

GUY DUTSON

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

We all - notably industry and government - accept the concept of 'sustainability'. But this means make a change to 'business as usual' which will involve some costs and challenges in the transition period before we can reach a genuinely sustainable practice. The current practice is demonstrably not sustainable and is becoming less sustainable with climate change (e.g. the increased fire risk in native forests under current forestry practices.) Given that Forestry NSW is subsidised by the taxpayer, government in this process need to agree and fast-track a transition to genuine sustainability.

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

Forests, notably State Forests, support very significant environmental and cultural values. Many of these values are reduced or lost when forests are harvested. A large percentage of threatened species are threatened by forestry operations. When the threats from forestry are compounded by other factors such as climate change, some species - such as those dependent on tree hollows - are seriously threatened. To conserve these species, we need to stop any forestry operations in forests that support threatened species. In reality, a total ban on logging in native forests is the most practical policy for future forestry to be aligned with State and national species conservation policies and objectives.

My limited understanding of indigenous cultural values is that many of these are negatively impacted by forestry operations.

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

As a current housebuilder suffering from the increased prices of timber, I recognise that we need more timber. A big increase in plantations is needed to meet this demand, preferably plantations of native tree species on degraded agricultural land, not on native vegetation.

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**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 belong to us all and need to meet societal aspirations. The Forestry NSW claim that they currently meet a range of outcomes is false when they claim that current practices deliver conservation outcomes for threatened species, for carbon sequestration and fire risk minimisation. This is an important concept and objective but needs an independent science-based assessment, not Forestry PR.

**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**

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Carbon and biodiversity markets are mostly serving the offset industry whereby they enable commensurate carbon and biodiversity losses. State land is for the benefit of the nation, and carbon and biodiversity benefits should be optimised for societal good and not predicated on financial gain.