the people. Unfortunately, it is enslaved by the industry pressures. If government held State Forests accountable for the provision and development of forests to serve multiple purposes, including recreational, cultural, environmental as well as economic, I expect we'd see a different model of forestry.

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

Trees - forests - have been described as the lungs of the earth. We can't continue to desiccate them as we have. Supporting the healthy regrowth of forests, whilst also balancing the needs of timber production is critical. The most important immediate step is to draw a line and refuse any further native forest logging. From there we can move to how we can improve plantation forests and seek opportunities to increase our total forest footprint - to strengthen the Earth's lungs again.