

MARIE BLACK

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

Australia is one of the biggest countries in the world for deforestation, due to our rampant consumption of timber from native forests. This, over the past decades especially, has seen devastating impacts for the environmental state of our country. Australia is first in the world for biodiversity loss and extinction rates, and deforestation has seen so many of our unique and important species pushed to extinction. Our natural lands have been degraded and exhausted, which has led to countless cultural losses for Indigenous Australian communities, and the destruction of so many precious ecosystems. Living in regional NSW, I have witnessed firsthand a number of these losses. Therefore, the only feasible option for the future of Forestry is to end native forest logging entirely and source all our timber from plantations.

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

Australia is leading the world in biodiversity loss due to our reckless destruction of native forests, and communities have seen so many local species decline, such as the glossy black cockatoo, the tiger quoll and the greater glider. This can be directly attributed to our current forestry practices. NSW's forest also holds significant cultural values for Indigenous communities, being the location of numerous sacred women's and men's sites, as well as traditional hunting grounds. A loss of these forests directly causes a loss of their culture.

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

Plantation timber already accounts for 91% of NSW's timber production. Our economy is entirely able to be supported by plantation timber, and it is simply not culturally, socially and environmentally sustainable to still be harvesting from native forests. All of our demands, including those for products such as fixtures and furniture, can be easily met through recycling and managed plantations.

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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**

I wholeheartedly support a complete transition to softwood and hardwood plantations to produce our timber requirements. I support the expansion of the plantation industry to account for this transition, provided that new plantations are only established on previously degraded lands rather than clearing more native forest.

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**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 provide numerous benefits for the people and environment of NSW. These include preserving our native wildlife and biodiversity, keeping our waterways unpolluted, contributing

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greatly to the mitigation of climate change, maintaining healthy and fertile soils, preserving Indigenous culture and promoting eco-tourism. In order for this to happen, all state forests containing native forest should be officially stated as national parks. Areas containing legitimately established plantations should be retained as state forests. In addition, I support these reserves of native forests being formally declared for Aboriginal joint management under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

**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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Retaining and protecting our native forests is absolutely crucial in sequestering atmospheric carbon, making it essential to mitigating the effects of climate change which currently threatens the future of our planet. However, these credits gained by maintaining public native forests must also not be used as justification for the further or excess emissions of unrelated industries. Our native forests are crucial to the health of our environment, and must not be considered carbon offsets.