

SITA PARSONS

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

Native Forestry in NSW is completely unsustainable and is pushing endangered forest-dependent species, such as the Koala, Greater Glider and Yellow-bellied Glider towards extinction, with many other species facing perilous futures also. There should be an immediate cessation of Native Forest logging, especially in the Great Koala National Park, where Forestry Corporation is heavily logging core Koala Habitat at an alarming rate. Also in other areas of High Conservation Value and High Biodiversity, such as Bulga SF. NSW Taxpayers are paying to have their beloved Forests logged and degraded. Forestry Corporation receives huge Government subsidies, in order to prop-up its loss-making Native Forest logging. Moreover, Native Forest logging causes fragmentation of Forests, loss of Forest structure and biodiversity, dessication of Forests, more severe risk of wildfires and weed invasion. None of this is sustainable and is leading us towards mass collapse of ecosystems.

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

Undisturbed Native Forests offer a great range of environmental benefits including maintenance of biodiversity, providing homes for threatened species, oxygen and water production, soil conservation, stabilisation and enhancement, environmental cooling, maintaining healthy creeks and rivers, eco-tourism opportunities, as well as psychological, emotional and spiritual benefits, and recreational amenity. Preservation of the Forests is also essential for the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians whose cultures and identities are intertwined with the Life of the Forests.

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

Nearly all the timber used in housing in NSW comes from plantation timber so Native Forests are no longer needed for housing. Also, in a country where termites are prevalent, people are increasingly turning to steel-framed houses as a sensible solution. In situations where hardwoods might still be needed, these should only be sourced from plantations that were grown on degraded, cleared lands, not from areas where Native Forests were cleared to grow the plantations. Or preferably from reclaimed recycled timbers.

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

All timber should come from softwood and hardwood plantations that have been grown on already degraded cleared lands. This is already where the vast majority of timber used for housing comes from. Hardwood plantations that were established by first clearing Native Forests should be protected for their environmental values and added to the reserve system. Native Forests and the threatened species who call them home, should be protected across all tenures for their great environmental services. Private logging companies follow little, if any,

environmental protocols. I have neighbours who were left dismayed by the environmental devastation on their properties caused by private logging companies.

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

State Forests provide good quality water that finds its way into many town reservoirs. They take up and store carbon and offer good opportunities for tourism. State Forests are the homes of endangered species such as Koalas and Greater Gliders. Healthy diverse areas within State Forests provide sanctuary for wildlife during fires. Although few people are employed by the timber industry across NSW, those that are should be assisted with retraining and resettlement opportunities to find work elsewhere. Skilled truck drivers involved in haulage could find trucking work in other industries. And Taxpayer Funds saved from propping up unprofitable Native Forest logging operations could help to retrain others into jobs in plantation forestry, plus jobs in NPWS and eco-tourism.

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

Protecting healthy biodiverse forests, and allowing those that have been degraded to recover, will realise great carbon and biodiversity benefits. Forests should not be held ransom to dodgy carbon and biodiversity markets that are generally highly unethical and often incentivise forest destruction. It is essential that logging be halted immediately in order for us to meet our greenhouse gas emissions commitments, and to reduce the climate risks that are caused by deforestation.