

CRAIG VIRTUE

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

I work in timber milling the mill i work in receives native forest timbers from state owned and private resource at a 1:1 ratio. I've worked here for close to 20 years and believe the resource is sustainable. The timber we mill is logged by reputable contractors who are often multigenerational family run companies. The contractors have vested interest in the sustainability of the forest resource.

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

The number pf multigenerational family companies in the local timber industry indicates a forest culture in out region. The regions forest provide industry but also recreation, habitat and erosion protection in times of flood.

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

The demand for timber has not decreased, however the supply of log has become more difficult to obtain.

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

The supply from private native forest timbers from Kyogle Shire in the north east of NSW has stopped. The recent enforcement of duel consent has proved too onerous and expensive for private forest owners.

Private land holders often harvest to provide income in times of drought to buy feed for stock, replace infrastructure such as fences, or pay for other property management such as fire preparedness.

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 forest timbers make up part of the local identity through timber production but also recreation and amenity.

Diverse management should not exclude production, especially as the production impacts less than half a percent of the land area annually, and it regenerates.

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 area harvested annually would not impact any carbon or biodiversity benefits or possible markets. Harvesting is not clear felling, it is selective and managed to maintain the environmental qualities in the harvest areas