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**Organisation:** *Byron Hikers Club Inc*

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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**

We believe that the current State forestry department is subsidised by the taxpayer to "de-forest", just to keep loggers in a traditional industry.

The focus of the dept should be to create native forests and support the creation of plantation timber on private land.

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

The Byron Hikers Club has a qualified clinical Psychologist leading bushwalks that focus on mindful nature connection. He has convincingly studied the medical literature about the positive effects on mental health by walking through nature. So there is a huge saving to be made in health spending by providing forests for people to use for all types of recreation.

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

We acknowledge that timber is a necessary commodity but insist that it must be plantation grown.

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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**

We believe that Private Native Forestry should be discontinued as it has less oversight to maintain its standards than Public Forests. Private plantation support is the answer.

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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**

It will require a 180 degree cultural shift for State Forests to switch to nurturing forests rather than cutting them down, but this is necessary to deliver environmental and social outcomes that actually are better for the economy than the present activity.

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## **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**

More trees are desperately needed to sequester carbon; its a no-brainer!