

HEIDI MCELNEA

Submission ID: 205256

Organisation: N/A

Location: New South Wales

Supporting materials uploaded: N/A

Submission date: 10/13/2024 10:27:49 PM

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

Extreme weather events such as the bushfires of 2019 have significantly affected wildlife habitat in my region of northern NSW. Renewable energy projects including new transmission lines will place additional pressure. We need to conserve forests such as Bulga and Styx and cease logging.

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

Koalas and Greater Gliders are among those endangered animals who live in the Styx and Bulga State Forests. Their habitats should be protected, or they will risk extinction. These forests also are rich in cultural heritage. First Nations people should have access and the opportunity for stewardship over these areas, such as through Aboriginal Ranger programs.

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

Hardwood timber can be sourced from plantation areas. More plantations could be established on cleared land.

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

State forests could be managed through Aboriginal Ranger programs. They could be conserved as biodiversity offsets for projects such as renewable energy projects. They could have alternative uses such as tourism, outdoor adventure, health and citizen science.

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

State forests play an important role as carbon sinks, reducing global warming and carbon in the atmosphere. They also protect water and soil.