

WENDY PARKER

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

Logging of native forests is not sustainable at this stage we can not afford to lose any more native forests. Native forests are important habitat and offer a much more biodiverse complex system which is not seen in plantation forests, they offer important carbon storage, native trees offer homes in hollows of trees and food to wildlife with an abundance of nectar for many species, that 174 of NSW's species depend upon for dens and nests. Logging increases fire threat and intensity because of new growth on mass, reduces stream flows, promotes weeds and dieback, and increases erosion and stream pollution. Over the past 10 years I have seen native forests felled to put in plantation forests which are just saplings, much less than mature, currently are being removed due to not being the right kind of wood? Perfect forests which provided homes to currently endangered native animals gone replaced by one type of tree planted for timber then less than 10 years later these whole hectares removed as waste! The word in the community is the trees they planted were a mistake and so now they are being removed for wood chips. This was habitat and now has become habitat again albeit a monoculture these trees are all they have. There is no room for making these kind of mistakes! Our wildlife is at crisis point.

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

Forests generate rainfall and cool the land, clean the air, provide homes for a plethora of threatened species, are important for recreation and improved health, filter and regulate runoff to streams, and remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their wood and soils. If we want to save NSW's 269 nationally listed threatened forest species, including the endangered Koala and Greater Glider, it is essential that we stop logging their homes. People do want to save them! The human population loves the native animals and they are part of the forests!

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

Native hardwoods comprised 2.4 million (9%) of Australia's log production of 25 million cubic metres in 2023, with half this exported as woodchips. Saw and veneer logs comprised just 8% of the 8.5 million cubic metres of logs obtained from hardwood plantations, with 87% exported as woodchips. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. With a change in emphasis we can satisfy our hardwood needs with sawn timber and composite timber products from existing plantations.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. The proportion of saw and veneer logs obtained from hardwood plantations needs to be increased, rather than being exported as woodchips. Without competition from subsidised public forests

there will be an increased incentive for selective logging of speciality purpose hardwoods from private forests.

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

There are 2 million hectares of State Forests in NSW that provide water for numerous townreservoirs, have the potential to contribute to increased tourism, and take-up and storecarbon. All these real economic benefits will improve if logging is stopped. In 2023 ForestryCorporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for eachhectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining tens of millions in regular equity injections. We should not be paying to degrade forests and log the homes of threatened species. Public forests are of greater economic benefit for water yields, tourism and carbon storage than they are for logging. It in the best interest of taxpayers to stop logging of public native forests.

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 releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) per year, which isequivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 cars. The volume of carbon that was stored in logged forests has been more than halved. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lostcarbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our climate targets. As shown by the 2019/20 wildfires, increasing droughts and fires due to climate heating are already having asignificant impact on trees, forest species and rainforests. It is essential that logging stop to allow forests to reduce the impacts of climate heating by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and recover their integrity to better withstand future disasters.