

DRS KATHY &amp; TERRY WHITE

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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

We do not believe there is any way in which logging natural forest can be considered sustainable, given the time taken for logged areas to recover, and the fact that logging results in an immediate loss of wild-life habitat. We only have to observe areas close to our home which were logged years ago but still appear like lunar landscapes. Elderly neighbours tell us that, as children, they routinely heard koalas in the trees but there are no longer koalas in the area. At a time when we need increased tree cover to ameliorate some of the effects of climate change, logging natural forest is tantamount to environmental vandalism.

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

It should go without saying that we must protect aboriginal cultural heritage as it relates to forests and absolutely must halt the destruction of habitat, particularly of threatened species. It is a source of shame that Australia is responsible for mass extinctions of animal species via habitat loss. The NSW govt should declare a moratorium on native forest clearing in order to save the remaining species.

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

Timber products should be sourced from plantations specifically for this purpose. Consideration should also be given to using green steel in some construction going forward.

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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**

We believe all wood should be sourced from plantations and no commercial native forestry, public or private, should be permitted.

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**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**

We support State Forests to deliver environmental and social outcomes. Economic outcomes should not be based on logging but on recreational/tourist uses. Our forests are most valuable as carbon sinks and catchment areas for clean water.

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**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**

Preservation of forests is key to managing carbon dioxide emissions and biodiversity but their role in 'markets' is questionable as there are large question marks around the current carbon offset

## Public submission

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schemes. We fear using native forests as carbon credits would undermine efforts to reduce emissions. If forests are included in carbon trading schemes then credits should only be available for re-forestation and not for preservation of existing forest.