

MEVAGH CLARKE

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

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- I fully support an immediate end to native forest logging and a future industry based on sustainable plantations
- Native forest logging is driving the endangered koala and Greater Glider to extinction. An urgent and immediate halt to logging should be placed over core Greater Glider and koala habitat
- NSW logging is subsidised by the taxpayer and makes an economic loss

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

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Koalas are being targeted

With the process to create a Great Koala National Park across parts of the Mid-north Coast underway, Forestry Corporation NSW has been intensively targeting some of the most critical koala habitat remaining in Australia.

Over 18,800 hectares of core koala habitat is currently being logged or is scheduled for logging within the Great Koala National Park assessment area. This works out to be around four times more logging operations per hectare than the remainder of NSW.

Greater Gliders are being targeted

Over 11,000 hectares of Greater Glider refugia is currently being logged or is scheduled for logging in the near future.

Four key examples of this targeting are Tallaganda, Badja, Styx River and Tuggolo State Forests. Community surveys over the last 12 months have found a total of 571 Greater Gliders and 154 den trees using on-ground spotlighting and thermal drone surveys. These surveys are ongoing and indicate that there are high densities of Greater Gliders within these areas.

But if logging continues, many of these Greater Gliders will be killed.

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

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An end to native forest logging sits well inside the realm of possibility. In fact, the transition to a plantation-based industry is nearly complete, with around 90% of Australia's timber needs already being met by current plantations.

The remaining 10% can easily be satisfied by stopping the export of unprocessed plantation wood and improving the domestic management of existing plantations.

There is no need to log public forests to build houses. Products from NSW logging operations are mostly woodchips for export and other low value products, such as pallets and tomato stakes.

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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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**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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- The true value of our native forests does not come from wood production, but from their critical role in carbon storage, the water cycle, providing critical habitat, reducing fire risk, recreation and spiritual connection.
- NSW logging is currently subsidised by the taxpayer and makes an economic loss.

**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 forests are priceless, their value is not measured by accountants and profit-greedy exploiters but by the life they sustain.
- End native forest logging and stop fossil fuel emissions.
- Do not attach carbon offsets to an end of native forest logging and instead recognise the role of native forests in mitigating the biodiversity and climate crises.
- Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to global heating.
- Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals.
- Forests are essential to reducing the impacts of catastrophic climate events like bushfires and drought.
- It is unconscionable to delay an end to native forest logging so carbon and biodiversity markets can be explored. It is also unconscionable to protect publicly owned forests and make a genuine contribution to greenhouse gas reduction, only to see the climate benefits sold by state forest agencies to delay the exit from fossil fuels.