

RUTH HAIG

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Organisation: *Kyogle Quakers Religious Society of Friends*

Location: *New South Wales*

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

First I need to draw attention to the fact that following the bushfires of 2019-2020 the NSW Forestry Corporation did not put into effect the limitations that were placed upon it to enable the forests of NSW which remained to recover effectively. Already the Forestry Commission was not functioning within the limitations which were required if significant habitat around older trees was retained. They were already pushing ahead with clear felling. Already the maintenance of catchment areas was not being adhered to which was essential to river health. Also Forestry was not taking action in the management of weeds and other pests required. I have lived in [REDACTED] area for over 30 years & the deterioration of catchment of the Richmond, Wilson, Tweed & upper Clarence Rivers has only deteriorated further. Climate Heating has also continued to exacerbate the problems of forests & rivers. Living in [REDACTED] I am very aware of the increased removal of logs of many sizes from both NSW State forests & Private Forests. If we are to leave a world for the young people which is livable we must coordinate incredible levels of repair. This is where we need to be directing our attention.

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

Forests are essential to our survival and that of our rivers. They absorb CO2 during photosynthesis. They sequester Carbon in the soil. They filter water so it is absorbed and does not run off the country as quickly causing greater flooding and land slides. I have lived in the forested areas for over thirty years and know that with cultural style burning it is possible to limit wild fires. Clean water is essential to human life and must be maintained wherever possible. My husband and I owned land on [REDACTED] for over 40 years and I have seen how fire is controlled by burning where the person involved had learnt from local Indigenous people. Koalas were common at [REDACTED] as were many other significant marsupials, monotremes, reptiles birds, insects as well as huge variety of wet sclerophyll and rainforest species of plants and fungi.

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

This must be related to Climate Heating. We must put limits on use of resources. We were warned a very long time ago that there were "Limits to Growth" also "Small is Beautiful". It is essential that in all areas mentioned their need to be clear parameters so that at every aspect of life there are limits to profligate use of limited resources. We must return to a Carbon tax. We lost the plot when also there was an encouragement to consumers to buy large petroleum powered vehicles. We need a circular economy, which has been lost.

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

Please see number 3. Also the effect of plantations does need to be carefully considered as they can put huge demands on water and other resources. We need to have environmental regulations

which do everything to maintain riparian zones and forests on private land. These need to be developed with as much variety of planting and age as would be so of native forests as possible.

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

Please see earlier comments

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

This is very essential.

There were 6 members present at Quaker meeting 13. 10 2024