

NAME REDACTED

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

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I support the call for the immediate cessation of native forest logging in NSW and a shift toward sustainable plantation forestry. It's essential that new plantations are limited to previously cleared land, and I support the introduction of effective policies that provide incentives for private landowners to conserve and restore native forests on their properties.

Logging native forests is not sustainable presently, nor in the future. This is because we meet majority of our timber needs from existing plantations. If more timber is required, then sustainable plantations are the way forward.

The cumulative impact of logging native forests causes more damage ecologically, both locally and regionally. By not allowing forests to reach their final succession, as an old-growth forest, we lose the biodiversity they support and lose important environmental processes. Older forests are wetter, and they provide a natural and effective measure against wildfires. Continuously degrading native forests through logging practices leads to changes in the composition of native vegetation, leading to an increase of dry-tolerant and fire-adapted plants that facilitate more fire.

For the future of forestry operations in native forests, there has been a plethora of research and economic analysis showing that ending logging and opening up our native forests for recreation and conservation is the best thing we can do for our economy, climate change and for our threatened species.

Relevant references:

Lindenmayer, D. (2024). The Forest Wars: The ugly truth about what's happening in our tall forests. Allen & Unwin.

<https://theconversation.com/more-than-half-of-nsws-forests-and-woodlands-are-gone-as-ongoing-logging-increases-extinction-risks-study-shows-235416>

<https://theconversation.com/ending-native-forest-logging-would-help-australias-climate-goals-much-more-than-planting-trees-229487>

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

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I love visiting and camping and exploring state forests throughout NSW. A lot of my friends and family have pet dogs, and state forests allow for us to experience nature together. We also love national parks and value that they are protecting from high impact activities. We feel that state forests should also be protected, and be open to more tourism (the opportunities are endless!), depending on the type of forest and location. Some state forests need high level conservation protections in place, while others can be managed for more recreational purposes for the public (similar to the classification of management of "Regional Parks" by the National Parks and Wildlife Service).

Logging in NSW affects the habitat of at least 150 threatened species and this is due mostly to historical deforestation and degradation. Ongoing logging of native forests threatens the value of these forests, as they are not only habitat to these threatened species but also provide important

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ecosystem services. One of the biggest things we can do to stop the extinction of many species is to end native forestry logging.

Logging poses a serious threat to many plant and wildlife species by causing habitat loss, reducing tree hollows, and contributing to forest dieback. It also compacts soils, depletes water resources, reduces forest carbon storage, and can increase the risk of wildfires. These hidden costs of logging far outweigh the economic value of timber, highlighting the need for a shift away from native forest logging to plantation-based only sources of timber.

Many native forests hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for local Indigenous communities, and these native forests offer great potential for traditional owners. Given that many forests will need management and restoration after decades of damaging logging, this is a huge opportunity for regional Aboriginal communities for employment and restoration works for carrying on country.

References:

<https://theconversation.com/more-than-half-of-nsws-forests-and-woodlands-are-gone-as-ongoing-logging-increases-extinction-risks-study-shows-235416>

<https://theconversation.com/ending-native-forest-logging-would-help-australias-climate-goals-much-more-than-planting-trees-229487>

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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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There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. This is because plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products, By shifting to plantation timber this will support sustainable industry practices and support the recovery of native forests.

References:

Lindenmayer, D. (2024). *The Forest Wars: The ugly truth about what's happening in our tall forests*. Allen & Unwin.

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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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I support the continuation softwood and hardwood plantations - hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. If further plantations are needed they need to occur not at the cost of native forests, and appropriate environmental impact assessments are needed.

I do not support the Private Native Forestry pathway of clearing native natural forest to meet timber supply needs. Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future. Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs.

References:

Lindenmayer, D. (2024). *The Forest Wars: The ugly truth about what's happening in our tall forests*. Allen & Unwin.

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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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Transitioning the use of our forests from logging to conservation, recreation, tourism, and education would allow regional communities to fully embrace and benefit from one of our most valuable asset: nature. This shift would also offer long-term security for workers facing a decline in logging jobs by creating new opportunities in plantation forestry, tourism, and park management, ensuring sustainable livelihoods while protecting our natural environment.

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Forests For All is a campaign by the National Parks Association of NSW that seeks to protect public native forests and end damaging industrial logging. They want to increase public access to forests for recreation and nature-based tourism. They want to see regional communities benefit from forests economically, physically and emotionally. They want forests restored to healthy ecosystems and the wildlife in them thrive.

The Indigenous Ranger Working on Country Program has been highly successful, providing employment for around 700 people across Australia. However, in New South Wales, only five Indigenous Ranger groups are currently funded through this program. Expanding the program into native forests currently managed by NSW State Forestry Corporation would create more job opportunities while ensuring that Indigenous ecological knowledge plays a key role in forest management and caring for country. Including Indigenous expertise and priorities in forest management would allow traditional owners to directly benefit from these lands. Many native forests hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for local Indigenous communities. Where possible, these forests should be prioritized for the establishment and management of Indigenous Protected Areas, allowing traditional custodians to lead conservation efforts on their country.

References:

<https://npansw.org.au/campaigns-2/forests-for-all/#:~:text=Forests%20For%20All%20seeks%20to,and%20end%20damaging%20industrial%20logging.>

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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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Research has shown by ending native forestry logging and relying on plantation for timber needs, there would be a massive positive impact on reducing carbon emissions (potentially 1 million tonnes per year) and also contributing a net benefit economic of \$60 million dollars.

Research shows that older, larger trees provide a vital role in absorbing carbone dioxide from the atmosphere. Ending native forest logging and facilitating the recovery of these forests to older, large trees, will have significant positive impacts supporting carbon sequestration.

References:

<https://law.anu.edu.au/news-and-events/news/anu-law-professor-co-authors-report-climate-and-economic-outcomes-southern-nsw>

<https://theconversation.com/big-old-trees-grow-faster-making-them-vital-carbon-absorbers-22104>