

NAME REDACTED

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

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I served as a member of an advisory committee to the nsw government on south coast woodchipping (the ashton committee) in the late 1970's. Scientific evidence was presented to that committee which showed that nsw public forests were being logged unsustainably. Additional environmental restrictions on the logging of state forests recommended by the committee were adopted by the nsw (wran) government. Over the years many of these additional restrictions have been watered down.

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

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As before, expert evidence was presented to the ashton committee that the logging of old growth forests was having a significant effect on the chances of survival of many threatened species. In the south east region of nsw there has been constant pressure from aboriginal communities to protect significant forested areas, notably the forests on and around mumbulla and gulaga mountains. Independent analysis by anthropologists such as dr brian egloff confirms the importance to local aboriginal people of these forested sites.

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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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These products should be obtained from plantation forests. Such operations should be encouraged and supported by government.

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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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Both public and private forest plantation will be needed to meet future timber supply needs. Government support will be required.

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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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NSW As mentioned previously, unlogged state forests have a very important role to play in ensuring the survival of healthy forest ecosystems. The parlous state of mammal extinctions in australia is a sad comment on our national environmental record. Young logged forests are particularly prone to fire. Young eucalypt trees have a higher proportion of flammable leaves to wood than those of mature or old age. Additionally, the leaves are closer to the ground and therefore more likely impacted by lower intensity fires. Some eucalypts do not set seeds for 15 or 20 years, so wildfire frequencies less than that can result in devastating lack of forest regrowth. Aboriginal fire management practices should be used and evaluated.

**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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Carbon markets have so far not been of much use in reducing greenhouse emissions in australia. If obvious flaws in the design of these markets can be eliminated unlogged forests should be able to play an important role in carbon capture and storage. Biodiversity markets, if and when they exist, could help maintain and improve forest ecosystems. Climate change's impact on australia's forests is likely to be huge. A warming, drying climate will result in more and hotter wildfires. Unlogged forests are less flammable than logged forests. For that reason alone carbon emissions will be reduced by introducing a no logging in state forests policy.