

TOM FERRIER

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

The current forestry operation is not sustainable. Industrial style modern logging results in clearfelled areas prone to erosion, weed infestation, the much overlooked loss of soil carbon and uniform young fire prone regrowth. Due to previous overharvesting forestry is now taking the majority of the largest trees. These are the older trees that should be left as recruitment habitat trees. Without these being saved for the future there will be a critical shortage of suitable hollows for the more than 170 hollow dependent species.

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

Healthy unlogged forests remain moister and less fire prone. They also locally enhance rainfall. Via their mature canopies and forest floor litter they moderate runoff conserving the health of water catchment streams. There are 150 threatened species in NSW negatively affected by logging. Species like the Greater Glider that requires multiple hollows are particularly vulnerable.

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

The majority of harvested timber is softwood which is the main timber used in housing and construction. There is a high percentage of wastage in the hardwood industry with about half of harvested logs ending up as woodchip.

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

Plantations, particularly softwood ones, already supply over 90 percent of Australia's log production. Support for the expansion of hardwood plantations particularly on less productive rural lands should be initiated. Private Native Forestry is currently poorly regulated. Selective harvesting of high end products should only be allowed under strict conditions.

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

Well managed State Forests have an important role for the quality of life in NSW. Nature based tourism is a growth industry. Ecotourism based on activities such as night spotting of iconic species such as the Greater Glider has largely unrealised potential.

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

Logging of State Forests in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Cessation of logging would make a significant contribution to meeting NSW emission targets.