

BRETT VERCOE

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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**

I am a supporter of plantation timber agroforestry with an emphasis on utilising long term plantation areas within State forests and partnership utilisation of retired cleared farm land. There are many landholders who would gladly enter into partnerships with the Forest product industry as both an alternative income stream while also providing habitat for wildlife.

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

I do not support native forest logging operations. I live adjacent to logged native forests some of which were clear felled over twenty years ago and overwhelmed with Lantana infestation. Many of these sites show very little natural regeneration in 20 years as a result of competition from the blanket of Lantana. Locations where the canopy has been opened within any forest results in weed infestation requiring massive taxpayer investment to restore to a natural state. I have personally witnessed the huge amount of fuel left after forest logging operations coupled with the drying out of the forest due to canopy loss, sun and wind creating an increased fire hazard adjacent to my property.

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

I recognise that there will continue to be a continuously increasing demand for timber products and obviously this demand could not be sustainable long term using current practices. The loss of access to native forests and the need for expanded plantation operations has been obvious for decades and it is disappointing that this transition was not considered much earlier.

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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**

Properties similar to mine are no longer viable for livestock or agriculture generated income and would be entirely suitable to convert to plantation. In addition this would provide carbon offsets, an alternative income stream and wildlife habitat that would be preferable to open grassland as well

As a wealth of other benefits.

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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**

State Forests has a poor track record and reputation amongst the public in NSW and I believe they need to be incorporated within a Normal Government agency framework rather than a Corporation which is seen by many as working outside normal public sector practices.

## Public submission

**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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I agree with all of these objectives but would like to see them achieved in a plantation only framework. I do not support a sudden reclassification of native forests to plantation.