

GEORGINA SAN ROQUE

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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**

Native forests are more valuable retained intact. Native Forest logging is not sustainable, particularly for wildlife. The effect of the 2019-20 bushfires when millions of native creatures perished makes this a much more serious issue.

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

Native forests are vital to the survival of a range of threatened fauna, including koalas, gliders, threatened bird species such as the Swift Parrot and to large Forest Owls. In the interests of preserving land for wildlife and stopping extinctions native forests should not be logged. Increasingly native forest areas are important for recreation and provide value for tourism. They are a mental and spiritual outlet for people who live in concentrated populations in cities and suburbs.

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

Demand for timber products should be met through plantation timber - i.e. the planting of trees on cleared ground, not clearing areas for plantations. Recycled products are also durable and sustainable and these should be used wherever possible.

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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**

I support an end to native forest logging and I support the use of plantation timber and RECYLED products to meet supply needs.

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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**

Environmental, economic and social outcomes can be met by sustainable plantation models, not by logging native forests. See answer to No. 6.

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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**

Clearly leaving native timber in the ground as native forests creates greater benefit in terms of mitigating carbon pollution. It is not only the trees themselves but all the biodiversity in the different layers of the forest that is particularly valuable. Mere planting of trees cannot replicate the value of a native forest with old-growth trees and all that grows under them.

## Public submission

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Planting in areas that have been cleared historically is valuable as is allowing cleared areas to regenerate by e.g. taking stock off land - this should be more widely recognised and financially supported as a very effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These actions should be encouraged and incentivised to support carbon markets and help mitigate climate risks.