

ROBERT MEATON

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

Logging of our native forests is unsustainable, and represents a financial cost to taxpayers of nsw with no financial benefit to the local community I live in where logging operations are being conducted in the Bulga State Forest, but are a threat to the native species. NSW Forest Corporation operations in the Bulga State Forest are far from best practice in relation to native habitat trees and the greater gliders and koalas that use them. Daytime surveying of nocturnal animals is evidence of their disregard for this precious environment that wasn't damaged by the 2019 bush fires and has become a safe sanctuary up until now. The costs of this and other forestry operations provide no benefit to the affected communities and are indeed detrimental to the environment and pose greater bushfire risks. The fact that taxpayer subsidies are required to maintain Forest Corp operations should be ringing alarm bells in Government and the wider public, as should the lack of scrutiny of Forest Corp and their apparent immunity to transparency and regulatory authority.

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

Our native forests are important for environmental reasons as well as their cultural and heritage values and are valuable as habitats for our threatened species and for our water catchments.

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

From my observations of houses under construction, it's all treated softwood framing, as well as 'composite' beams and posts and flooring and hardwood demand should be met from plantation timber, and there are alternatives for timber telegraph poles.

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

Softwood and hardwood plantations are the future but the NSW Forest Corp. practice of re-badging native forest regrowth areas with signage saying that this is a plantation forest is misleading and dishonest

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

Currently they appear to be abrogating this responsibility.....they aren't really managing state forests but allowing for exploitation and damaging the environment....the management activities appear to be focused on facilitating the harvesting. During the 2019 bushfires, they negligently allowed the Rumba Dump fire to burn for weeks, dropping buckets of water from a helicopter when as conditions were worsening they should have

called in larger aerial assets that were available at the time. This fire escaped and burnt easterly taking out homes in its way, the village of Bobin and it's school. Whilst local RFS and community volunteers both fought the fires and monitored their progress 24 hours a day, Forestry were only there during daylight hours.

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

The un logged and properly managed forests present a great opportunity to maintain biodiversity, reduce risks to threatened species and mitigate climate risks and enhance water catchment quality and present recreational activities and enhanced tourism opportunities.