

ROSLYN WOODWARD

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

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The NSW forest industry is out of control. Logging has intensified since the 2019 Black Summer fires. Instead of working sustainably in my opinion this industry has been rape and pillaging the landscape. Contaminating waterways, destroying critical habitat & leaving piles of debris ready to burn adding fuel to the fire - in the next big event - which we all know with climate change is coming more often.

It has been pointed out by experts for some time that the amount of available harvestable timber has been over-estimated for many years and there is no way that contracts can be met without destroying our natural environment, contaminating waterways, losing topsoil and placing our iconic wildlife much closer to extinction.

Protections for our native forests are continually watered down. Increased Yields, protection of mature trees, logging on steep slopes and the increased reported incidents are just a drop in the ocean as to what is going on.

With climate change now playing out it is more crucial than ever to protect carbon stores, preserve cool landscapes, provide wildlife connection corridors, increase habitat food supplies and nesting opportunities. Instead NSW forestry is logging like there is no tomorrow.

The carnage is witnessed everyday by the public on social media. The public is well aware of how critical it is to turn a corner & protect nature - yet promises made by the Govt such as the Great Koala National Park are being decimated while the Govt plays games.

The so called Nature Conference held just last week in Sydney is a joke - when unsustainable tax payer funded destruction of our forests is allowed.

174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests - yet it is up to the public to find and report sites where critical endangered species such as the greater glider are located in areas about to be logged.

The recent find of critical endangered emu eggs in the Clarence Valley in a forest about to be logged is a prime example - and forestry were happy with a small buffer to protect the nest until there was a public outcry!!

The Govt is allowing forests to dry out by removing canopies. Allowing forests burn hotter than ever, by leaving debris. Allowing a waste of a critical resource by endorsing woodchips and burning for electricity to occur. Allowing the contamination of critical water supplies by removing the forest that filters the waters entering our rivers and drinking supply catchments.

The classic example is when the Clarence was put on water restrictions despite a very wet summer. It is well known that this was due to logging nearby the Little Nymboida river which entered straight into our water supply. Despite this there was cover ups, denials and false statements made by Govt at both State and Local levels.

NSW Forestry operations are not sustainable. How much are they being subsidised by NSW taxpayers. Lets get honest!!! They do not have a social licence when they are destroying critical habitat.

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

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Healthy forests are critical to not only First Nations People but to the entire population. First Nation People have song lines, totems, culture and identity all stemming from the Landscape. The importance of a healthy landscape, clean waterways, protection of threatened species, bushtucker, pollinators are all part of the identity, pride and connection felt by first nations people. Allowing better management of their lands, Govt owned lands, Community lands is critical in moving forward. Cool burns, and management by Indigenous leaders needs to be increased whilst the destructive work practices of NSW forestry needs to be addressed immediately.

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

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Logging for timber supply is only 9% of total log production. Most is woodchipped and exported - a sinful waste of a resource. Burning forests for electricity is encouraging clearing at unprecedented rates - this is not renewable energy. Softwood plantations is a preferred resources. Hemp is a preferred resource. We need to value our forests more. Australia and NSW forestry is a leader in extinctions - this needs to be changed around.

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

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This is the future and these plantations are in existence and could supplying most of the timbers required for construction. Yet the Govt allows them to be exported as wood chips. The future of the native forest logging is not profitable and the true cost is being covered up. We as taxpayers need truth.

Why is this independent forestry panel only made of up forestry personnel, where are the ecologists, native title holders, community voices. This submission seems to another waste of time on behalf of people who care and want change.

Businesses such as Essential Energy are moving with change - no longer using logs as poles - lets get some real figures going on the cost of NSW Forestry.

## **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**

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Lots of environmental, economic and social outcomes could be increased if the logging of Native forests was ceased. Clean water, Eco tourism, Jobs for Aboriginal Management - better then what is happening to our forests now with the mismanagement.

## **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**

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Logging releases carbon. Old trees are carbon stores and provide many other environmental benefits. Reforesting our landscape is urgently needed. Forests that are not logged will give us and nature a better chance of resilience when climate change events occur.