

CYNTHIA BROOK

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

Forestry practices are demonstrably unsustainable as smaller and smaller logs are harvested for low value uses. Forestry Corporation has been prosecuted a number of times for breaches by the EPA so its social license to continue operating is highly questionable. There should be no future for forestry operations in our native forests. It's an industry that costs the taxpayer and makes no sense from any point of view - environmentally or economically.

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

There is so little left of intact native forest compared to when Europeans arrived that we have a collective responsibility to protect what's left. The decimation that's occurred now threatens the future of koalas and the greater glider. Having forest ameliorates the effects of climate, cools the air, generates mist and rain and protects soil. Humans can't replicate nature so we need natural areas where we can experience the full majesty of what nature can provide.

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

Consumers have demonstrated they're interested in sourcing sustainably produced products. This should drive innovation in timber products that can be sourced from plantations.

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

For years we've been promised a transition to plantation timber harvesting. Well managed plantations should be able to meet demand. There's a concern with private native forestry that it needs regulation and harvesting plans should have to go through an approval process.

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

Forest ecologists should be managing the future of 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

Intact native forests are less fire prone than logged ones. Forests are also carbon sinks. A biodiverse forest has more chance of mitigating the effects of climate change.