

FELICITY BRIGGS

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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**

I fully support ending native forest logging in favor of sustainable plantations. Logging is pushing koalas and Greater Gliders toward extinction and is economically unsustainable, relying on taxpayer subsidies. Timber yields have dropped by 40% since 2010, while intensified logging damages ecosystems, reducing biomass, carbon storage, and critical habitats. It also increases fire risk, water pollution, and the spread of invasive species, degrading waterways and ecosystems. By protecting native forests now, we ensure that future generations can enjoy, appreciate, and benefit from these irreplaceable ecosystems, preserving biodiversity and the natural beauty of these landscapes.

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

As a science teacher, I recognize the importance of preserving habitats, particularly for species like koalas and Greater Gliders. Despite efforts to establish the Great Koala National Park, over 18,800 hectares of critical koala habitat and 11,000 hectares of Greater Glider refugia are being logged or slated for logging in NSW. This logging disproportionately targets key areas, posing a severe threat to these species and their ecosystems. Healthy, unlogged forests are vital for the environment, supporting biodiversity, regulating climate, and holding cultural and spiritual value for First Nations communities. Logging impacts over 150 threatened species in NSW and compromises ecosystems across the region.

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

Ending native forest logging is entirely feasible, as Australia already meets around 90% of its timber needs through plantations. The remaining 10% could be supplied by halting unprocessed wood exports and improving plantation management. Logging native forests is unnecessary for building homes, as most of the timber from NSW logging is exported as woodchips or used for low-value products like pallets. In 2023, native forest logging contributed only 9% of Australia's total timber production, with half of that turned into woodchips for export.

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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**

Ending native forest logging is entirely achievable, as 90% of Australia's timber needs are already met by plantations. The remaining 10% could be supplied by improving domestic plantation management and halting unprocessed wood exports.

**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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From an environmental perspective, the real value of native forests lies in their roles in carbon storage, water regulation, providing habitats, reducing fire risk, and offering recreation and cultural connections. NSW logging, currently subsidized by taxpayers, operates at a financial loss, while unlogged forests provide significant ecological and economic benefits. Spanning 2 million hectares, these forests support water quality, tourism, and carbon storage, making them far more valuable when preserved. Successful programs like the Githabul Rangers highlight how First Nations knowledge can help restore and maintain forest ecosystems.

**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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Native forests are invaluable for the life they sustain, not for profits. Ending native forest logging would reduce carbon emissions significantly. Logging cuts stored carbon by over half but stopping it would help forests recover and contribute to emissions targets. Unlogged forests are more resilient to climate change and fires, highlighting their critical role in mitigating both biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. Carbon offsets should not replace the preservation of these forests.