

SUE-ELLAN JOHNS

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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

Forestry supports the community through jobs and industry. The sustainability of the industry through responsible use of our resources is of utmost importance. Myself, my husband and son work in the industry.

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

Forestry is a big part of our rural identity, as is the natural forest environment. The community takes pride in the natural beauty of our area. The forests support threatened wildlife, forestry activities are managed to ensure the integrity of their habitat.

Animals such as gliders and koalas have become mascots for forest destruction. However, the management of these and other threatened species is not given any airplay. The idea that forestry communities are not concerned with or manage for biodiversity is a farse. Not to mention under all forest regulations, illegal.

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

The demand for timber species for appearance products cycles based on fashion. The demand for timber for structural and mechanical properties is constant. The introduction of alternate products that are at greater environmental cost show that the available supply does not service the market, or that the consumer does not understand the environmental cost of products like steel. This is evident reading the submissions for this panel, submissions that depose the carbon cost of harvesting timber but suggest steel as an alternate without considering the carbon cost of mining, smelting etc.

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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**

Plantation timbers are different in properties to native forest timbers. Due to species differences (soft v hard wood) or maturity (native forest timbers are older). The supply from private resource is not reliable as harvest is dependent on landholder wants and influenced by state and local government policy.

Policy tools and extension could be used to encourage more private harvest of native forests. Likewise policy could be used to expand the plantation estate. Expansion of the estate and the time for the trees to become mature, in some cases 40+ years needs to be heavily considered and planned for in future forest policy.

**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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Forest harvesting must be included when considering maximizing the full range of environmental, economic and social outcomes. To discontinue forest harvesting risks the other associated management such as resetting a stagnant forest or fire management.

**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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Continued harvest of the forest to encourage further sequestration of carbon while the carbon from the harvested timber is stored in service.

Continued management to safeguard the trees, animals and surrounding communities from fire.

Continued maintenance of the skilled forest work force to manage and suppress fires.