

CAITLIN HOCKEY

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

Logging has devastating effects on forest-dependent species by removing critical food, shelter, and breeding resources. Roads created for logging increase predator access, promote weeds, and cause erosion and sedimentation in streams. A recent study highlighted that 29 million hectares (54%) of NSW's pre-1788 native forest and woodland vegetation has been cleared, with 9 million hectares of the remaining forest estimated to be degraded. There are currently 269 nationally threatened forest-dependent taxa under the EPBC Act, with significant overlaps between logging activities and the habitats of critically endangered species, including the long-footed potoroo, southern brown bandicoot, and koala. The intensity and frequency of droughts and wildfires, exacerbated by climate change, further compound these threats, as evidenced by the 2019/20 wildfires that destroyed vast areas of native forest.

Forestry Corporation's estimates of sustained yields have been proven time and time again to be gross over-estimates, since 2010 yields from state forests have declined by 40% from 1.3 million tonnes down to 0.8 million tonnes in 2023, and are currently only 61% of claimed sustained yields, with the massive loss of resources in the 2019/20 fires yet to be factored in. It is a tree mining operation, that has only been able to be maintained by removing protections for most mature trees and increasing logging intensity in 2018. Logging of native forests is not sustainable as it reduces biomass and carbon storage, removes mature trees and their abundance of nectar and browse essential for many species, depletes old-growth trees and the hollows that 174 of NSW's species depend upon for dens and nests, increases fire threat and intensity, reduces stream flows, promotes weeds and dieback, and increases erosion and stream pollution.

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

Forests generate rainfall and cool the land, clean the air, provide homes for a plethora of threatened species, are important for recreation and improved health, filter and regulate runoff to streams, and remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their wood and soils. If we want to save NSW's 269 nationally listed threatened forest species, including the endangered Koala and Greater Glider, it is essential that we stop logging their homes.

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

Native hardwoods comprised 2.4 million (9%) of Australia's log production of 25 million cubic metres in 2023, with half this exported as woodchips. Saw and veneer logs comprised just 8% of the 8.5 million cubic metres of logs obtained from hardwood plantations, with 87% exported as woodchips. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. With a change in emphasis we can satisfy our hardwood needs with sawn timber and composite timber products from existing plantations.

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. The proportion of saw and veneer logs obtained from hardwood plantations needs to be increased, rather than being exported as woodchips. Without competition from subsidised public forests there will be an increased incentive for selective logging of speciality purpose hardwoods from private forests.

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

There are 2 million hectares of State Forests in NSW that provide water for numerous town reservoirs, have the potential to contribute to increased tourism, and take-up and store carbon. All these real economic benefits will improve if logging is stopped. In 2023 Forestry Corporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for each hectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining tens of millions in regular equity injections. We should not be paying to degrade forests and log the homes of threatened species. Public forests are of greater economic benefit for water yields, tourism and carbon storage than they are for logging. It is in the best interest of taxpayers to stop logging of public native forests.

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

Native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) per year, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 cars. The volume of carbon stored in logged forests has been more than halved. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our climate targets. As shown by the 2019/20 wildfires, increasing droughts and fires due to climate heating are already having a significant impact on trees, forest species and rainforests. It is essential that logging stop to allow forests to reduce the impacts of climate heating by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and recover their integrity to better withstand future disasters.