

ANE BINGHAM

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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

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I live in an area surrounded by State Forests. I have first hand knowledge of the decline of these forests over the past 23 years of residence from industrial logging. My property which is bounded by a former State Forest that was harvested under stricter license conditions than those protections loosened in 2018 is a good example of my observations concerning the sustainability of forestry operations. There has been minimal regrowth or recovery during the period of my residence. You will understand that this also includes the health of the animal populations of a functioning forest. Koala and significantly higher bird populations were once common. I also refer to the scientifically established degrading of catchment systems, vulnerability to bushfires, uncontrolled weed growth. The financial cost to the wider community of NSW taxpayers to ensure a small number of businesses and employees survive is hard to appreciate particularly when we must also pay for their court appearances and fines which seems to be an increasingly common event - clearly falls way outside the definition of sustainability. Local ratepayers must also support the damage to roads and financial burden from resulting impacts to their own vehicles. Logging truck dust settles on solar panels reducing efficiency. But the most concerning is the very real health issues associated with the air pollution from dust. It is my view that past, current and future operations in NSW are not sustainable.

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

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The health of an untouched forest is invaluable to the whole environment which includes all points mentioned in 1. It represents a place of spiritual importance in Aboriginal culture and this is also a widely held belief in the general population. An untouched forest is critical to the wellbeing and health of community. The importance of being outside and in nature was stressed by NSW Government during Covid.

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

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What sort of demand requires half the yield to be turned into wood chips (as I understand occurred in 2023).