

WARREN WEAVER

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

I worked as a forester for 43 years. 40 years with State Forests and 13 with Hurford Hardwoods in northern NSW. The forests are sustainably managed by professional foresters and a suite of other professionals including ecologists.

I am disappointed with the continued politicization of the forest industry, starting in the 1970's. The change in land tenure of productive forest to national park, left unmanaged and decreasing in health and being overrun with weeds is a disgrace.

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

Managing the forests for timber encourages forest health through increased growth and removal of poor stems for the better trees to grow on. The biodiversity of the forest is maintained through careful management and mapping of the harvest areas before and after a harvest event.

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

The log supply and the quality of the available logs has decreased overtime from the State Forest resource. This decline is not because the industry is unsustainable, but because the areas of forest that were removed from the productive estate as part of the Rural Forest Agreements late last century were the better performing forests.

Despite this, the demand for timber hasn't decreased with decreased availability.

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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**

The timber properties from these three resources are very different to one another, and the properties of plantation timbers are very different to native forest timbers.

Native forest timbers are sought after for their appearance, structural and durability properties. Plantation timbers, even hardwood plantation timbers can't replace native forest timbers in the market.

The hardwood estate in the north east of the state that is being grown and managed for the production of sawn timber needs more years to mature and increase in size. Unfortunately, the estate will not be large enough to replace the market's want for sawn native hardwoods.

Additionally, there are some very good examples of privately owned plantations that are well managed, but the state-owned plantations are mostly unmanaged and the logs that will be available in the future will be of poor form.

**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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The forest should be managed with science, not emotion. The State Forests are already managed for the above values. The suggestion that the forests are managed by hacks with no care for the environment or the future is plain wrong. Forest management has been so good that the forests are seen as fit to be put in the reserve system. As forest management has been so well done, why politicize the forests? Let the responsible management and the benefits of that management continue for the good of the community.

**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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Now is the time to take the opportunity to educate the community on forest management. Help the community to see forests as the renewable resource that it is. The benefit of harvesting and managing the regeneration of the forest go beyond access to timber. Animals need multi aged canopies for habitat. Management helps to release a stagnant forest to renew the growth of the trees. Growing trees actively sequester carbon.

The markets are established for carbon in productive forests. The equations that are used to calculate the carbon abatement take into account the management of the forest. State Forest harvesting is done at a low, fairly constant rate, this can be accounted for in the market.