

TRACI GENDERS

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

By definition of sustainability (Capable of being sustained. Capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment.) Native forest logging is completely unsustainable. Since the protections for mature trees were removed in 2018, logging intensified to try to take more timber from native forests - this is not sustainable.

Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage. Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. Recent history shows the devastating effects of fires on communities and wildlife. We must do everything we can to reduce this risk.

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

Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. These are imperative characteristics needed in our consistently heating climate.

150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. We are their guardians and should not be their destroyers.

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place.

Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people.

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

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. These are mortifying figures. Trees that are hundreds of years old turned into woodchips. How is this allowed in 2024?

Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section as sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

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 and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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

Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species.

Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging

First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year
Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.