

LINDA MC DONAGH

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

he continuation of Native Forestry in NSW is the opposite of sustainable practices in that a) it is continuing to dramatically impact of the habitat of many of the 150 threatened species in NSW including the threatened Yellow-bellied Glider; the Greater Glider and the vulnerable Koala & Glossy Black Cockatoo.

For example, the current logging practices are not allowing the trees to form hollows and create hollows. These hollows that are not being formed are essential for many species to survive.

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

Since I came to Australia in 1977 from England I was amazed by the beauty and awe of the Australian forests. Whilst not being an indigenous person, I have worked with people with indigenous heritage for a significant part of my teaching career. During that time, I came to understand how material possessions were often shared far more widely in Australian indigenous culture and hence the concept of their culture being part of the country and not owners of the country make perfect sense. If we as descendants of a dominant European culture seek to always own and control and profit from country, we are not learning from the 60,000-year-old culture that was here before European settlement. In the current context of this question the values we are giving to the forest are just future wood chips or wood for construction, these NSW forests have much greater value than that. Left un-logged they allow us to perhaps start to understand the concept of being one with country.

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

The evidence below is very concerning. Firstly, native forest logging is just 9% of the total log production in Australia) native forest logging provides just 2.4 million cubic metres to the total 25 million cubic metres in 2023.

The fact is we can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods. By utilising mainly sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods.

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

Plantations already provide currently 91% of Australia's log production,

When hopefully native hardwood logging stops in NSW. Then plantation areas should expand to make up any shortfall. The government should also ensure that plantation timber is used primarily for construction and furniture use within Australia, not as woodchips to be exported.

**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**

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At present the government of NSW is supporting the FCNSW's native hardwood division as a recent report noted in 2023 in 2019/20 financial year the state-owned logging division received \$246.9 Million worth of grants. Also, in the same period the hardwood division which was responsible for the logging in NSW forests made a \$28.2M loss over that period. Clearly the benefit to cost ration cannot be argues on this basis alone that Native Logging should continue. If instead we save State Forests from future logging, then the NSW economy will receive increased economic benefits through tourism, preserving the very important water supply, through carbon markets, and enhanced recreation opportunities.

We can also improve the future conservation and rehabilitation of our forests with First Nations communities. By using programs like the Githabul Rangers show how Indigenous-led management can restore and heal our landscapes.

**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**

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Stopping Native Forest Logging in NSW will benefit the fight to mitigate the effects of Climate Change. Every year approx. 3.6 million tonnes of carbon is released into the atmosphere from native forest logging in NSW - this equates to the removal of 840 thousand cars from the road for every year.