

GARRY LYFORD

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

Logging of native forests needs to stop. Continuing logging is putting protected native species like the koala and the greater glider closer to the point of extinction.

This is an industry which is adding little to state prosperity and is destroying habit of essential threatened species.

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

Forests free of human interference are essential for the survival of wildlife and our botanical heritage. This step by step destruction of forests depletes our environmental diversity. Coupled with the effects of climate change and the increasing incidence of fire, our natural systems are in great jeopardy.

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

There are suitable alternatives to timber sourced from native forests. It makes no sense to deplete our forests for products that will not result in mass extinctions of wildlife and plants and the loss of wilderness areas.

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

Plantations are available now to provide suitable timber products. Native forests are diminishing with consequent loss of habitat. There should be an immediate moratorium on native forest logging.

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

There should be an immediate moratorium on logging in native forests. The minor economic advantages are insignificant when compared to the environmental destruction that is taking place.

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

Old growth forests are active sequesters of carbon and play a huge role in our attempts to mitigate climate change.

Every blow to the natural environment is now another step closer to our grandchildren's armageddon through runaway climate change.