

DIANA COMBE

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

I write as a scientist and a mother and a grandmother. It is clear to me that current current forestry operations in New South Wales are not sustainable. We absolutely need to stop logging our native forest. I know that at the moment these are being logged at great speed, including parts that are meant to be protected. we only know there are being logged because of the brave people that are going in there and photographing them. I know that we need forestry, but we do not need to log our native forest. And we need to keep our native forests for so many reasons that science has elaborated upon. We need them because they are such wonderful carbon sinks and places for sequestering carbon. we need them because they are protecting the land from degradation in rain. We need them because they protect the water table. We need them for homes for our rare and beautiful animals. And we don't need to lock them, because we can log plantation forest.

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

The environmental and cultural values of our native forests are well established. The aboriginal cultural heritage values are huge, and I can't pretend to understand them properly since I'm not an aboriginal person. But I do know the aboriginal people have huge cultural ties to the land. And I do know that we don't need to be logging these first and those who are logging them secretly they should not be doing so. The native species whose existence is threatened by the logging of native forests are many and buried. We can't possibly know them all. Some of them like our iconic koala it is hard to believe we could possibly out of a become extinct. There are many animals become extinct that we've never even identified. We need to keep enough forest and enough Forest corridors that we can have healthy koala populations. The koalas were here before us, and they are such unique extraordinary iconic Australian animals. Apart from the koalas themselves, they are such a tourist attraction. How can we possibly allow them to become extinct or just exist in zoo. To be out in the bush and see a koala in its natural habitat is one of the most extraordinary things that I've seen in my life. I feel hugely at home in the bush. I love the bush it's the place I go to for solace and restoration. And I think I knew twice have I seen a koala in the bush. once in my childhood I saw one in Sydney at Avalon on northern Beaches. It's beyond belief that we could allow this creature to become extinct because of our greed. Because of our greed to log the forests and not only destroy the koala habitat greatly contribute towards global degradation.

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

We need timber for construction. But we can use plantation timber for this, trees can be developed and grow quickly and be harvested and grow quickly and be harvested and grow quickly etc. Extraordinarily our native forests are often being logged just to be chipped. . This is unbelievable.

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

We do not need and we cannot afford to log our native forest to supply our timber needs. We need to use plantation timber. We need to preserve our native forest, particularly our old native forest.

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

It seems that those managing the environmental economic and social outcomes and options for our forests are not protecting them. We need transparency, and we need that the process is not rushed. We need that we are not in the situation where forests are logged before they are assessed. We need that the environment is given the maximum priority in every decision. This is the only way we can preserve unbelievable quality of life. As I said I write as a scientist and as a mother and a grandmother. I've read and I know the science. I know the danger of destroying our native forests and I know the wonderful benefit of leaving them there in terms of, reducing the acceleration of climate change. And the benefit of having them just to walk through and soak up the benefit of being in those beautiful trees. I know danger so many native species, and I know that our wonderful wildlife is unique and not even properly identified and categorised and understood.

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

I write as a scientist. It is undeniable that one of the best things we can do to minimise our greenhouse gas emissions is to keep our native forest. There are other things too but one of the most immediate things is to save what native forest we have left. I would plead with you to read all the science, and to think of the future of the children the grandchildren the unborn children, those who are coming into a world that we have an opportunity to protect.