

BRINDLEY BUULTJENS

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

This is like cutting out your own lungs and replacing them with a lab grown breathing machine. The area of North Coast (north from the Hunter River) totals 8.5 million hectares. Of this around 4 million hectares (47%) of native vegetation has been cleared, with 1,497,000 ha (17.6%) of the region in national parks and reserves, and 841,000 ha (9.9%) in State forests (of the State Forests 50,000 ha is zoned as hardwood plantations and 30,000 ha as softwood plantations). For one of the world's 36 Biodiversity Hotspots, it is clear that we need to protect all native vegetation on State forests to progress the State and Federal Government's goal to protect 30% of our land area by 2030.

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

This has everything to do with humans as a symbiosis of the land. Not about ownership at all but responsible custodianship - which original Australians new lots about.

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

I have little faith this can be stopped. Even this form feels like a data capturing exercise rather than a proper plea for help. The people adjudicating this are probably, like me, addicted to consumption and realise that the power behind mining companies dwarfs that of most governments. We are indeed harvesting our lungs to feed our bottomless stomachs.

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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**

At what point will biodiverse forests be seen differently to sustainable timber supply? If our diets and mental consumption is also one of Ai-assisted monoculture how can we expect anything different for the Earth Mother we are taking over?

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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**

If it helps, I admit I can't throw stones from my glasshouse at this panel. I too desire to live a "normal civic" life in a safe country with infinite economic growth. Companies bigger than Australia control the outcomes of these decisions. Good luck. God help us all.

**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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Corporate interests bigger than Australia control the outcomes of these decisions. Good luck. God help us all. It can all be spinned on the dollar of carbon credits and sustainability. I'm sure one could make an argument that monoculture sustainable timber plantations are better for the environment than old growth.