

TORSTEN STROKIRCH

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

Logging of native forests is not a sustainable operation. The process of cutting down older trees removed important habitat for many species, including those at risk of extinction like the greater glider. Any activity further endangering such species can never be described as sustainable. So much of NSW's native forest have already been cleared for agriculture, development, and logging- it is imperative that the precious little we have left is protected.

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

We cannot have healthy lives if the environment around us is not healthy. Forests are key to ensuring the cleanness of air and water, making them not only important for the wildlife that call them home but also to everyone living in NSW. As mentioned above, biodiversity is threatened by further logging since the activity pushes numerous species closer to extinction. Biodiverse ecosystems are healthier ones, better for people, and better for the planet. Furthermore there is the question of cultural value of native forests for Indigenous people. The tens of thousands year old cultures on this continent have deep and continuing connections to the land and the natural world. If we are serious about justice for Aboriginal people, that must include halting all destruction of the ecosystems on Aboriginal land.

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

There is no requirement for native forests to be logged when there is ample supply of timber from plantations. Already over 90% of timber production comes from these plantations so only a small percentage is added by logging native forests. Plantation timber is much more sustainable of course, as it does not add to the continued destruction of native ecosystems.

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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**

No native forests should be logged when we have the option of expanding plantations on already cleared land.

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**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**

Native forests are more valuable to us standing. If they can be protected, this could have some economic value (besides the inherent value of biodiversity which ensures a healthy, liveable environment) through tourism, job creation, and countless recreational activities which can take place in such beautiful environments. At present, forestry is in fact financially reliant on government subsidies, clearly demonstrating that it is unsustainable. Why keep this sector going when it is neither sustainable environmentally nor economically? There is immense cultural and

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social value to be found in preserving these forests and restoring those which have already been damaged by forestry activity. Not only for Aboriginal people, but for everyone living in NSW.

**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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It is well-known that logging old native forests releases large amounts of stored carbon, contributing to climate change. Therefore the logging of such stores should be viewed as an ecological crime. In this way halting the logging of native forests is an immediate, easy step toward mitigation. Furthermore, healthy forests help us to adapt to climate change since they can reduce impacts of bushfires and droughts. There is no sensible way forward in this age of environmental reckoning that does not involve the preservation and restoration of native ecosystems. No more logging of NSW forests, for the animals, for the people, for the planet.