

NAME REDACTED

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

The Forestry Corporation consistently overestimates the amount of harvestable timber. And it is shocking to learn that the yield from public native forests has declined by 40 per cent since 2010, protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging has intensified since then. It doesn't make sense.

The destruction of mature trees removes crucial food sources and hollow-bearing trees from the environment. In NSW, 174 species rely on hollows for dens and nests.

Native forest logging increases the threat of fires, fire intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species.

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

Knowing that native forests are intact and protected staves off existential dilemmas on a wider scale for those of us who don't often get to visit them, and their existence is crucial to the culture and identity of First Nations and non-First Nations people.

Healthy mature forests generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. It is a fact that 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. Pollinators rely on native forests to do their job to ensure biodiversity continues to thrive.

Native forests are places people go to bathe in nature. They are so important on so many levels, offering recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors.

It goes without saying that native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people.

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

Logging in native forests accounted for only 9 per cent of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported.

And what makes this worse, is that 87per cent of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips.

Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses mentioned. It's like the senseless killing of whales that only ended in Australia in the 1980s. And look what's happened? People go to watch the whales? Tourism thrives, people become engaged, the ecosystem becomes more balanced.

Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods, so why aren't we doing it?

The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example.

Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

I don't understand why native forests continue to be plundered when plantations already provide 91 per cent of Australia's log production, and why are wood chips being exported when plantation timber can be put to good use as wood veneer products, which would also bolster local manufacturing.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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

Native forests that are not logged have tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW. They cover 2 million hectares in NSW and have a positive impact on many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars! And to add insult to injury, it receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections. WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS?

It is so wonderful to learn that First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape. WOW!

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

A lot of people think climate change just comes from coal fired power stations. They are blithely unaware that it is also being driven by the logging of native forests. Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. That's not a good look. If native forest logging is stopped, it would have the effect of removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year. Whatsmore, logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.