

NAME REDACTED

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

I do not believe Forestry is sustainable into the future. The pace of logging at present in regional areas is unsustainable. Forestry itself has overestimated its sustained yields at numerous times. We are witnessing this overestimation in regional areas where protections for the most mature trees have been removed. The 2019/20 fires have devastated forests and all the flora and fauna within them. The current status quo is completely unsustainable.

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

I have witnessed the disregard for our First Nation heritage sites. I am currently witnessing the destruction of forests near my home. These forests are home to endangered species and belong to all citizens of NSW. We are at an exceptional point in our lives as Australians, many are concerned with the lack of urgency that governments have demonstrated to protect these forests that generate rainfall, cool the land, clean the air and provide homes for numerous threatened and endangered species. There is so much more that our forests provide, such as filtering and regulating run off from streams. As a community we need to start valuing our forests and stop logging them for the common good. Our lives as humans are greatly enriched and rely on these areas for our survival. Our first Nation people need to be listened to. They have lived through 60,000 years on this ancient land, and have the skills for the stewardship of caring for our country and sharing those skills with the community.

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

There will always be a demand for timber. Native hardwoods comprise 2.4million (9%) of Australian log production, with half of this exported as woodchips. Sawn and veneer logs comprise 8% of the 8.5million cubic metres of logs obtained from hardwood plantations, 87% exported as woodchips. There is no longer a need to log public native forests to build houses. We now live in 2024 not 1824. There is no need to log public native forests for building houses as a change in emphasis will see our hardwood needs met with sawn timber and composite timber productions from existing plantations. Stop the woodchipping.

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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**

Softwood and Hardwood plantations supply 91% of Australia's log production. The enormous amount of wood-chipping needs to stop. Private Native Forestry has its place to increase hardwood plantations. If we stop public owned native forest logging their will be an increased incentive for selective logging of specialty purpose hardwoods form privately owned forests. Governments need to look outside the box.

**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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For future sustainability of our regional areas, we need to seize the opportunities for tourism and use our native forests to store carbon. The Great Koala National Park (GKNP) will bring more jobs and economic growth for the community than logging has done. In 2023 Forestry Corp lost 15 million dollars on their hardwood operations. Taxpayers should not be paying to degrade forests and prop up a failed business model. The University of Newcastle did a economic study in 2023 on the creation of the GKNP and proposed economic benefits. The projections for jobs, tourism etc far exceeded the economic situation we have today with limited jobs in forestry and the destruction of our 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**

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To continue on the trajectory we are on is a road to destruction. Destruction for regional areas that have high environmental values and destruction for our greater NSW community who will lose the very things that keep us living on this planet...nature. We have to stop thinking in terms of one or two year cycles for planning. The world today demands governments being bold and meeting future challenges with policies for the common good and not just making a profit for now. This beautiful land in which we live is home to some of the worlds most unusual and iconic fauna and flora and needs to be protected for future generations. Climate change is already having its impact. Exceptional Fires, droughts and floods are becoming increasingly regular. I see it every season when my fruit plants flower at odd times of the year leading to lower yields. Future generations of NSWeshmen and women, have a right to walk under the canopy of a forest, hear the sounds that only a forest can provide, connect with nature and share these places in a respectful way. Governments have the responsibility to make decisions for all the community and not just sectional interests. That is why we have governments. It is time for our governments to make a stand and declare an end to Native Forest logging and declare the GKNP.