

OWEN GARDINER

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

Native and original forests seed, grow, repair and maintain themselves at a much slower rate than planned plantations. It is inefficient to harvest them once and leave a destroyed ecosystem when areas that have already been destroyed can be reused for rapid growth of the timber that is actually wanted.

Much of our land was not originally pasture, it was cleared of the native trees for crops and grazing. If that land once supported trees then presumably there could be a commercial opportunity to reuse that land for the growing of trees for their wood.

Continuing on the theme of the natural environment: although areas that have already been cleared of native flora (trees) have lost their ecosystems, there is little reason to continue to remove more of the habitats of the 170+ species of fauna that need those specific trees and the environment that has developed between thousands and millions of years.

It is widely known that the number of insect pollinators has decreased recently, the number of bugs on car windscreens is testament of this. All the other fauna that act as pollinators, birds and native animals which pollinate in and around the native forests are also decreasing as their homes are being destroyed for what: making woodchips?

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

All of us are responsible for looking after our home.

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

I understand that 85%+ of the native hardwoods logged are not even used commercially for construction, or other prime industries or for furniture or other objects of value but are exported as woodchips. This is a terrible waste of resources and deprives current future generations of Australians from experiencing what their country was like before being irretrievably despoiled. Whilst native forest logging only accounts for about 10% of the logging, it is more wasteful of the trees as a resource than harvesting a monoculture that has been chosen for its consistency, in species, size, age and chosen and planted by design for the production of identified end products. With the advancement of technologies e.g. laminating and composite materials, pesticides etc. I was advised not to use hardwood for a recent fencing replacement because suitably treated softwoods would far outlast any available hardwood, and be a cost saving incentive as well.

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

If it is commercially viable to farm trees, let businesses do just that.

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

As regards the actual use of the logged timber, we are wasting opportunities for increasing it's value by sawing and using it for veneer. It is the same as cutting down trees and not making paper locally. It is the same as exporting raw iron ore rather than processing it onshore into steel by using our other resources e.g. solar, wind and hydro energy and providing employment opportunities for australians.

I understand that NSW is lagging behind both WA and Victoria in the preservation of public owned forests. NSW should be leading by example not trailing behind and subsidising the woodchipping industry with public funds and at the same time destroying the environment that the government should be leading the battle to preserve and enhance our environment.

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

Extensive logging and forest clearing, as well as being the permanent destruction of our state, country and planet causes weather system changes and reduces the tempering effects of rainfall and temperature control.

Trees stabilise the temperature through transpiration, they absorb heat and convert energy into carbon sequestration as they grow.

As we have seen in the last month alone in the news, habitat loss by all methods is forcing displacement and local extinctions of our native fauna:

A Guardian story from 8 October reported that a koala was captured at Casula train station:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/oct/08/casula-train-koala-sydney-police-escort>

On 17th September, the Guardian reported on a koala in a Victorian supermarket:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/sep/17/koala-found-iga-supermarket-meeinyan-victoria>

(The Guardian happens to be one of the few newspapers that doesn't 'paywall' their reporting.)