

JOY CLEMENTS

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

Current levels of logging in native forests are not sustainable and are likely to contribute greatly to the extinction of forest dependent wildlife. Logging native forests removes the older trees, which provide vital hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, including endangered species such as the Koala and the Great Glider. The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious. Australia ranks fourth in the world for the highest number of animal extinctions and eighth in terms of plant extinctions. Restored and ecologically functioning native forests will assist in the recovery and survival of native animals and plants and their habitats.

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

Old growth forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests. Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as: water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism. Established forests also play a vital role in the mental and physical well-being of our communities. As a trail runner and nature enthusiast, I am personally invested in seeing our native forests preserved for future generations to enjoy. Native forests also carry cultural and spiritual significance, especially for our indigenous communities, which should be respected.

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

With hardwood and softwood plantations providing over 91% of Australia's log production, there is no longer any need to log public native forests. Plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products. Shifting to plantation timber reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry practices.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future. Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs. Ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

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

Healthy native forests provide essential water resources. Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities. The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations. Diverse forest

management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests. As home to the world's longest continuing cultures, Australia is uniquely placed to be a world leader in showcasing the value and success of Aboriginal land-care models.

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

Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change. Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals. Old growth forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration, storing 35 to 70% more carbon, including in the soils, compared to logged stands. They are also extremely important in the maintenance of biodiversity (fauna, flora and insect diversity) and ecological functions (nutrient and water cycles). Healthy forests are also essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought. By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.

Joy Clements

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Dear Forestry Industry Action Panel

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in your review of the NSW forestry industry. Having grown up in country NSW and as a resident of the ACT who frequently visits the surrounding NSW state forests, I strongly advocate the discontinuation of the logging of native forest in NSW.

With hardwood and softwood plantations providing over 91% of Australia's log production, there is no longer any need to log public native forests. The logging of these forests is not sustainable and is a threat to the survival of forest dependent wildlife, including endangered species such as the Koala and the Great Glider which require old trees for vital hollows and other habitat. The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious. Australia ranks fourth in the world for the highest number of animal extinctions and eighth in terms of plant extinctions. But restored and ecologically functioning native forests will assist in the recovery and survival of native animals and plants and their habitats.

Healthy and functioning native forests contribute to the wellbeing of people in NSW (and wider Australia) through their contribution to water and soil quality, catchment protection, landscape resilience and stability, carbon capture, tourism and recreational activities, and cultural and spiritual significance. Our native forests also play a critical role in the preservation of our wider ecosystems, which around half Australia's GDP (49% or \$896 billion) depends on.

The Tallaganda State Forest and surrounding native bush is on the doorstep of the ACT and is a popular destination for bushwalking, trail running, mountain bike riding and bird watching. Native forests also carry cultural and spiritual significance, especially for our indigenous communities, which should be respected.

Our iconic flora and fauna as well as our rich cultural heritage (including as home to the world's longest continuous culture) makes us an international tourist destination and enriches our quality of life. I hope you will take the opportunity to act swiftly and decisively at this critical time to preserve our state forests for future generations to enjoy.

Warm regards

Joy