

SUSAN STRODL

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

With the increasing extreme weather conditions and bushfires linked to climate change, it makes no sense to be putting further pressure on our sensitive and threatened native forests and wildlife. Australia has a terrible track record of species extinctions and habitat clearing throughout the history of European settlement up to modern times. It is time to find alternative timber sources and replacements for timber that does not involve clearing of native forests whether they are on public or private property and protect what precious native habitat and wildlife that remains. This not only has the potential to reduce bush fire intensity but will assist in reducing our greenhouse emissions

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

First nations Australians have lost so much of their culture and history through displacement from and destruction of their lands. It is well overdue that we retain and protect what is left out of respect, for healing and reconciliation. It is dangerous when our native lands are reduced to a commodity with a dollar value. There is intrinsic value culturally which can improve wellbeing and community and we need to priority these values in regards our native forests rather than simply the price of timber

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

How about these industries exercise their innovation muscle and seek alternative materials. With so much waste of plastics for example, are there opportunities to recycle and apply those types of materials. Much is going on in other countries using sustainable and recyclable materials, why are we still doing things the same way as we have always been. And instead of timber, bamboo for example is very sustainable, can be formed into numerous stable and strong construction products. It seems that using timber is often a lazy and convenient option and only cheap because it is underpriced product given the cost to the environment is generally not factored in

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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**

Plantation timber including bamboo is an obvious alternative to native forestry. But whether native forestry is on public or private land should be irrelevant. There is no longer a place in this modern world where the natural environment and wildlife is under so much threat, to continue commercial native forestry. We much protect, rehabilitate and care for what remains. And we know that here in NSW the native forestry industry cannot be trusted regardless of regulation and penalties. So let's just make it simpler and bring it to an end completely. Look at regional Australia pretty much everywhere and you can observe cleared land everywhere with not much on it, simply because so much of it is not particularly productive for grazing or crops after decades

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of overuse. How can this land be revegetated or rehabilitated to become useful instead of continuously clearing more land that will end up in the same way

**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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Keeping what's left of our natural environment intact, rehabilitating it and protecting it, has the potential to generate value culturally, financially and socially to our communities including first nation's people. Australia has an outstanding and unique natural beauty and if we stop destroying our native lands, this intrinsic value will only increase generating pride and respect and elevating its appeal for tourism, help build bridges and remove divisiveness in our community when we are all working towards the same goals and with the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gases and contributing to a more sustainable and healthy country

**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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To optimise this potential, we need to cease commercial forestry, rehabilitate damaged native habitat and revegetate cleared land with native plants to build diversity and resilience in the face of climate change