

IFEANNA TOOTH

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

I fully support an immediate end to native forest logging and a future industry based on sustainable plantations. Logging native forests is totally unsustainable and is risking fauna and flora species extinction, land degradation and erosion, releasing huge amounts of carbon which is contributing to climate change, increasing the intensity and incidence of native forest fires, as well as damaging soil and water quality. This has all been proven in research over many years. The true value of our native forests does not come from wood production, but from their critical role in carbon storage, the water cycle, providing critical habitat, reducing fire risk, recreation and spiritual connection. Forestry NSW operations in native forests are costing NSW taxpayers and we are paying the fines for multiple breaches including illegal logging. I object to this strongly.

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

Native forest logging is driving the endangered koala and greater glider to extinction. An immediate logging moratorium should be placed over core greater glider and koala habitat while the FIAP process is underway. Aboriginal cultural heritage is seldom properly assessed before logging operations and too much has been destroyed already.

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

Timber products in NSW can be supplied fully from non-native forest sources such as plantations and composite timber products as well as recycled timber. I have seen first hand how native forests are logged by NSW Forests or their contractors and there is so much waste of hardwood and usually only around ten percent is milled as sawlogs. All of the understorey is destroyed in these operations and much of the good timber burnt which destroys more flora, soil microbes and fauna habitat.

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

Native forests should not be cleared for soft or hardwood plantations. There is enough degraded agricultural land that could be used for plantations and this should be encouraged by the NSW government. It would cost taxpayers less to support and even subsidise plantation expansion (if that's deemed necessary) than the inefficient and unprofitable native forest logging industry. Care should be taken to ensure plantations do not impact hydrology, for instance there is evidence of pine plantations drying up creeks and swamps in the central tablelands of NSW.

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 land in NSW would be much better protected for environmental values if transferred to the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. State forests are managed at a loss at present and native forests are worth far more in terms of tourism, biodiversity and carbon storage. Forestry workers should be assisted to transition away from native forest logging to plantations or to other industries.

Investigations into Aboriginal forest management should be investigated and real data collected to evaluate if such practices are sustainable, delivering desired outcomes to aboriginal people or if outcomes can be achieved just as well through conservation of native forests in a national park system.

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

Much peer reviewed research has already been carried out showing that protection and conservation of native forests has huge benefits for carbon storage and has mitigated climate change risks into the future. Protecting native forests from logging will also help NSW and Australia meet our carbon targets.

Carbon and biodiversity market projects need to be planned and regulated fully and properly so avoid roting as has happened with bio banking and carbon offset schemes. Properly funded compliance is essential to even consider these types of activities.

Logging native forest releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases in terms of destroying the immense amount of carbon storage in trees and all the other flora carbon plus soil carbon release from disturbance and soil microbes. Practices such as road clearing and construction and burning of logging "trash" also contributes to release of carbon into the atmosphere and further destruction of soil carbon.