

ANNETTE MCKINLEY

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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**

Our forests have been grossly mis-managed, many areas now contain few old trees and the vegetation is even aged vegetation with minimal habitat attributes. The current levels of logging in native forests are not sustainable and the industry relies on government support and subsidies. We are already experiencing rapid climate change (increased fire, flood and cyclone damage), bell miner related dieback, impacts from myrtle rust and the likelihood that the bird flu will impact drastically on our native fauna, including mammals. Logging and forest destruction releases large amounts of carbon, modifies the forest structure which favours bell miners, increases the movement of myrtle rust spores. The conversion to even aged stands with dense regrowth wattle and sapling understorey increases fire risk. The current forestry operations in native forests are unsustainable.

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

Our old forests are of great cultural significance to indigenous Australians and should be managed in consultation with Aboriginal vegetation management teams (cool burns etc).

Our native forests provide valuable refugia for flora and fauna including threatened species. We are on a downward spiral and currently witnessing large scale biodiversity loss and reduction of significant species populations and their distributions. Over the past 40 years I have watched the decline and in some cases total loss of species such as the Koala and the Long-nosed Potoroo from areas where they once seemed stable. This is largely as a result of habitat loss and poor forest management. Species such as the Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Sooty Owl and Glossy Black-cockatoo require tree hollows in large trees that are components of old growth forest. It is imperative that we protect these forest attributes.

Appropriate ecological management and restoration will reduce bell miner dieback and less disturbance will reduce myrtle rust impact.

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

We do not need our native forests for timber production and investing in hardwood plantations on already cleared land should supply future timber products in addition to storing carbon in the interim.

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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**

Jobs in timber extraction in native forests could be replaced by jobs converting cleared land to plantation or in national parks management. Timber plantations should emulate the local native forest with the correct tree species for the local soils. This has not always occurred in the past resulting in plantation failures.

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Timber extraction should also be prohibited on private lands with appropriate and generous compensation packages. Our native forests are invaluable and should be acknowledged and treated as such.

**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**

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Our native forests are of great cultural significance to indigenous Australians and should be managed in consultation with Aboriginal vegetation management teams (cool burns etc).

**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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Our old growth and mature forests provide important carbon sinks. There are great opportunities relating to biodiversity benefits and markets. Our native forests are valuable for tourism, job creation and recreation.

Expanding plantations on cleared land will greatly assist in locking up carbon.