

MELISSA MUSICKA

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

Native forest logging is not sustainable, it reduces carbon storage and biomass which is such a valuable asset these native forests provide. Our native forests also prevent erosion, provide homes to native animals and birds many that are under threat themselves, reduces fire risk which increases after native forests are logged. They also positively impact and improve our water and air quality.

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

Native forests are an important part of country for Aboriginal people who have nurtured and cared for them for thousands of years on their land that they never ceded. The amount of destruction of Australia's forests that has occurred since Europeans arrived only a short few hundred years ago is staggering and indicates how much needs to be done to stop this continuing and to preserve and regenerate as much of our native forests as possible.

At least 150 threatened species in NSW are impacted by logging forests and more species will be added to the threatened species list and ultimately some of these will most likely move towards and very likely to extinction if the current logging of our native forests continues.

Our pollinators such as bees also rely on flowering trees of our native forests and they are already under stress due to the Varroa mite and the actions taken to try to contain the mite and their viability directly affects our food supply chain.

Our native forests provide recreation, relaxation, nature and positive mental stimulation and stress reduction to the local community and also visitors where they play a major role as an attraction and destination for tourism. Tourism alone accounts for a large influx of revenue to the state, whilst native forest logging is subsidised and runs at a loss.

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

This whole industry needs to be reviewed and recalibrated to correctly value our timber assets and to make most productive use of plantation timber that is harvested with sawn and treated softwood and composite timber made from softwoods able to substitute for all current uses of native forest and plantation hardwoods.

Many industries are moving away from using wood or deciding to not continue to use wood harvested from native forests as they acknowledge this cannot continue. There also needs to be more done by the building industry to recycle timber from demolished structures where councils and governments need to put a value on it and look at options like charging higher dumpage fees to keep them out of landfill or providing incentives for timber to be pushed into a recycling supply chain and potentially requiring new builds to use recycled timber.

Hardwood from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses listed .

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Half of the logged trees taken from native forest is turned into woodchips and exported. Our native forests being destroyed for this purpose is just so distressing and such a waste given their true value when left standing.

Housing, construction, mining, transport and retail need to reduce timber and wood waste and incentives need to be introduced to encourage and require recycling of timber and wood products so they are not considered single use.

If our native forests were correctly valued based on all the benefits they contribute there would be no argument good enough to warrant them being logged.

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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**

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Plantations already provide over 90% of Australian log production and a higher proportion of logs from plantations should be used for saw and veneer logs instead of exporting as woodchips.

The logging of native forests is heavily subsidised and public money should not be wasted on this loss making industry that has not been viable or necessary for many years now. The relatively small number of workers in this sector could easily be retrained to manage and regenerate our forests and for tourism related activities conducted in them.

I come from Newcastle where the sky was going to fall down when BHP shut. It didn't and the city was able to move past the polluting, industrial image BHP had stamped on it and the workers who didn't retire were able to move into other sectors with the existing skills they had or after retraining. The city acknowledges its BHP past and history but it also has grown and moved forward. The longer the native forest logging industry remains the more negative history will remember it as in this day and age of climate change it has no reason to exist and nor should it.

We need to stop logging native forests now and shift the full focus to our existing plantations and how to manage them the most productively and we also need to introduce timber and wood recycling to minimise these products being considered single use and going to landfill.

Further private native forestry and any land clearing of native forests needs to be halted until better regulation is in place as this needs to be avoided in almost all cases. We have lost so much of our forests already that we need to be regenerating native forests not continuing to lose it for logging or agriculture.

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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**

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Native Forests that are not logged have a clear value and benefit both for the environment and the economy of NSW and Australia.

The native forest hardwood division of the forestry corporation operates at a loss which I as a tax paying member of the public pays for and I don't want my taxes used for this and those trees belong to us the public so the government is using my money to cut down my trees which is then losing money as a business and destroying something I value and I know has been totally undervalued by this and previous governments which is what I consider mismanagement, and I could use stronger language but don't want to cause offence.

Our native forests serve us, our flora and fauna, the country and the planet through natural water quality and air quality controls, fire mitigation, species habitat, recreation, tourism, carbon storage and so much more.

We need the State forests to be managed in line with management principles of our first nations people with a focus on protection and regeneration.

**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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Native forest logging releases many millions of tonnes of carbon every year and obviously reduces the amount of stored carbon these forest provide.

Ending native forest logging will make a significant (and real) contribution to meeting our emissions targets, its that simple.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to changing climate and fire risk that is increasing due to this.