

LOUISE TAYLOR

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

Native forest logging is completely unsustainable from an environmental and economic standpoint. Native forest logging needs to be banned without any further delays. The majority of voters in NSW want native forest logging to be banned. In the face of the climate and biodiversity emergencies, native forests must be fully and permanently protected to provide wildlife habitat, food for wildlife, beauty, clean air and water ways as well as to store carbon and to attract rain. Native forest logging increases fire risk and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the spread of weeds and other invasive species. Economically, taxpayers are sick of forking over money to subsidize this industry that should be banned. Forestry Corporation continues to violate the minimal laws in place and then requires more taxpayer money for legal costs and fines. This is insanity. Forestry Corporation should be dismantled, and the employees retrained to work in other industries or to be employed in restoring degraded forests and converting plantations into more biodiverse forests. One industry which needs to be ramped up is the industrial hemp industry, especially for construction, which can reduce the need for timber.

I resent the inference in the question that there will be future forestry operations. I also resent that the panel leading this public consultation process does not include forest scientists and its independence is questionable.

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

Native forests have priceless environmental values from clean air, beauty, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, food for pollinators, rain makers, shade, erosion prevention, etc. 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forest. There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and

the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.

As a non-First Nations, I cannot speak for First Nations, however, native forests hold significant cultural and spiritual values for First Nations. I live on Gumbaynggirr country, always was, always will be, and native forests are hugely important for the Gumbaynggirr people, the koalas and all other wildlife. Numerous Gumbaynggirr elders and other leaders are often at the forefront of calling for the protection of native forests.

Many local residents also want native forest logging banned as they understand how native forests are key to healthy ecosystems. It was devastating to see the destruction of the 2019 bushfires and makes it even more important to permanently and fully protect the native forests that remain.

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

It is shockingly wasteful that half of the logs from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchips and exported. Native forests are also burned as biomass, which is one of the most

inefficient forms of energy. There is less demand for native hardwood as people realize the value of these live trees. If Victoria and WA can ban native forest logging, there is absolutely no reason NSW can not do likewise. Less timber can be used in construction through increasing the use of industrial hemp. There is so much waste in all sectors that addressing this waste will mean less timber will be needed. All timber that can be recycled, should be instead of ending up in landfill, being burnt in massive burn piles or mulched. There are no jobs on a dead planet and we need to recognize that we are rapidly heading towards a dead planet the more we log and exploit and/or pollute other natural resources.

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 91% of Australia's log production and a higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be sold as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips. Plantations should be converted into diverse forests which will make them less flammable and more wildlife friendly. The government subsidies of Forestry Corporation distort the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry. Selective logging on private land should only be permitted with strict environmental laws, monitoring and oversight.

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 that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW in terms of biodiversity, clean air, clean water and beauty. NSW residents should not be forking over millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity and critical habitat for threatened species. Public native forests have a much higher economic value as healthy forests although we need to stop monetizing everything, including nature. Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to exist without logging. First Nations Ranger Programs have been successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests as long as this does not involve the so-called salvage logging currently underway in Victoria. Programs, such as the Githabul Rangers, have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape.

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

Nature does not have to be monetized especially as the carbon and biodiversity markets simply allow bad business as usual to continue. In addition, these schemes have proven to be farcical in terms of protection or conservation. Protecting native forests has huge benefits in terms of mitigating the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year. Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value. Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets. Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk. Intact forests are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.