

BELINDA WRIGHT

Submission ID: 202601

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

Submission date: 10/4/2024 4:00:31 PM

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

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There must be an end to native forest logging as it is unsustainable. 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests. Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees.

Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests.

Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species.

Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers.

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

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150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests.

Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests.

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place.

Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people.

First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge.

There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.

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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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Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year.

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported.

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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**

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Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

**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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Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species.

**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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Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.