

PAULA BOER

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

Sustainable forestry is an essential industry, but it can NOT be at the cost of native forest and all that rely on it ie the native flora and fauna that was here before people. WE are the invasive species.

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

Humans have no 'god given right' to destroy the world that sustains us. We are as much a part of nature as all other life on earth. We need to learn to live in harmony and balance with the natural world, not destroy it, or we will have nothing to live for.

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

Timber is a valuable commodity, and farmed responsibly, is a sustainable industry. We need to use land already cleared, plant more trees, but leave virgin forest alone. We need to be smarter in the way we think about forestry, learnt (again) to recycle what we already have and research innovative ways of using precious natural resources.

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

Monocultures are not good for anyone! Plantations need to be mixed flora to provide support for mixed fauna. Nature has spent millions of years developing a balance to ensure all thrive in balance - why do we think we know more?

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

Some Aboriginal forest management models are useful, but remember, before Aboriginal people came along with their burning, there was a far vaster range of trees and other flora on the continent. Only plants able to survive fire thrived. Perhaps we need to investigate the species that were here before people and look to enter them into the mix.

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

Trees are the lungs of our planet. We can't have too many. However, trading carbon credits and other schemes are false ideals - they don't actually minimise the risks, only move the blame around.

Public submission

I own (and live on) 500 acres of timber country which was logged in the 1960s. It will never return to what it was before logging, or even before the devastating bushfire of Jan 2020, but I have locked it up under a biodiversity covenant and am a registered wildlife reserve. More needs to be done to encourage other landholders to do the same.