

KAREN PUNTON

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

Current forestry operations in NSW are unsustainable as they greatly increase rates of habitat and species loss in NSW. Activities such as logging, roading, modification of water courses and exposure and disruption of soil culture, all have detrimental impacts on the forestry ecosystem. The current model of forestry in NSW cannot be classified as sustainable when it's causing habitat loss, reduced water quality and introduction of weeds by such a large volume.

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

The fast decline of numbers of native species such as the Koala, Greater Glider and Yellow-bellied Glider (who are all either on the endangered or critically endangered list) have been created by past and current forestry practices. Even potential improvements will still involve modification or destruction of existing forest habitat, which these species cannot afford as their populations are already so low and their habitat has already been diminished dramatically.

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

As another possibility to logging native forests, wood products can instead be sourced from plantations. The vast majority of wood products can be sourced from plantations, including for uses where hardwoods are a preference. Demand for boutique purposes such as fixtures, furniture and veneers can be met through recycling and appropriately stocked plantations.

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

My preference is that no logging be permitted in any native forests, regardless of tenure. I strongly support a transition to complete reliance on softwood and hardwood plantations for the supply of wood products in NSW. I also support the expansion of the plantation sector provided that new plantations are established on previously degraded lands rather than by clearing native vegetation.

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 highest potential public purposes of public native forests are biodiversity conservation, the provision of ecosystem services such as clean water and air, and maximising the capacity of nature systems to capture and store atmospheric carbon.

Areas of State Forests that contain legitimately established plantations should be retained as State Forests under the management of the Department of Primary Industries.

The major and repeated breaches of environment regulations by NSW Forestry Corporation demonstrates that it provides a totally unacceptable model for administering these public assets.

All State Forests that contain native forests should be gazetted as National Park, Nature Reserve, State Conservation Area or Regional Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

I support these reserves being formally declared for Aboriginal joint management under the relevant provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

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

The scientific consensus is that ecologically intact natural systems have a critical role to play in sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon, the primary driving of climate change. An intact, well-protected NSW forest estate has a major role to play in addressing these threats to our collective future.

While identifying the importance of carbon capture and storage, the lack of integrity in current carbon and biodiversity trading schemes instills little confidence that such schemes should be expanded to include public native forests. Furthermore, it would be entirely futile if credits generated through the protection of public native forests were used to enable excess emissions by unrelated industries.