

JARRA HICKS

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

Current practice of forestry in NSW is not sustainable. The state of the world has changed, and we need to end the logging of the public estate of native forests.

A sustainable approach has to prioritise protection of habitat of threatened and endangered flora and fauna. Increased threats to wildlife means that all remaining habitat needs to be protected, especially areas known to house endangered and threatened species. Research has shown that simply leaving 'den trees' or 'seed trees' is not enough to protect animals and ensure regeneration of forest. We need to not log in areas where there are threatened, endangered or protected ecological species. It is not enough to have small exclusion zones just around key areas. Under current practices, these islands are not sustainable and do not do well after logging.

A sustainable approach would recognise the value of letting native forests stand for action on climate change. Native forests both store and continue to sequester carbon. Given the imperatives and policies for carbon reduction, we need to leave native forests standing, undisturbed. Research has shown these forests store and sequester more carbon and new, regenerating forests or monocultures.

Water is crucial for sustainability. Forests retain and hold moisture. they reduce run off and protect water quality. In my catchment, logging in the Bulga State Forest is threatening the water quality and risks of flooding further down stream in the catchment. Increased soil erosion in this catchment will compromise water quality, which will have implications for native wildlife (such as platypus), recreational uses and farming.

A sustainable approach to forest management requires a holistic, systems view. This involves keeping in mind the impacts of logging on ecology as a whole, the planet and all of society in regards to the aspects mentioned above, and many others not covered here.

Plantation forestry should be the only form of forestry allowed.

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

I live near Bulga State Forest, where state forest is currently logging habitat that is known habitat for at least two endangered species - greater gliders and koalas. I find it unthinkable and disgraceful that state forest would do this. These forests need to be protected for the longterm health of the species they are home to. Imagine continuing to log these forests - at a loss! and for log grade timber products! - and in the future having to explain to our children why there are no longer koalas and greater gliders. Its insane and disgraceful, not to mention heart breaking. I take my 4 year old spotlighting in the forests and he adores seeing these animals. I want all children to have this opportunity. It is our national inheritance, and should be valued as such.

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

My understanding is that 90% of NSW housing needs are already met with plantation timber. I think we should (as a state) prioritise better recycling and use of recycled materials, as well as

using plantation timber for high-grade uses. There may also be some circumstances where single tree selection, very carefully done and well regulated may be permissible for high-grade timber uses.

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

Single tree selection logging should be the only form of logging allowed in native forest and this should be done with great care and restrictions in place to allow protection of waterways, endangered and threatened fauna and flora. Future locations for plantations need to take care to include landscape impacts and water flow impacts in their planning. ideally plantations would not be monocultures.

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

The forest are much more valuable standing - as recreational areas, tourism opportunities, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and water retention. I believe our state forests should be managed for creation , tourism and protection of ecological value. I am sure we can make more money this way, compared with the current losses made by state forestry at present - which are (appalling!) subsidised by public funds.

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

WORTH MORE WHEN NATIVE FORESTS ARE LEFT STANDING.

I urge the government to put a moratorium on ALL logging of public native forests while you undertake this review, lest we lose too much in the meantime! My community is BEGGING you - please end native forest logging.

I am part of a community group advocating to end logging in the state forests in our region and further afield. The people I know in this group are truly the most community-minded and law-abiding people, who are being pushed to extreme measures out of desperation. People in my community are putting their bodies on the line to halt logging, even for a morning. This is not something people do lightly. They are grandmas and grandpas, they are scared to do this, but they are desperate and feel the cause is incredibly important for the future health and vitality of our world. Please listen to our call to end native forest logging now.

Thank you.