

ROBERT BAKER

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

It is well documented that logging of state forests in NSW runs at a substantial annual loss. The damage to the environment, in particular to the koala population, far outways benefits from employment & supplying timber to the building industry. Hardwood timber for the building industry should be grown on plantations. It is unbelievable that 80-90% of hardwood harvested in NSW is exported as woodchips! This is not only unsustainable, it is environmentally & morally wrong!

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

The mid-North Coast, where I live, is an area of great natural beauty. I am a keen bushwalker & birdwatcher & am appalled at the prospect of clear felling our native forests. They have great cultural value, particularly to the Aboriginal population and are of great value to the tourist industry as well as those who have chosen to live here.

The beautiful native forests have great value for tourists. I live in Nambucca Heads, which is surrounded by beautiful forests, much of which are scheduled for heavy logging within the next 6-9 months. The Nambucca State Forest, which is part of the proposed Great Koala National Park, is home to a number of rare or endangered animal species. One of these is the Glossy Black Cockatoo, which feeds on Casuarina nuts.

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

The demand for hardwood products for building should be met by hardwood plantations. This is already well established for softwoods, especially in Victoria & SA. I note that Victoria & WA have recently stopped logging in native forests. NSW must do this asap!

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

Supply of hardwoods for building needs to be met from plantations on private property, preferably with government financial incentives. It is totally unacceptable for native forests to be destroyed to provide wood chips for cardboard boxes!

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

We should not be paying government money to degrade forests & destroy wildlife! This is why the concept of the Great Koala National Park is so important!. State Forests are very important for tourism as well as wildlife conservation. It is crazy for them to be treated as opportunities for a small number of jobs in an industry which is heavily subsidised by the NSW Government.

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

Native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon per year, equal to the emissions of 840000 cars. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lost carbon thus contributing significantly to meeting our climate targets.