

NEIL ST LEON

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

Current logging of native forests in NSW is completely unsustainable for the following reasons. The industry operates at a financial loss and has to be supported by tax payer funds. Native forests cannot recover in a suitable time period to allow for successful re harvesting. Even with tax payer funded subsidies, the industry is not economically viable. The environmental loss outweighs any small financial return. Tax payer funds would be better directed towards transitioning forest workers into forest recovery and revegetation employment. Both national and state labor were elected on the promise of "no new species extinctions" and therefore the continued destruction of NSW native forests is a broken promise. Indeed NSW should follow the example of VICTORIA and WESTERN AUSTRALIA end to native forest logging.

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

NSW native forest have an extremely high ecological value. NSW native forests contain a diverse range of threatened and endangered birds, mammals plants and reptiles. Many of which are internationally recognized and desired by other countries. NSW native forests have been devastated since European settlement by activities such as ruthless logging, habitat destruction, human induced fires, feral weed introduction and toxic mining activities. NSW are of substantial cultural heritage significance to first nations people and a great loss and despair is felt by indigenous peoples by continual forest destruction. NSW native forests must be immediately preserved for future generations and to ensure any hope of threatened species survival in the future. Continued destruction of NSW native forests is an embarrassment to Australia and is frowned upon by other wealthy nations and sets a very poor example to third world nations.

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

Timber products should be sourced from sustainable timber plantations which come from adequately managed plantation forests. Timber materials sourced from native forests are unsustainable and come at too high of an ecological cost

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

Well managed softwood and hardwood plantation forests absolutely must be the only source for these materials.

Again. native forest logging is completely unsustainable, too expensive both economically and ecologically and will not be able to supply these materials for a reasonable time frame into the future or provide continued employment.

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

Sustainable plantation state forests are key to positive environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Aboriginal people would greatly benefit from employment and engagement in the management and sustaining of plantation state forests whilst at the same time resulting in a positive environmental outcome for native forests.

Employment could be created and sustained for future generations in the management of plantation state forests as opposed to native forest logging operations.

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

Conservation of native forest immediately insures current carbon stores remain safely locked up and continue into the future.

Destruction of native forest unlocks carbon into the atmosphere at a critical time in human history and tips the balance towards global warming and sea level rise.

The revegetation of native forest allows for more atmospheric carbon to be locked away and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

The incorrect replanting of some native forest increases the frequency and intensity of forest fires and releases substantial amounts of carbon into the atmosphere whilst simultaneously destroying threatened plants and animals.

Carbon credits could be sold to corporations to revegetate previously degraded native forest areas which would soak up more carbon and create native wildlife habitat as well as employment. At a time when global forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate and global governments (particularly The Australian Labor Party) are moving forward with a push to reduce carbon emissions, increase renewable energy and bring an end to species extinctions, it is completely hypocritical to continue destroying the very native forest we are supposed to be trying to protect for future generations.