

ANN BROWN

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

We need to harvest trees from plantations, we need to start planting diverse plantations rather than monocultural. But we should not be harvesting old growth native areas. Suggesting 1000 meter perimeters is laughable, for the reasons stated in the next part.

Of course the workers in forestry want to keep their jobs, but surely it is the role of governments to plan for the future and help these workers and supporting economy transition to some form of regenerative and sustainable use of our land.

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

I am particularly concerned about the logging of any native forests. I have travelled widely in NSW visiting National Parks as well as other areas. Areas like the Dorrigo rainforest are so special and rich and diverse in native flora and fauna. Dorrigo is protected, but all areas of native forest should have protection from logging. More and more evidence is known of the important biodiversity present, which has grown over thousands of years and which will be destroyed by logging. We know now how trees support each other underground and are learning of the importance of fungal networks. Once destroyed they will never recover their diversity completely. We will lose species before we even know they exist.

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

I cannot believe that beautiful old native trees are still being cut down, turned into wood chips and exported. And this industry is being subsidised by our taxes. The statistics I have seen make a plain case for stopping immediately: I will not try to add to all the words already written.

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

I will leave this to the experts

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

I will leave this to the experts

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

Not everything can be measured in terms of markets and economy. Of course trees are essential to life: without them we don't have oxygen to breathe. But more and more city people are

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realising the simple joy which can be found in nature. Let's try to conserve what little we have left and take notice of the State of the Environment reports which have been so damning.