

PHILIP WEST

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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

Sustainability of forest operations involves maintenance of the timber and environmental values of forests. Thus, state forest service of NSW has always ensured its operations across the state are sustainable and regrowth of forests after harvesting has always been ensured for the publicly owned forest estate.

None of this is necessarily true for privately owned forests. Clearing for agriculture and housing development is and has been rife. As long as governments continue to encourage population increase this will continue.

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

Certainly these should be maintained. However there should always be proper study of the scientific issues surrounding environmental values and proper historical verification of the validity of and continued use and appreciation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

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

As long as governments continue to encourage population increase this will continue. It must be borne in mind that the long term maintenance of timber products in buildings is an important part of storing carbon and the prevention of release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere in the spirit of dealing with climate change problems

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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**

Certainly they are. But the issue is ensuring these practices are done sustainably. Where cleared farmland is converted to plantation forests, this should only be encouraged.

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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**

Certainly it is. And what reason is there to believe that State Forests does not do everything it can to ensure this?

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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**

Growing forests to store carbon is an important part of this. However, it must be realised that growth rates of forests and their storage of carbon decline with age. There is an important point

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at which they should not be allowed to get too old to ensure maximum rates of carbon storage.  
The person making this submission has published scientifically on this issue.

References are:

West PW (2024) Maximising carbon dioxide reduction in forests. Australian Forestry & Timber News 35(3), 13. Available at <http://sciwest.byethost6.com/Forest-growth-2024.pdf>

West PW (2020) Do increasing respiratory costs explain the decline with age in forest growth rate? Journal of Forestry Research 31, 693-712. Available with open access at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11676-019-01020-w>

West PW (2024) A review of the growth behaviour of stands and trees in even-aged, monospecific forest. Annals of Forest Science 81, 34 Available with open access at <https://annforsci.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13595-024-01250-x>