

SANDRA COE

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

Native forest logging is unsustainable. Yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Logging of native forests reduces biomass & carbon storage. Removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources & nesting hollows. Health of waterways is also impacted by logging.

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

Healthy & unlogged forests are critical to the environment, First Nations & non-first nations culture & identity. Unlogged forests cool the landscape & generate rainfall. 150 species in NSW are threatened by the logging of native forests.

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

Logging native forests accounted for only 9% of total log production in Australia in 2023 and contributes only 2.4 million of 25 million cubic metres for 2023. Half the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchips & exported. Sawn & treated softwood logs & composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest & plantation hardwood. The demand for native forest products is declining rapidly.

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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**

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw & veneer logs, rather than exporting them as woodchips. Subsidising this industry is non-competitive & distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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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**

Unlogged native forests have real and tangible benefits to entrepreneurs ecology & economy of NSW. Native State forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW. The native forestry hardwood division of Forestry Corporation operates at a loss of tens of millions of dollars. The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own State & critical habitat. First Nations Rangers programs have been very successful at recovery and health of native forests. Githabul Rangers programs have shown how First Nations knowledge & management can restore natural & critical function of forests.

**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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Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually. Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forest to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets. Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate & catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.