

MIKE CALLANAN

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

Australia is the least-forested continent after Antarctica, although the most commercially useful forests are in the SE corner, in NSW and Victoria.

These forests have been historically exploited for useful timber but, being finite, their continued exploitation is inherently unsustainable. Much of the harvested timber ends up as woodchips, and biodiverse habitats are destroyed in the process.

The timber industry is heavily subsidised with public money. The result is that public funds are used to prop up an industry which destroys native habitat and therefore threatens native plants and animals, while making a commercial loss in order to sell low-value woodchips abroad.

This was always a short-sighted idea, unfortunately rather typical of the approach Australians have historically demonstrated to the development and exploitation of our natural resources.

In the case of native forests it's especially egregious because there is a relatively easy alternative in the cultivation of timber trees, both native and exotic, in plantation forestry, already a supplier of the vast bulk of useful timber.

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

Native forests represent unique habitat for native species, too many of which are in decline or threatened with extinction.

As such they are irreplaceable and must be protected for their ecological values.

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

Phase out all timber produced from native forests.

Convert to 100% plantation sourced timber products.

To do otherwise is a short-sighted and lazy option.

We must cultivate the land to produce more of our timber needs, not rip up unique biodiversity which has existed for countless millennia.

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

Timber plantations are infinitely sustainable.

Native forest logging is not even sustainable in the short term.

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

State Forests are vitally important for optimising a range of environmental, social, economic and cultural values.

First Peoples are ideally positioned to assist in the achievement of these values.

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

Trees absorb carbon dioxide. They are a far more efficient way of reducing emissions by carbon capture than by the discredited method of using offsets.

We have vast areas of land. Fill them with trees and more trees.