

DAVE RAWLINS

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

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Logging in native forests is fundamentally unsustainable.

There is much scientific evidence to testify to this. See *The Forest Wars* by Prof David Lindenmayer, 2024

The current practice leads to the removal of older trees, which are crucial for the survival of wildlife such as the Koala and the Great Glider. Current logging levels compromise vital habitats, putting forest-dependent species at further risk of extinction. The urgency of this issue has intensified following the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, which have significantly altered forest ecosystems and highlighted the need for immediate action.

Logging of all native forests of any age class or condition must cease immediately to ensure forests as soon as possible develop into mature and resilient intact ecosystems that include hollow bearing trees

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

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Forests serve as critical refuges for numerous threatened species that depend on mature, intact ecosystems. They provide essential services such as water quality regulation, habitat connectivity, and recreational opportunities for local communities and visitors. Moreover, forests hold immense cultural and spiritual significance, particularly for Aboriginal communities, emphasizing the need for respectful and inclusive management practices that recognize these values.

Logging of all native forests of any age class or condition must cease immediately

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

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To meet the growing demand for timber in housing, construction, mining, transport, and retail, we must prioritize sustainable sources. Transitioning to plantation timber can significantly reduce pressure on native forests while supplying high-quality timber products. This shift supports sustainable industry practices and aligns with the need for environmental conservation.

Logging of all native forests of any age class or condition must cease immediately and plantation timber used. We have already had decades to move to this transition. Most native timber is currently used for high volume , low quality pulp for paper.

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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**

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The future of timber supply can be bolstered by investing in softwood and hardwood plantations and supporting Private Native Forestry initiatives. Ending public forest subsidies could promote sustainable timber production on private lands, encouraging a more responsible approach to forestry management that minimizes environmental impact.

**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**

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Healthy native forests are essential for maintaining water resources and enhancing biodiversity. Restoring and managing State Forests can yield economic benefits through tourism, carbon storage, job creation, and recreational opportunities. The current financial model of the Forestry Corporation is unsustainable; a shift towards more diverse management practices, including Aboriginal forest management models, can enhance both cultural and social values while improving overall forest health.

**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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Logging native forests releases significant amounts of carbon, exacerbating climate change. Preserving these forests is vital for mitigating climate risks, including increased wildfires and droughts. By ceasing logging activities immediately, we can allow forests to play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation, supporting participation in carbon markets and contributing to climate resilience.