

LOUISE WEBB

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

I cannot believe that, after the devastation that large parts of NSW (and our native animal populations) suffered in the 2019/20 fires, logging of native forests is continuing apace. It is not sustainable, as it removes the older trees, which provide key habitats for koalas and greater gliders.

If we are serious about preventing extinctions of unique Australian species, we must stop the madness of native forest logging as soon as possible.

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

Our native forests are goldmines of value, for carbon reduction, threatened species habitat, water quality, and Aboriginal heritage. And once they're gone, they're gone.

I live on the Far South Coast of NSW, a lovely area treasured for its natural beauty, but absolutely devastated by the Black Summer fires. We must stop doing further damage, so that we can preserve this valuable asset, for tourists and tourist operators, to ensure water quality, to prevent native animal extinction and to help fight climate change.

The one other point I think is extremely important is habitat connectivity. Regional roads are littered with the sad remains of native animals hit by cars. We must make their lives safer by ensuring their habitats are extensive enough and sufficiently connected to minimise road deaths.

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

We DO NOT NEED native timber to build houses. Plantations are well able to supply the range of required timber products, and are sustainable. We must stop the madness of felling our native forests, particularly the large, older trees, before it is too late.

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 over 90 per cent of Australia's log production. The obvious, sensible and efficient way to go is to invest in plantations on already cleared land.

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

State Forests has an important, indeed key, role in protecting and restoring these valuable resources. Our forests can grow in economic value through well-managed tourism, recreational opportunities and carbon storage, which also can lead to job creation.

With the Forestry Corporation is not financially sustainable. It is being subsidised by government funding and is yielding less timber compared to managed plantations. I studied economics and

this looks to me like a mess that really needs fixing. Thankfully, the solution is readily available: stop logging native forests!

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

Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change, such as wildfires and drought. I would think this incentive on its own would be enough for us to better care for our native forests.

It's way past time to take climate change and the dangerous future it holds for us seriously. Stopping logging in our native forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.