

ALAN TARLINTON

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**Organisation:** N/A

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

Forestry Corporation runs at a loss and overestimates yields, which have actually declined by 40% since 2010. The only way in which it has been able to continue, is through the weakening of environmental protections. Continued operations are unsustainable because of the devastation caused to the landscape and all life forms within it, Logging is exacerbating the extinction crisis through resource and habitat destruction.

Logged forests result in weed proliferation and erosion that also threatens stream flow and water quality; they are drier and more fire-prone and do not store carbon the way untouched, biodiverse forests do.

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

We have a responsibility to protect our precious, irreplaceable forests and all the species that call them home. Forests sequester carbon, filter water, improve air quality, maximise healthy soil chemistry and soil biota. Forests are home and range for our unique fauna and flora. We must preserve them in their natural state if we wish to save the 269 threatened forest species that are struggling to hold on in NSW.

Forests are good for humans too: for our recreation, our health and connection to Nature. We have no right to interfere with the profound spiritual and cultural connections of our First Nations people to country. We must stop destroying their land now.

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

In 2023, 87% of plantation hardwood logs were exported as woodchips. I find it shocking and immoral that a beautiful tree should be cut down and chipped, depriving its dependent wildlife and diminishing our natural heritage.

We need to tailor the use of harvested logs. We can satisfy our building needs from other sources.

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

We already have 91% of our timber needs met by plantations, so we do not need to destroy our native forests. Sylviculturalists should be encouraged to produce the speciality timbers we require.

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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**

Forests improve the natural environment, providing water supply, improving air and soil quality, helping keep the landscape moist and safe and sequestering carbon. They bring the economic

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benefit of tourism to the regions. We know that a connection to Nature is good for our mental health and forests can also provide opportunity for healthy, physical recreation. Tens of millions of dollars per year of public money goes on propping up FC's hardwood division and in equity payments. Clearly, forests are worth more standing!

**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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Once a forest is logged, its carbon storage is halved. 3.6 million tonnes of carbon are pumped into the air every year by logging native forests. Leaving our forests intact is our best bet in meeting our emissions targets. Our forests and their creatures are suffering from climate change. However, a pristine forest is better able to resist the effects of climate change, the droughts and fires, as it is moister and more resilient. Thus, there are many reasons to end native forest logging as soon as possible.