



THE GREENS

PROTECTING OUR FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: GREENS FORESTRY LAUNCH

The Greens have a detailed package to protect this State's almost 2 million hectares of State Native Forest. This is a priceless environmental asset that needs to be managed for everyone, so that our environment is protected, taxpayers benefit and more people can have more access to these beautiful places.

Currently State Native Forests are managed to benefit a small loss making woodchip and logging industry. NSW taxpayers have lost more than \$40 million from logging State Native Forests over the past 4 years according to Forestry Corporation figures obtained by the Greens.^[1] In 2014 NSW tax payers lost \$12 million dollars by logging 23,807 hectares of State native forests.^[2]

Logging native forests not only destroys beautiful forests containing essential habitat for native plants and animals, but it leaves the tax payer well in the red. The Forestry Corporation continues to subsidise private contractors and loggers to the tune of millions of dollars a year.

On average NSW taxpayers lose \$495 for every hectare of State Native Forest that they allow to be logged. This is in stark contrast to the average \$5,837 that taxpayers benefit for every hectare harvested in the much smaller plantation estate. Last year alone State-owned plantations delivered \$48 million in profit harvesting 8,223 hectares of plantation timber. This is the future of the State's forestry industry, not loss making and destructive logging of native forests.

THE GREENS 2015 FOREST PACKAGE HAS 6 KEY POINTS:

Key points:

1. An end to all logging and mining in State Native Forests by 2016;
2. High conservation State Native Forest to be immediately transferred to the National Park estate;
3. Balance of State Native Forest to be managed by Department of Environment (not Department of Primary Industries) so that:
 - a. Environmental values are highest priority;
 - b. Wildlife corridors are reforested and protected;
 - c. Recreational activities consistent with environmental values are promoted; and
 - d. Eco-tourism and Aboriginal cultural activities are promoted.
4. An \$80 million 4 year transition package for timber workers and communities impacted by the end of native forestry operations;
5. Plantation forestry profits invested in increased planting for both soft-wood and hard wood timber.
6. A \$40 million 4 year forestry-related tourism and recreation grant scheme to promote access to, and investment in, the remaining state forest estate.