

BRONWEN EVANS

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

The 2019/2020 fires greatly reduced the amount of native mature forest which has increased the value of the remnants.

Old forests have a more diverse range of trees ages. This is important for the varied arboreal population, such as those that need old trees with hollows. Without these nesting places animals that need them face extinction for lack of appropriate habitat.

Because these old trees can be 100's of years old no rate of removal can be sustainable.

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

Intact forests are important for many reasons. They filter water to create clean water and reduce flooding and drought. They act as carbon sinks. They provide varied habitats of functional ecosystems increasing biodiversity. They provide psychological solace for visitors and many have cultural significance to First Nations people. They often are the last refuge for threatened species as their habitats are removed.

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

Plantations can now provide all types of timber needed. Therefore there is absolutely no need to log the natural and varied species of forests. It must be easier and more efficient to harvest areas of a single type of tree susceptible as plantations provide.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. Use of private native forest must also be stopped as they are equally a valuable resource. All wood needs must come from plantations.

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

At the moment forests are valued by the economics of what they can produce. This does not put a financial price on what they are providing for the environment. What monetary value is being given to the safety of native species whether they be endangered or not. What financial value is granted to regulating water quality and movement. Financially it can be quantified only after a fire or drought with the need for repair. What price is allowed for the psychological health of those who go to the forest for recreation and the meaning for First Nations people. Forests are invaluable though current measures seem not to calculate this.

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

The current monoculture production of modern agricultural methods cannot support biodiversity. We need to keep the forests we have left intact for their intrinsic values. We need them for all the reasons I have mentioned, such as water quality and control, carbon sink, multiple different ecosystems supporting biodiversity and for human sanity