

VIRGINIA COOK

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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

It is clear that the timber industry's logging operations are unsustainable now and into the future. As a taxpayer funding this ongoing business that is operating at huge economic loss, I believe it is unacceptable to waste public funds that could be spent better elsewhere, rather than destroying the environment, contributing to climate change acceleration and loss of endemic flora and fauna at an alarming rate. This industry is untenable and must cease immediately.

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

The environmental and cultural values of our unique and extremely biodiverse forests are too numerous to list. Australia is on par with developing nations in its horrific rate of habitat destruction. Koalas must be protected, but they are one of many species that are rare and endangered. Australia led the world at one stage in environmental protection, but has slipped dramatically and disappointingly in preserving our endemic species for future generations to enjoy. Create the Greater Koala National Park now as promised in the last state election. The economic and cultural benefits of eco tourism far outweigh those of greedy stripping of resources for the profit of a few.

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

Use renewable building materials eg hempcrete.

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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**

Most timber is imported. Our industry is a dying concern

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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**

Caring for country should be recognised and employed to manage our wild areas. Indigenous management of land and resources has never been acknowledged or correctly utilised. The tourism and recreational benefits of forest immersion are obvious to reduce stress and bring peace.

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**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**

Forests reduce greenhouse emissions, store carbon and contribute to the production of rain in a country as arid as Australia.