

LYNDAL BREEN

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

Native forest logging is not sustainable. The time for natural forest trees to grow is too long for adequate replacement. By definition, native forest should include many ages and sizes of each species of tree with a rich understorey of shrubs and ground covers, and be able to support a wide range of living things, not only the obvious birds and mammals, but insects, fungi, reptiles etc. Such forests cannot be logged and grow back, therefore they are not sustainable.

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

Many of our forest areas are very beautiful with features that allow a wide range of activities from camping, to mountain bikes, to walking, photography and fishing. Having values that still provide high levels of protection where needed, but being more open to recreation than national parks makes our natural forest areas precious to many people.

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

Plantation forestry for these purposes exists widely, and provides economic support in many places. There is a need to make sure that provision of timber products continues without having incursions into native forests. The use of cleared and abandoned farmland could be a way of expanding plantation forestry.

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

While the need exists for new timber, there should be expansion into recycling and reclaiming timber products and also investment into new building products, with the intention of reducing logging.

There should be no exportation of woodchips, and the recycling of paper and cardboard should meet demand.

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 must be seen as having a primary purpose in contributing to environmental wellbeing with provision of clean water and control of soil erosion being among their highest values.

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 role of forests in mitigating climate change has to be fully recognised. The use of "Land use, land use change and forestry" in Australia's contribution to carbon emission controls must be always foremost in decision making regarding forestry. We can't both count it and use it.