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

Put simply, logging of native forests is totally unsustainable, especially since this includes the removal of mature trees vital for habitat and food. No amount of "replacement" planning is going to provide food for koalas living in a particular area tomorrow, for example! Our native forests also help regulate temperature, lower the risk of erosion, and protect waterways.

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

All of us should show respect and responsibility towards our forests, but they are especially precious to our First Nations people who have inhabited this land for aeons and have the closest of ties with it. As mentioned also above, native forests assist in the stability of climate and the optimal lifespan of species, from bees and other pollinators to the many native animals, plants and insects currently threatened by loss of habitat. Forests are also food for the spirit: if we lose them we lose something very precious to the human psyche.

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

Logging in native forests last year accounted for about 9% of total log production, and about half of it was converted into wood chips and exported! What an abysmal record! The market is now leaning away from using native forest products, and can perfectly adequately be resourced from softwood plantations.

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

Plantations appear to be supplying 91% of our log needs and should be able to expand to cover 100% (and exporting wood chip seems a shocking waste of precious resources). Private Native Forestry - if allowed at all - should be highly regulated to support the forest, not human greed.

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 stands to reason that the people who lived by and with our native environment for many thousands of years have accumulated knowledge and wisdom which we now recognize are invaluable for safe and respectful management of forests. First Nations people are playing a vital part in protecting our forests already and should be encouraged to take an even more important role. Naturally functioning forests are incredibly valuable from many points of view: climate regulation, provision of habitat (especially for endangered creatures or plants), and carefully regulated uses for tourism. I personally strongly object to putting public money into logging of native forests - not only unprofitable but ethically unsound.

Public submission

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

Logging forests releases carbon into the atmosphere; stopping logging allows the forests to start regaining lost carbon; unlogged forests are more resilient to climate change: need I say more?