

NAME REDACTED

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

We need to make sure forests are sustainably maintained and that adequate trees are planted for the future. Old growth forests and those that are unique habitats need to be protected. Its quite simple. These are very different uses of forests and these must be kept seperate.

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

We need our old growth forest to sustain the rare and threatened native creatures that live in them, especially in the hollows of trees that are over 200 years old. Plants, insects and fungi species found in undisturbed habitats must be protected. Their biodiversity is priceless, we don't know enough about them and if they disappear so does the knowledge contained within them. Plants like Newry Golden Wattle is so precious. It is endemic to a small area in the Brierfield-Newry State Forest - Jaaningga Reserve region where it is often situated in steep narrow gullies growing in quartzite based soils as a part of tall open forest communities or in rainforest communities as a component of the understory.

Yet Forestry Corporation of NSW think it acceptable to log Newry, Gladstone and Little Newry State Forests !!!!

The cultural value of our forests is also very important, ancient knowledge tells the story our nation, we are adrift without it. To see and experience ancient indigenous sites allows all Australians to connect to our shared history. Without the continual exchange knowledge is lost. The forest is our nature's university. The balances of nature must be taught to all.

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

Much of what is logged in old growth forests is wood chipped or made into tomato stakes, low grade wood products because this is a big market, especially Asia's demand for wood pulp. Wood pulp could come from plantation trees, not the ancient trees that are habitats, that store carbon, that keep the forests as water preservers and keep our climate stable. Garden stakes etc can be made from a range of recycled products. Timber obtained from trees that are over 150 years needs to be respected and priced accordingly- very high indeed. It is a resource that belongs to all of us.

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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**

Soft wood and hard wood plantations should be on land that has already been cleared and that does NOT impact wildlife corridors or areas of habitat significance. There needs to be a strong independent body that oversees what forestry and private Native Forestry are doing, in the interests of the forests itself and the community. It is very like the last days of whaling. There were industry needs for sure but there was also a local and international recognition of what could make this industry sustainable. The amazing thing is it worked. Other products were found

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to replace whale products and this species was saved from extinction!! Planning forest for soft and hard wood into the future is needed, but with sustainable sensible guidelines that protect habitat!

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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 State Forests role is to maximise the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes. It is not doing this. Why would numerous local communities and state organisations be protesting continuously if they were doing a great job at the above? Local groups have an intimate knowledge of their area, they see, hear and record the flora and fauna in their local forests. There is little money provided for forest audits of these forests by the government. Local knowledge is paramount and should be respected. The thousands of hours that Australia's citizens spend on saving old growth forests and other important habitats indicates a level of commitment that must be respected. It is not being done for short term monetary gain (which what the forestry commission is doing) but for the long term future of our nation. Diverse models are out there, but appear to be ignored.

The proposal for the Great Koala National Park is something that will put our forests on the international map, bringing in money in a sustainable way into the State and save Koala's from extinction. But the Forestry Commission continues to log in identified Koala hubs?? WHY???. Indigenous forest management models aim to maintain the forests and environs as they have been for thousands of years, its what our flora and fauna have adapted to, not the way europeans treat the land over a mere 200 or so years. This is a very important consideration to forestry management. Cool controlled burns through forests also keeps down the risk of devastating fires.

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**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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Forests hold massive amounts of carbon within them. The carbon should stay where it is in these forest and earn carbon credits. The world's climate is changing rapidly since the forests of Europe were cut down to drive the industrial revolution in the 18th century. The escalation of CO2 in the atmosphere has caused the most rapid change to the climate since a comet hit the earth in 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs became extinct. Now that we know why our climate is changing we should be actively trying to slow down the pace of that change. One of the ways to do this is to keep the carbon in the trees, to keep the soil moist so that fungi can absorb more carbon. Keeping the surface of the earth cool by keeping tree cover is vital, stopping clear felling in forests also keeps the soil moist. This also prevents bushfires getting out of control and creating vast excess of CO2 in the atmosphere as in 2019/2020 fires did.